

Інформація

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Безупречное наследие (Каталог

Waifu SI)

Аниме и комиксы

65 глав

1,2 млн просмотров

Автор:

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(15 оценок)

Краткое содержание

Человек получает систему каталогов Waifu и использует ее, чтобы перевоплотиться в мире Наруто.

Теперь осиротевший Рен Учиха приезжает жить к Фугаку и его семье.

Ждать!? Итачи девочка?

Мито Узумаки, Ринго Амеюри и другие красивые женщины еще живы?

Остальные деревни поняли, какой я крутой, и хотят воевать с Конохой?

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Chapter 17- New Bounty

Obito Uchiha POV

"...say it again," he commanded the White Zetsu, his gaze fixed on the creature in utter disbelief.

"Ringo Ameyuri was defeated by Ren Uchiha."

He blinked once, then blinked again. Finally, he erupted into laughter.

"...hahaha. Yeah. That was a funny joke. You almost got me there for a moment. Now..." His laughter subsided, replaced by a stern gaze directed at the White Zetsu. "Stop playing around and tell me about what really happened."

The White Zetsu fixed its gaze on two other White Zetsu who had accompanied it to assess the situation. They stepped forward to corroborate its account.

"He's not lying." "Yeah. The boy was even flying. And launched stone bullets that went through dozens of trees. Like Woosh woosh woosh."

"The boy was even flying?" He asked, a slight headache emerging from their playful behaviour. "Zetsu. Can you please ask these White Zetsus to be serious for one moment? I know they want to be funny, but there's a time and place for it."

The half Black, half white Zetsu walked over the the Three White Zetsu and glared at them. "What really happened?"

"We're not lying to you!" "Yeah! The boy really defeated Ringo Ameyuri."

"And the boy was really flying."

He held the urge to kill the three White Zestu as they continued to babble on about a 6 year old child defeating a veteran S-class kunoichi, a veteran of two shinobi wars.

Did they really thought that he was stupid enough to believe such a story.

Sure, the stories he'd heard from the other White Zetsus painted the boy

as the second coming of Madara Uchiha. But even Madara wasn't capable of killing S-class shinobi in a one-on-one battle at the age of six.

"Stop lying." He growled, losing the last bit of his patience.

""We're not lying!"" The White Zetsus chorused together and his fists clenched with the intention to kill them.

"Wait a moment, Obito. Let them explain themselves." Zetsu said and then turned to the three White Zetsus. "Tell us about the entire fight."

Five minutes later, he sat in a grim silence with Zetsu and stared into the distance, unsure about what to make of any of this.

"A Bloodline that nullifies a significant portion of damage, accelerates healing, and grants the ability to fly." He said and then turned to face Zetsu. "Have you ever come across such a unique and powerful Bloodline?"

"Hmm... the Water body technique of Hozuki clan, and your own Kamui ability stops you from taking any physical harm. The Rinnegan enables the user to absorb Ninjutsu attacks without injury. Hashirama's bloodline grants rapid healing. As for flight, Onoki is the sole shinobi I know capable of it." Zetsu told him. "However, I'm not aware of any single bloodline that combines all these abilities at once."

The both of them fell into deep thought before he finally asked. "So this is really a new type of bloodline... one that's never been seen before in the history of the elemental nations?"

"As far as my knowledge extends, yes," Black Zetsu affirmed. "However, the mutation or creation of an entirely new bloodline is not as rare as you might think. It's just that most of them aren't really all that powerful, or their user die before he or she grows strong enough. So most of these new bloodlines become extinct and go undocumented."

He took that in for a moment and then nodded. "I'm still not certain if I

believe that the boy really defeated Ringo Ameyuri on his own." He said.

"Should we increase the bounty on his head?"

Black Zetsu thought about it for a moment before it shook its head. "No need for us to bother. Just spread the news about his abilities to the rest of the elemental nations, and they'll take care of that part on their own.

Unless you want to have the boy join us?"

He shook his head. "If the boy is really as capable as the White Zetsus says, then I'm doubt any of us would be able to control him. No, go ahead and spread the news about the boy's abilities. But be discreet about it."

Black Zetsu nodded. "I'll do just that. Now... about our next plan."

"Have you found out when Mizukage will leave for a meeting with his Daimyo."

"In a month, and as we anticipated, he'll only be accompanied by two guards. This is an opportunity we cannot afford to let slip away. The White Zetsus will handle his guards, but it's crucial that you ensure the demise of the Mizukage. We cannot afford another failure."

His fists clenched at another one of Black Zetsus' dig at his past failure to release the Kyuubi. "I'll not fail. But be sure to play your own role just as well."

"Don't worry. I'll not fail either. I've already gathered corpses of Konoha shinobi and put them in stasis for this plan."

He nodded. "Then in one month, we'll start our plan to push the shinobi world into chaos once again."

Itachi Uchiha POV

She would never admit this to anyone but she derived a certain amount of joy in observing the various faces her parents made whenever they learned about Ren's new exploits.

Her father took a deep breath, attempting to compose himself, and cast a stern gaze upon Ren. "So... let me get this right. You fought and defeated a S-class kunoichi. On your very first mission outside of Konoha."

Ren casually nodded in response, prompting her father to take another deep breath to steady himself.

"And instead of killing her, you decided to capture her so that you can..."

Her father paused at this and then uttered the next few words with immense difficulty. "...have her as your maid."

Ren gave another nonchalant nod at her father's words and she held back a smile as she subtly observed her parent's expressions.

Her father appeared to be grappling with a multitude of emotions and thoughts, while her mother seemed to have surrendered entirely, gazing into the distance with a vacant look.

Following a prolonged silence, her father finally spoke up. "We Uchiha are not like the Hyuuga. We do not have maids Ren."

'Really? Is that really the best you can do father?' She thought with great amusement.

"I know that. And I wasn't really serious when I said that I want to make her my maid." Ren said seriously but then he paused and then let out a chuckle. "Okay, who am I kidding. I totally planned to make her my maid. I've even thought up of the dress I'll have her wear."

"Ren." Her father said softly but something in his voice made Ren stop talking immediately. "Please take this seriously."

Ren looked like he was refraining from rolling his eyes but he nodded nonetheless.

"Now... can you please explain, and be serious this time. Why do you want to bring an S-class Kunoichi to Konoha. To our Uchiha compound?"

"Well... technically, she's not here yet."

"Ren." Her father said sternly and Ren raised up his hands in surrender.

"Okay, okay. I'll be serious now." Ren said and then paused before staring into the distance. A silence ensued into the room and after a long moment, Ren started speaking. "One of the main reasons why I spared her life and decided to bring her here is because I believe that she can be a very useful asset. Not just to me but to the clan and the village as a whole."

"And what are your other reasons?" Father asked.

Here, Ren hesitated for a bit. He stared at all of them for a moment and then took a deep breath before he started speaking. "Okay, this might sound crazy but I don't want to lie to you guys either. The other important reason is that I want want to marry her and have children with her." Ren said seriously and she gaped at him in shock while her mother choked on her spit and her father stared at him with open eyes.

"Excuse me!?" She exclaimed, feeling a slight burn on her chest for some unexplainable reason. It wasn't as if Ren hadn't mentioned this before, but she had assumed he was joking.

"What?" Ren asked, looking at her in confusion.

She held the urge to punch his face in and settled for narrowing her eyes at him. "Why do you want to marry her?"

"She's hot... and powerful." Ren replied, amusement colouring his voice.

"She's old!" She almost shouted but then paused to compose herself. Then she pointed at her mother. "She's even older than mother."

"Hey!" Her mother protested and went ignored.

"What of it?" Ren asked.

"You can't marry someone so much older than you."

"Why not? Nobles do it all the time."

"Ren." Her mother started speaking this time. Gently. "You might not be

aware of this. But women stop giving birth to children after a certain age in their life. And Ringo... how old is she."

"I would say... about 36 years old." Her father replied after some mental calculations.

"Okay, so she still has time. But that time would be greatly diminished by the time you grow old enough to marry her." Her mother said.

"Believe me. I know that." Ren said "And that is not a problem for me."

Her parents stared at Ren in confusion before something occurred to her.

"Another one of your bloodline's hidden abilities?" She asked and Ren nodded.

"Something like that."

"But... aren't you too young to be worrying about marriage at such a young age, let alone having children?" Mother asked and Ren gave a nod.

"I am. But if I want a harem of S-class kunoichi then I have to start working on it as soon as possible."

"Excuse me?" "A harem?" "What?"

"Well... it won't be a large harem. I'll only have a few S-class kunoichis as my wives. But yes, that's my plan for the future." Ren explained with a serious look on his face.

She got up from her seat and everyone in the room turned to look at her.

"I'm going out to get some fresh air." She said and quickly left before any of them can argue against her decision.

Ren Uchiha POV

He really, really wanted to go after Itachi and talk things out with her.

Mainly because she was one of those few S-class Kunoichis that he wanted to marry in the future. But also because she was his best friend.

However, there was another matter he needed to discuss with Fugaku

and Mikoto before that.

"You... I never took you to be ambitious, boy. But I was wrong." Fugaku said, shaking his head. "A harem of S-class kunoichi. I don't think I've heard of a more ambitious plan in my entire life."

...he wasn't sure if that was a praise or not. But at least Fugaku wasn't reacting too negatively to this news.

"Ren... child, where did you even get the idea to get a harem?" Mikoto asked, looking more serious than Fugaku.

...now how to explain to her that he had a Waifu Catalog that gave him points of immense value whenever he captured a Waifu. And the more powerful that waifu, the points he'll get.

Moreover, the only method of capturing them was by making them fall for him and then having them confess their love to him.

"By reading Jiriaya-san's books." He said in the end.

There was another long silence in the room before Mikoto got up from her seat as well.

"I'm going to go and have a talk with your Sensei."

"Wait! There is something I need to talk with the two of you before that."

He said before Mikoto could leave the room.

Mikoto paused and shared a look with Fugaku before she came back and sat in front of him once again. "And what did you want to talk about?"

He halted, taking a deep breath in anticipation of the inevitable argument that would follow his next words. Yet, this was crucial. "I... I thank you, both of you, for taking me into your home and raising me like your own son for the past few years. But I believe it's now time for me to depart and establish my own home."

Ringo Ameyuri POV

Darkness.

Complete and utter darkness covered her world.

No, light, no sound, no smell reached her in this sensory deprivation cell.

Her sense of time failed her in this place. She couldn't tell if she's been here for seconds or hours.

But she was still aware that she has been in this place for almost two weeks, if only because of the amount of time she was being given food and water.

That, and her daily interrogation and mind reading sessions with that Yamanaka guy. All done in complete darkness.

Having her mind violated was not a good feeling. But it was certainly better than being splattered in the forest ground by a 6-year-old boy. Or that's what she told her at least.

She was still unsure if these people will actually allow her to leave, or if they'll just put a kunai in her brain and then feed her body to the dogs.

...and then, out of nowhere, there was light.

She promptly shut her eyes, overwhelmed by the searing pain caused by the sudden bombardment of lights after two weeks of darkness.

After her eyes acclimated to the light, she cautiously opened them and noticed the Fuinjutsu seals on the walls glowing brightly.

And then the heavy metal door of the cell screeched open and in walked the Yellow Butcher of Konoha, the Toad Sannin, her Yamanaka mind reader and a few other important looking people.

"Ringo Ameryuri." The Yellow Butcher said in a surprisingly gentle voice as he came to stand in front of her.

"Hokage of Konohagakure." She replied, determined to not show any weakness despite knowing how dangerous the man was and how weak her current position was.

"Since you've been so cooperative with us, I'll get straight to point. How would you like to become a citizen of Konoha?"

She raised an eyebrow as she caught onto his words. Not a 'shinobi' of Konoha but a 'citizen'. Well... it wasn't like she expected them to take her into their shinobi force without keeping an eye on her for some time at least.

"Do I have any other choice?" She asked sarcastically.

The Yellow Butcher's tight lipped smile was the only answer she received. She took a step toward the Yellow Butcher and relished in the way the guards behind him tensed, their hands going toward the handle of their swords.

She maintained a prolonged stare-off with the Hokage as the silence and tension in the room escalated. The atmosphere became increasingly taut until, at last, she broke the silence. "Very well then. I accept your offer."

It took about half a day for her to learn about the rules of Konoha, agree to those rules, learn about the restrictions, agree to those restrictions and finally fill up the paperwork that officially registered her as a civilian of Konoha.

Then, she met the little monster, as well as the Uchiha clan leader who escorted her to the Uchiha compound, where she faced the suspicious eyes of every Uchiha clan member who had gathered to catch a glimpse of her.

And finally, she was here.

"...it's not bad," she declared her verdict while gazing at the expansive house perched on a hill, overlooking a lake.

...oh, who was she fooling? This house was incredible, a thousand times superior to the garish apartment she used to own in Kiri. The added

bonus of having three training grounds attached to the property only sweetened the deal. However, she had no intention of giving the satisfaction to the brat, not after all the trouble he had caused her.

"Not bad?" The brat looked annoyed at her words. "Bitch, it's fabulous and you know it. Besides, do you have any idea how much it cost me to buy this property and build this house?"

...oh? She wasn't aware that the brat had to buy this property and build this house. She had been under the impression that it was just given to him by the clan head, or something.

"Why don't you tell me?"

"38 million ryo for the land. And about 5 million for the raw materials I used to build the house."

She raised a skeptical eyebrow at his words. "You build this house?"

"Well, my Shadow Clones did most of the work. But yeah." The brat proudly declared, and she couldn't help but feel grudgingly impressed.

"I've always had a dream of building my own log cabin and living in it, so I decided to take this chance to fulfil my dream."

'Brat, that's not a log cabin. That's a log mansion.' She thought.

"...it's acceptable." She said and the brat snorted at her.

"You're not fooling anyone here. I know you like the house. Stop acting already."

Well, the brat could read her well enough if nothing else. Probably had something to do with those ever-present Sharingan eyes of his.

Though... there was one thing she wanted to know about this house. And that was, "Why is it so big?"

Because it was big. From what the brat told her, it had 8 bedrooms, 2 living rooms, 2 kitchens, a sizeable dining room, a library, a gym, a Fuinjutsu office, a storage room, and a few other vacant rooms.

Not to mention an underground bunker that the brat claimed can withstand a direct attack from a Tailed Beast Bomb.

Given her upbringing, she had always held a disdain for people who lived in houses larger than necessary. Now, she wasn't sure how to feel about becoming one of those people herself.

"I want to have a big family," the young one stated plainly, and picking up on his subdued mood, she chose not to press him further. "So... fancy a tour of the house? I still need to purchase furniture for a few rooms, but apart from that, it's mostly ready."

"Might as well since I'm going to live here from now on." She replied sarcastically and the brat snorted back in reply.

"If you didn't want to end up in this position, then you shouldn't have attacked me."

"Whatever. Just give me that tour already." She said and the brat nodded.

Ren Uchiha POV

"Are you still angry?" He asked as he cradled baby Naruko in his arms.

They were currently in Kushina Sensei's home, doing their D-rank mission of babysitting Naruko.

Itachi ignored him in favour of sharpening her kunai.

She didn't even need to do that. Their blacksmith kept their kunai sharp at all times. She was just doing it to ignore him.

"You know that you'll have to talk with me eventually, yes? We are a team after all, and we'll go back to doing missions once this month is over."

She ignored him.

"Itachi. You're my best friend. Can we not fight, please?"

"I'm clearly not your best friend if you don't even see it fit to tell me that

you plan on leaving my home."

Frankly, it had surprised even him just how quickly he was able to finish building his home. But when you have a hundred superhuman clones working for you in complete sync, and you can create the foundation of your home with a few hand signs, things tend to go smoothly for you.

"I was going to tell you. I just... didn't know how. Can you not forgive me this one time."

Itachi glanced at him for a moment before she went back to ignoring him.

He wanted to say something more but Naruko begin squirming in his arms so he went back to gently rocking her back and forth in a soothing manner that would lull her to sleep.

With a sigh, he glanced at Rin Nohara, who occupied the other side of the room, engrossed in practicing Fuinjutsu, doing her bet to ignore the unfolding drama between him and Itachi.

He sighed again.

In hindsight, he really should have told Itachi about his future plans. She might have still been angry but she wouldn't have felt betrayed at least. He'll keep this in mind in the future. He would need to become better at the whole social stuff if he planned to have a harem after all. Though he hoped that the Waifu Catalog will take care of most of the heavy stuff.

"I know you're angry Itachi. And you have every right to be. But when your anger has cooled down, please come and talk to me, okay?"

Itachi ignored him but he took that as a confirmation.

The next few minutes were spent in silence before the door of the room was abruptly slammed open and Jiriaya entered the room before quickly marching toward him with a worried expression.

"Is something wrong?" He asked.

"See for yourself. Page 18." Jiraiya said as he threw the latest edition of Bingo book at him.

He arched an eyebrow and flipped open that page, his eyes narrowing at what met his gaze.

His own image, accompanied by details about his abilities—feats he had demonstrated in his confrontation with Ringo.

At the page's bottom, where once a bounty of 5 million Ryo stood, there now loomed a bounty of 85 million Ryo.

Well... there went his anonymity.

AN: So, Itachi learns about Ren's plans and feels jealous and betrayed.

Ren builds his own home. Mostly so that Itachi, Mikoto and Satsuki won't be in any danger in case Ringo decided to go rogue. Again. But also because he's a big boy now and wants his own space.

Ringo gets out of confinement after the Yamanaka ensures that it's safe enough to do so. And she gets the citizenship of Konoha.

Last but not the least, Ren gets a new bounty.

And for example, the bounties for the Sannin are 84 million for Tsunade, 79 for Orochimaru and 68 for Jiraiya. And Minato's bounty is 93 million.

At least in my story.

Hope you guys enjoyed this chapter.

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Have a nice day

Chapter 18- Massive

Improvements

Minato Namikaze POV

The clan leaders, elders, and other council members gradually trickled

into the meeting room, their eyes inadvertently drawn toward where Fugaku was sitting.

It seems that most, if not all the important people knew about Ren by this point. Or suspected something at least. And everyone wanted answers.

At last, the 3rd Hokage and the Sannin entered the room and took their respective seats beside him as his trusted advisors. With a simple gesture, he signaled his Anbu to close the room, sealing it shut.

"Now that everyone is present, let's commence this meeting. I'm sure all of you have questions." He said, and the flood gates opened instantly.

"Why does Ren Uchiha have such a large bounty on his head?" "Is it true that he defeated Ringo Ameyuri on his own?" "Can he really fly?" "Do he really have a second bloodline?" "Why was this all hidden from us?"

The questions continued coming till he slammed his hand into the desk, silencing them.

He eyes went to each of the clan leaders before he spoke softly. "One at a time please." He then looked toward the Hyuuga clan leader and gestured for him to speak.

Hiashi Hyuuga stood up in his seat and gave a glance toward Fugaku Uchiha before staring at him. "As much as I want to know about the boy, I'm more concerned about the increased activities along our borders.

Hokage-sama, what are your plans to deal with that?"

"This meeting has been brought forth to discuss just that. And we'll get to that once you learn the reason for it." He answered before he gestured for Tsume Inuzuka to speak up.

"Did the boy really defeat Ringo Ameyuri, one of the seven swordsmen?" She asked.

A cacophony of loud murmurs filled the meeting room as each person seemed to have caught wind of their own rendition of the story detailing

the course of the battle.

He still hadn't been able to find the person who spread these rumours, which said a lot about their counter-intelligence abilities.

He would've suspected Danzo if not for the fact that both him and his trusted Root subordinates have been confined to their homes and kept under watch at all hours.

He tapped his desk again and once the meeting room fell into silence, he started speaking. "Yes. Ren Uchiha defeated Ringo Ameyuri, an S-class Rogue-nin of Kiri in single combat."

He wanted to deny it but it was too late to do so now so he might as well tell them the truth.

His answer raised the floodgates once again and everyone started to bombard him with questions until he managed to calm them down, again.

He had a feeling that this entire meeting was going to be chaotic mess.

Then he turned to Shikaku Nara gestured for him to speak.

"I think that I speak for everyone when I say that we're quite curious about Ren Uchiha's second bloodline which allowed him to accomplish this otherwise impossible feat."

Oh, making it seem like Ren's secret bloodline was the main reason why Ren was able to defeat Ringo Ameyuri and not because the boy was an S-class monster himself.

This was good. Very good. As expected of Shikaku.

"Well... I obviously cannot share all the details about Ren's bloodline with you. But... one of its main abilities allows Ren to learn Genjutsu skills at an incredibly fast pace. Thanks to that, Ren had become so good with Genjutsu that even an unprepared S-class Shinobi may fall to it."

Murmurs started in the meeting room once again before he gestured for

the Kurama clan head to speak up.

"I'd like to inquire if Fugaku-san would consider the prospect of the young man marrying a woman of the Kurama clan and uniting our two families through the union of that boy and my daughter."

"That..." He felt speechless at that and looked to Fugaku for an answer.

"I'll discuss this matter with Ren and give you his answer." Fugaku said which spread out another serious of murmurs in the room.

Before matters could get out of hand, he gestured for Inoichi Yamanaka to speak up.

"I just wanted to ask if it is really safe to have Ringo Ameyuri stay with Ren."

"Yes. We've sealed her chakra and have given the key to that seal to Ren.

" He said "Besides, she has acted cooperatively with us thus far and we trust her to not risk her life needlessly. Not to mention that having her join Konoha willingly would be a huge boon for all of us. I'll take no further questions on this topic. Next." He said, gesturing at Shibi Aburame.

"With all due respect, Hokage-sama, I wanted to ask if you'll send the boy out of the village on any further question. Especially considering all the bounty hunters that have come out of the woodwork due to his increased bounty."

He shared a look with Jiraiya before he spoke up. "No. We'll not send him outside on any missions until it is deemed safe to do so. Trust me, I'm more aware than most about the potential that Ren represents. And I'll not risk his life needlessly no matter what. Next."

So so and so, the questions came and went. And finally, when the clan leaders and council members' curiosity was sated, it was time to move on to the main topic.

"Now, let's talk about the increased attacks on our border outposts and the potential of a 4th Shinobi war." He said, his eyes serious as the atmosphere in the room became grim instantly.

After all, almost everyone in the room had taken part in the 3rd Shinobi war, some even having fought in the 2nd one, and none of them wanted another one to erupt so soon.

But at the same time, they were all now aware of a fraction of the potential that Ren Uchiha represents. And none of them were naive enough to believe that the other villages will simply let the boy be without doing their utmost to nip him in the bud.

Ren Uchiha POV

He stared out over the lake and listened to the sound of Itachi and Rin Nohara sparring with one another.

If there was one good thing that came out of this entire Bounty fiasco, then it was that he and Itachi were in talking terms once again. Though, she was still a bit curt with him.

"What's on your mind, kid?" Ringo inquired, settling down beside him, her face glistening with sweat after finishing her own training routine. He remained silent for a moment before meeting her gaze. "You know, I almost chose not to become a shinobi."

"Really, why?" She asked, looking both confused and curious.

"Because I knew that I would be a deadly one. That if I chose this path then I'd inevitably end up taking many lives, and I didn't want that" He said "I was afraid of what kind of person I would become if I came to enjoy all that violence. The killing."

"Well?"

"Well what?"

"You did kill quite a few bounty hunters in that fight. Did you enjoy the rush of the battle. Did you find satisfaction in severing heads from bodies, pulverising bones into paste, or merely using your Ninjutsu to impale them to death?"

He pondered the question for a moment before releasing a sigh. "I didn't. I didn't derive pleasure from it. But I didn't despise it either. Ending their lives felt as simple as crushing ants. And that's what worries me. What if I grew into a monster? Who would even have the ability to stop me?"

Ringo appeared unsure of what to say, so she opted for silence. And the two of them sat in companionable silence, staring at the beautiful shimmering lake reflecting the golden hue of dawn.

"I was 5 years old when I shunted into the Kiri shinobi academy." Ringo suddenly started speaking, her eyes staring into a distant point. "My mother was a whore but my father was from one of the clans, though he never adopted me. Because I had a lot of chakra, I was thrown into the academy without anyone even asking about what my opinion. I can still remember how terrified I felt during my early days at the academy."

That was... a rather interesting. He had always assumed that Ringo was from an accomplished clan or something. But in hindsight, he didn't remember there being any clan in Kiri named Ameyuri.

He stared at her, waiting for her to continue and she did.

"...I came to enjoy the violence." Ringo said. "Or rather, I forced myself to enjoy it. Because I knew that if I didn't enjoy it then I wouldn't fight. If I didn't fight then I wouldn't improve. And if I didn't improve, then I would die during the graduation exam."

"That... explains so much about you." He said and they both broke out into light chuckles at that before she continued.

"My induction into the Seven Swordsmen was nothing more than a twist

of luck you know." She told him.

"Luck. How?"

"Well, the Kiba blades can only be wielded by someone with the Lightning affinity. And Lightning affinity is quite rare in Kiri. That's one of the reasons why the wielder of these blades selected me as his apprentice, along with three others.""

"You must've fought tooth and nail to get these blades then." He guessed and Ringo broke out into chuckles.

"Hell no! Those three died during one of the missions. And since I was the only surviving apprentice, Sensei decided to put his whole focus on improving me." Ringo said with a soft chuckle. "I think that he was still looking for another apprentice because he didn't think that a girl would be good enough to wield these blades. But then he died as well, and these blades fell on me."

"Ah..."

"I felt so unworthy at that time. I knew I shouldn't be the one using these blades. And the others knew it too. They knew that I was weak and so I was often bullied by the other shinobi." Ringo said. "Being rejected by everyone led to me having suicidal thoughts, which pushed me to participate in more and more battles. But instead of dying, I kept surviving. Kept improving. And eventually, I became good enough that... well, I was able to beat up anyone who talked shit to me. And that's how Ringo Ameyuri came to be reluctantly accepted as one of the seven swordsmen of Kiri. Not such a riveting tale, is it?"

"...on the other hand, I think that your tale is rather inspirational." He said. After all, he would be in a similar position if he was reincarnated into the Uchiha clan without any Waifu Catalog or Gamer System. Ringo chuckled at his words before she paused and looked at him, her

eyes boring into his own. "Sometimes, becoming a monster is necessary. If not for yourself, then for your family, or your loved ones. You should not fear becoming a monster, Ren. You're already one. And even if you're not, you should become one. And then you should learn how to control that monster within you."

He remained silent after she'd finished speaking, his mind churning a mile a minute as he thought on her words.

He thought about on the bounty hunters he had killed, and wondered if they had families anxiously awaiting their return—unaware that their loved ones had already met their end at his hands.

"What if I only want peace? Is it right of me to chase after that even after killing many people. What right do I have to a peaceful life, when I sit upon a mountain of corpses? What right do I have to a happy family when I have destroyed so many other families?"

"If you seek peace, you must fight for it. This world is teeming with monsters, and if you're weak, they'll destroy you and seize everything you hold dear." Ringo let out another chuckle. "Or did you think that the First Hokage created this peaceful village without having created a mountain of corpses of his own."

"..."

"Even now, there are hundreds if not thousands of Konoha shinobi out there, fighting to keep the monsters at bay so that their families in here can live in peace." Ringo said before she finally got up from her seat. "It's a good thing that you're afraid of becoming a monster and harming others. But don't let your fear control your life brat. Living in fear will make your life miserable. Plus..."

She bent down and cupped his chin before planting a kiss on his cheeks.

"...it's not attractive to women, or anyone else, really." She said with a

grin and a wink before she turned around and sauntered away, her hips swaying from side to side as she did so.

'Did... did I just got hit upon?' He thought with mild incredulity before he shook his head and got up from his butt.

He still wasn't very comfortable with the idea of becoming a monster. But the thought didn't scare him as much as it once did.

He felt like a huge burden had been lifted from his shoulder as he carried heavy weights and started jogging around the lake.

Halfway through, on his eighth lap, a notification appeared in front of it.

+1 to Vitality!

And then, a string of other notifications followed.

Ding!

You've unlocked the Loot System!

Ding!

You've unlocked the Achievement System!

Ding!

You've unlocked the Skill Book System!

Halting his jog, he retrieved his Company Device from his pocket, noting a faint vibration signalling a new notification.

He unlocked its screen and found that he had finally reached Tier 6. The realm of S-class. Or Kage-level, as some people call it.

About time as well. Since he had defeated Ringo who was already a 6th tier waifu.

And then another string of notifications appeared in front of him eyes.

Ding!

You graduated as a Rookie of the year!

Achievement unlocked: Genius.

+20% to Int, and Wis.

Ding!

You've learned 3 Ninjutsu!

Achievement unlocked: Ninjutsu novice!

+5% experience when learning or practicing Ninjutsu.

Ding!

You've learned 10 Ninjutsu!

Achievement unlocked: Ninjutsu adept!

+10% experience when learning or practicing Ninjutsu.

Ding!

You've lear...

And he watched as more and more Achievements started to pour into his screen.

Some were as simple as him running 1, 10, 100 and 1000 Kilometers and gave him +1, +3, +5, and +7 in Agi and Vit.

Others measured how many Fuinjutsu scrolls he'd made and gave him either additional levels, or a simple title that made learning and practicing Fuinjutsu easier in the future.

By the time the barrage of Achievements ended, he had gotten a total of over 147 Achievements, and the boons he gained from them made him about... 130% stronger than he was before he gained those achievements.

If he were to face Ringo once more, it wouldn't be so much a battle as it would be a one-sided curb stomp.

And that was not even the end of it.

Ding!

Congratulations! You've met the required conditions for the evolution of your eyes!

You've unlocked...

And then he felt a sharp pain in his eyes and had to close them shut. And when he opened them...

The world felt like it had gone from a black and white TV to a 4K LED one.

He could see so many new colours that he had been incapable of seeing before. His perception had increased to the point where he was now able to focus on a single mosquito a kilometer away. And time seemed to flow at such a slow speed that the mosquito's buzzing wings seemed frozen to his eyes.

Then he focused on the present and stared at his notifications in front of him.

Congratulations! You've unlocked Mangekyo Sharingan!

+25 Levels to Ocular Genjutsu when using these eyes.

+100% to Chakra.

+25% to all stats.

Ding! You've gained a new skill: Susanoo!

Ding! You've gained a new skill: Amenokawa!

Ding! You've gained a new skill: Soratatsu!

He immediately knew that these were the abilities given to him by his Mangekyo Sharingan eyes and looked into it.

Susanoo: An etherial warrior made out of chakra. Can be manifested by the users of Mangekyo Sharingan to defend themselves and attack their enemies.

Amenokawa: This technique casts a Genjutsu on the world itself, removing any injuries the user might have suffered and bringing him back to perfect health.

Soratatsu: This technique casts a Genjutsu on the world itself, removing Chakra Exhaustion from the user and returning all his Chakra to him.

He blinked his eyes as he read the description of the techniques. Again and again. And then he chuckled to himself.

He found it very amusing that both is Mangekyo Sharingan techniques cast a Genjutsu on the world in order to turn a false reality into a true one.

He guessed that it came from his propensity to use his Genjutsu by spreading his chakra out into the world, ensnaring people into his Genjutsu and using that to speak to them rather than doing so himself. Both these techniques were similar to Izanagi. But while Izanagi rewrote the reality to bring a person back to life, these two techniques rewrote reality to bring him back to full health, or full Chakra.

It was... he wasn't sure how he felt about that.

On one hand, it was neat. He now had access to health and chakra cheat code.

But on the other hand, it wasn't something cool like Kamui, which would make him impervious to all attacks and give him a personal Pocket dimension. Or Kotoamatsukami, which would've been very useful if he ever wanted to make an enemy kunoichi fall in love with him and capture her that way.

Still... none of that changed the fact that his Chakra had just doubled.

And his stats all went up by 25%.

How the fuck did that even worked.

Well... he could now feel an immense amount of Yin Chakra in his body, so that explained the increase in Chakra. But the increase in stats was still a bit confusing.

Not that he minded. The opposite really. He was rather happy with these new increase in stats and chakra.

With these new additions, he was sure that he just went up from a Low S-

class shinobi to a mid S-class shinobi. Or Low Kage-level to Mid Kage-level.

Hm... might as well go to High or Peak Kage-level in one fell swoop now that I'm here already.

With a flourish, he took out the copy of Hiraishin scroll from his Inventory.

He stared at the scroll with the intent of learning it and smiled when a notification popped up in front of him,

Do you want to learn Hiraishin?

Minimum conditions for learning this skill:

- a. 100,000 Chakra Points.
- b. 250 Agi.
- c. Chakra Sensing Skill Level 75
- d. Fuinjutsu skill Level 90

You meet all conditions!

Do you want to learn the skill? Yes/No

He selected Yes.

And the next moment, the entire scroll turned into particles of light and entered his mind. And he found himself with the knowledge on how to use Hiraishin.

Ding! New skill gained!

Hiraishin Level 1 (0%): Hiraishin, also known as the Flying Thunder God Technique, is a high-speed teleportation jutsu. By marking objects or individuals with special seals, the user can instantly teleport to those locations at will.

He stared at the description for a moment before he burst out into laughter filled with happiness.

He'd finally done it!

He doubted that he was capable of defeating enemies like Six Paths Madara or Kaguya at this point. But aside from that, no other shinobi in the Elemental Nations would be a problem for him.

Because if he cannot defeat someone, then he can just retreat from the fight with a simple thought. Or, he could use Hiraishin to teleport the enemy to a far corner of the world.

And the best thing? He could give his Hiraishin signature kunai to his loved ones. And then teleport to their side whenever they got in a life threatening situation.

With this, he was finally free to go wherever he wants and do whatever he wants in his life.

He was still in a happy mood half an hour later when he sensed an anbu rush toward his location.

"Hello Kakashi." He said to the anbu as soon as the guy reached him.

"Please don't say my name while I'm wearing my anbu attire. Hokage-sama has summoned you." Kakashi said without any preamble before he turned and left.

He raised an eyebrow at the urgency in Kakashi's words before he used Shunshin to catch up to Kakashi and ran beside him till they arrived at the Hokage Tower.

He entered the Hokage's office and saw the figures of Minato, Kushina and Jiraiya waiting for him.

"Yo." He said as greeting before he took out a chair from his Inventory and sat in front of them. "So... what is this about?"

"Before we get started, here's your monthly profits." Minato said before handing him a check of about 12 million Ryo.

He hummed a happy tune and put the check inside his Inventory.

This money came from people wanting to learn Jutsus that he had created.

There were basically 5 ways to learn Ninjutsu in Konoha:

1. Your Sensei teaches it to you.
2. Your Clan teaches it to you.
3. You learn it from your teammate or buy it from someone else as a favour.
4. You create or recreate it yourself.
5. You buy the Jutsu from the Hokage Tower.

Since he'd submitted a fair amount of new Jutsu into the Hokage's Ninjutsu Archives, whenever someone bought one of his Jutsu, half of that money went to him while the other half will go to the village as tax. And after he dies, that money will go to his children and his grandchildren.

It was a method created by the 2nd Hokage to make the village shinobi more willing to share their Jutsu with the village.

Now, he didn't really submit his newly created Jutsu to the Hokage with the intention of making money from it. But he wasn't going to deny it either.

"As much as I enjoy getting these monthly checks, I doubt that you called me here for them." He said, motioning for Minato to get on with it already.

"You're right." Minato nodded. "We called you here to discuss your new team placement."

"What?"

AN: Tier explanation.

Tier 1: Civilain with no useful skill, power or special trait.

Tier 2: Has a useful skill. Most mundane people fall in this category. An engineer, doctor, martial artist, teacher, etc.

Tier 3: Pushes the upper limit of mundane skill, or has a minor power, untrained power, or special trait.

Tier 4: Has at least one extraordinary skill/power/special trait. Street level power.

Genin to Chunin.

Tier 5: Has at least one well-trained/versatile/useful extraordinary ability. Multiple City Block level power.

Chunin to Elite Jounin

Tier 6: Has at least one skill/power/special trait of notable potency. City level power.

Low Kage like Rasa to Peak Kage like Jiraiya.

Tier 7: Country level power.

Super Kage like Hashirama Senju, Madara, Might Guy, and Nagato.

Minato and Tobirama are also in this list because of their Teleportation power.

Plus Naruto and Sasuke.

Onoki and 3rd Raikage should probably be in this list as well. Onoki due to just how OP his bloodline is. And 3rd Raikage due to the fact that Naruto, even in his Tailed Beast Mode, was unable to defeat Raikage in a front-on confrontation.

Tailed Beasts are also in this level of power. Though I personally believe that 1, 2 and 3 tails are weak enough to fall under Tier 6 category.

Tier 8: Continent level power.

Otsutsuki Hagoromo, Isshiki Ōtsutsuki, or the Ten Tails.

Tier 9: World level power. Otsutsuki Kaguya. Or that's what the Catalog says at least. I personally think that she should be Tier 8, but whatever.

For added information. Plus: 6th Tier Waifus in Naruto world: Tsunade, Sakura (future), Itachi (future), Kushina, Ringo Ameyuri, Mito Uzumaki, Mei Terumi, Pakura, Konan, Nii Yugito, and Fuu (future).

There's Chiyo, Katsuyu and White Snake Sage as well but I don't count them.

And if Orochimaru became Orochimama then he/she will be in this tier as well.

7th Tier Waifus: Naruko (future) and Satsuki (future). Though MC will probably not go for them. Since he babysit them and all that.

Delta should fall in this category as well. But fuck Baruto.

With that said, hope you guys enjoyed this chapter.

8 advanced chapters in Patreon for those interested in reading ahead.

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Have a nice day

Chapter 19- Discussion with the

Hokage

Ren Uchiha POV

"What do you mean by team placement?" He asked "Aren't I already in a team?"

"Before we get into that... how much do you know about what is going on outside the village?" Minato asked.

He put his high Intelligence stat to use and came up with the most probable scenario. "Since someone put a greater bounty on my head, it seems that news about some of my abilities have been leaked out. Which means that the higher ups of the other major villages must be in turmoil right now. They wouldn't want to face a shinobi of the same calibre as Madara Uchiha and Hashirama Senju. So they must be planning to assassinate me." He then hummed. "Is that what you meant by team

placement? You don't want me in the team because my mere presence puts everyone else at risk."

"You're not wrong. But there is more to it than that." Minato said. "Our spies informed us that while the higher ups of other major villages do see you as a threat. They're not sure about the extent of threat that you possess."

"I see." He said as he thought on this for a moment. "It seems like they don't have enough information about me. Or don't trust the information that they have."

Which was understandable, as it is pretty hard to believe that a 6-year-old child is able to defeat an S-class kunoichi. They likely assumed that Ringo was mainly defeated by Jiraiya-Sensei while he played a minor supporting role.

Even rumours about his second 'bloodline' might be hard to believe. Especially if the rumours became exaggerated (as they tend to do) before they reached the ears of those higher ups.

"Indeed." Minato nodded grimly. "Which is why our border patrols and gate guards have been apprehending more and more spies these past few days. One of the reason why I don't want you doing any D or C rank missions with your team is so that you can dedicate that time to uncovering more of these spies and infiltrators."

"Hm... that's doable."

Minato raised an eyebrow at his words. "You're being surprising accommodating about this entire thing."

He shrugged. "One of the main reason why I became a shinobi was to protect Itachi during those missions. Now, I can accomplish that just as easily from within Konoha."

"How?" Minato asked before his eyes widened in shock. "Don't tell me!

Did you..."

"Yup." He smiled before he stared at the anbu guarding Minato. "Can we get some privacy?"

Minato made a hand sign and the the team of anbu immediately vacated the room before it went into a Fuinjutsu lockdown.

"You can show us now." Minato said with a giddy smile on his face.

"Show what Minato?" Kushina-Sensei asked, looking confused at Minato's sudden enthusiasm.

"This." He said before took out a kunai from his Inventory. A flex of his will and chakra marked it with his Hiraishin symbol. Then he threw it on the other corner of the Hokage's office.

The next instant, he was in that corner, holding that marked kunai.

The widened eyes and open-mouthed expressions of both Kushina and Jiraiya were quite amusing.

"So, you've truly mastered it," Minato remarked, a hint of nostalgia and relief in his expression. "I suppose I shouldn't even be surprised anymore at this point."

"Ren. When did you learn Hiraishin Jutsu?" Jiraiya-Sensei asked.

"Just an hour ago." He replied. He then considered telling them about his newly upgraded Mangekyo Sharingan but decided to hold onto that piece of info for now.

It would be wiser to discuss this with Fugaku before he reveals this to anyone else. Or he might not reveal it to anyone at all. Having a Trump card is always useful for emergencies.

"I see." Jiraiaya said, looking lost.

Then, Kushina got up from her seat and walked over to him before pulling him up in a tight hug. "Well done Ren. I'm so proud of you."

Not used to much physical affection, he awkwardly hugged her back and

patted her until she let go of him, a slight sheen in her eyes as she looked at him with pride.

"We're going to Ichiraku Ramen after this to celebrate!" Kushina announced before glaring at the two other men in the room. "All of us."

"Kushina you know-" Minato started to speak but paused as Kushina's glare intensified.

"All. Of. Us." Kushina said and Minato raised his hand in surrender.

"Very well. But, now that you've learned Hiraishin, I think it's safe to tell you about a few more things Ren."

"What few more things?" He asked.

"Well, you probably already guessed it, but Konoha might face a war in the future."

"Because of me." He said, a tinge of bitterness in his voice, acknowledging the many men, women, and children that might lose their lives due to his mere existence in the future.

Yet, it was his choice to become a shinobi, and he was determined to see it through to the end.

If the other major villages want to kill him, then he'll become the very monster that they feared and slaughter all their shinobi until they back off and sued for peace.

"I won't lie and say that it's not because of you." Minato said grimly.

"Though the 3rd shinobi war lasted for over half a decade and ended only a few years ago. So there's is a chance that the other villages might decide that it's better to recuperate their losses rather than go to war again. However, if the war really does come to our borders, then I want you to participate in it."

Kushina immediately rose up in order to protest but a grim look from Minato shut her up. He was not speaking as her husband right now but as

the 4th Hokage of Konoha.

Then Minato turned to him and smiled. "I'll not send you into the battlefield. But since you know Hiraishin, your main job will be to remove any of our injured shinobi from the battlefield and bring in more reinforcements to aid our shinobi. Will you be able to do that, Ren?"

"Of course. Who do you think I am?" He said, making his own plans on the role he'll play during the war, given that Minato seemed reluctant to involve him directly in the main battlefield.

He won't go against Minato's direct orders. But it didn't mean that he can't skirt around the edges and deal devastating blows to their enemies at the same time.

"I'm glad to see that you're so confident." Minato said. "However, now that you don't have a team anymore, I was hoping you could return to being Kushina's disciple."

"Hm... if it's all the same to you, Kushina-sensei, I'd prefer not to be your disciple anymore," he stated bluntly, wincing internally as he observed the disappointment that swept across Kushina's once cheerful expression.

"Why?" She asked with a heartbroken look.

"Because I've already learned almost everything that you can teach me in Fuinjutsu. Next, I want to master Iryojutsu. Having another medic of the calibre of Lady Tsunade who can instantly teleport to any of our injured troops would greatly benefit our forces during a war." He said.

And with his nigh perfect chakra control and the newly gained Skill Book System, he was confident that he would learn all of Tsunade's medical Jutsu in no time.

Then, he would only need to work on grinding those levels. And with the help of his Shadow Clones, that should be easy enough.

"You seem rather confident that you'll become another medic of

Tsunade's calibre." Jiraiya-Sensei said with a raised eyebrow. "Do you have any idea how many other shinobi have tried and failed to achieve even a fraction of her accomplishments in that field?"

"Those shinobi aren't me." He said simply.

"That's... fair enough." Jiraiya-Sensei said before he got up from his chair and turned to Minato. "I'll go and talk to Tsunade. See if she's up for having another student."

Minato nodded and Jiraiya immediately left through the window.

Once Jiraiya-Sensei was gone, he turned and gave an apologetic look to Kushina-Sensei. "I'm sorry."

"It's alright brat. I'm just sad that I cannot teach you anymore." Kushina said as she knelt down to hug him once again. Then she softly whispered in his ears. "You'll still come to babysit Naruko though, yeah?"

"Motherfu@#\$\$"

AN: Sorry this chapter is so small. I was trying to see whether I'll feel more comfortable writing shorter but daily chapters. It didn't work out so longer chapters it is.

To make up for this, I'll upload the next chapter tomorrow morning.

Have a nice day.

And as per the usual self advertisement: 8 advanced chapters in Patreon for those interested in reading ahead.

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Chapter 20- Ringo Ameyuri's new
life

Ringo Ameyuri POV

Swords clashed and sparks flew as she engaged in a sparring match with Ren.

Beads of sweat fell down her chin as she struggled to keep up with the boy. The same boy she had injured many times in their first battle.

It's only been three months since that fight. The fight that changed the course of her life. And now here she was, struggling to stay on her feet despite Ren not using even a fraction of his abilities.

Because Ren had improved so much since their life and death battle, that if he truly wanted to defeat her, he could do so in an instant.

It was both scary and humbling.

The greatest amount of growth he had shown was in Genjutsu, by the simple fact that he could now easily slip past her defences and put her to sleep with a single look.

The other great improvement was that he'd learned Hiraishin. Which was a game changer on its own. And while Ren claimed that he was still not very good at using it in a battle, whenever he used it against her, she didn't last a single minute.

In addition to these accomplishments, Ren demonstrated overall enhancement in every aspect. His skills, combat experience, speed, and strength had all shown significant improvements. Most concerning was his heightened Resistance to Lightning, allowing him to withstand her most powerful attacks without a single scratch.

If 'Not all people are created equal' was a person, then that person would be Ren.

That's not to say that she has not improved either. In fact, due to sparring against a superior opponent on a daily basis, she has shown greater improvement in the past few months than she'd shown in the entire decade when she worked as a Bounty Hunter.

The spar eventually came to an end as Ren slipped past her defences and put his sword to her throat.

Her breasts heaved from the exertion of the long and tiring sparring session while Ren remained as immaculate as ever. Not a hair out of place.

As she said. Unfair.

"Do you want another spar?" He asked and she looked at her trembling hands, evidence of enduring Ren's tremendously powerful strikes.

"No. I'm done for the day." She said somewhat reluctantly. Knowing how to pace herself and not overdo her training was an important skill she'd learned as a Bounty Hunter.

It was to ensure that she was always prepared for an ambush from the other Bounty Hunters who might be after her bounty.

A smile graced her face as she seized Ren by the arms. "Time for a bath, brat," she declared, leading him towards the hot water bath built within the house.

"Ah~ This is life~" She said with a relieved sigh as she relaxed in the hot water pool, feeling her exhaustion melt away.

She stared at the Fuinjutsu seals drawn at the bottom of the pool used to heat up the water. She personally understood none of it but could respect the work, effort and skill required to create a pool like this. Her attention then shifted to the little Fuinjutsu master who was relaxing some distance away from her.

She got up from her position, her perky breasts out in the open and walked over to his side.

He opened an eye and glanced at her, his eyes resting on her breasts.

"What are you doing?"

"Shhh. Don't ask any questions." She told him as she raised him up and then sat him down on his lap, his head now buried in between her

breasts as she wrapped her arms around him.

It was not like she was unaware of the brat's plans to marry and breed her in the future.

She still wasn't sure how she felt about this entire thing. But if she was going to become his concubine or lover in the future, then she might as well start grooming him right now to hold some affection for her as well. That way, if she turned out to be infertile or some other problems cropped up, then fostering his affections now would make him more inclined to keep her by his side rather than throw her away like disposable trash.

And while she had own pride as a powerful kunoichi and took some offence at the idea of becoming a broodmare, she didn't really mind bearing the children of the person who was destined to become the next 'God of Shinobi'.

As far as retirement plans went, hers was definitely better than most other rogue kunoichis out there.

"Relax your body." Ren said as she lay naked on the futon, his steady hand gliding across her naked body with practiced ease.

"It tickles." She said, a soft moan leaving her throat as the cold ink of the brush went over her breast.

"Quit distracting me," he commanded, and she suppressed a chuckle as he continued in his task, his chakra coursing through the ink and embedding itself into her body.

"How much longer will it take?" She asked as she squirmed in a deliberate attempt to distract him. Ren shot her an annoyed glance before returning to task of inscribing Fuinjutsu seals across her body.

"We're... just about done." Ren said as he made one last seal on her toned

stomach. "You can get up now."

She did so, deliberately parting her legs and show him a glimpse what's waiting for him in the future.

"How do you feel?" Ren asked as he took all of her in, an amused look on his face.

"I don't know. How should I feel?" She asked as she moved her body around and then paused at how most effort it took for her to do so.

"I assume you can feel the Restriction Seals starting to take effect?" Ren asked and she moved around a bit more, discovering that even the most basic movements had become ten times more challenging than before.

"Oh, it's working alright. I feel like a prisoner in my own body." She told him as she picked up her swords and swung them around.

Yeah... a normal Jounin would easily kill her right now due to how slowly she was moving.

"That's good. This is one of the seals made by the Uzumaki clan. And improved by yours truly. With this seal, the results you get from your training should improve considerably." Ren said and then handed her another scroll. "I've also prepared a new training regimen for you."

"My own training regimen worked well enough for me." She complained, knowing well enough that she was just being childish at this point.

"Yeah. That training regimen helped you when you were a normal kunoichi. And it took you to the realm of S-class. But that was about two decades ago." Ren said. "How much have you improved since then?"

She bit her lip, grappling with a truth she was reluctant to confront - that she had stagnated since leaving Kiri. While her skill and experience had grown modestly over the past two decades, her strength and speed had largely plateaued.

"And you use these seals as well?"

"Yes. And at a much higher setting." He said.

She bit her lips and asked. "Aren't I too old for this stuff?"

"No." Ren said, not explaining any more after that as he tossed her clothes to her. "Put them on and join me outside. My Shadow Clones will monitor your progress and then we'll assess the adjustments needed to create an improved training regimen for you."

She let out a sigh and nodded.

She sensed that the upcoming months were likely to be quite challenging for her. But despite all her complaints, she was rather looking forward to it. The prospect of improving as a kunoichi after having stagnated for so long really appealed to her.

"That guy, in the Red haori with long brown hair." Ren pointed out as they perched on the tree branches, hidden from view and observing the people in the marketplace.

"Is he a spy?" She asked.

"Worse. A traitor." Ren said with some disappointment. "Follow and capture him while he's out of public view. I'll have a Shadow Clone send him to the T&I."

She nodded and ignored her sore and tired muscles as she went to complete Ren's orders.

Capturing the traitor was easy as he was only a Chunin. And once she'd downed the guy,

Ren's Shadow Clone took over from there and she quickly returned back to the tree to continue with the scouting mission.

This mission had extended for over a month at this juncture, with Ren uncovering an increasing number of spies, traitors, saboteurs, and assassins each passing day. Though this was the first time she had joined

him on this mission so she didn't know all that much about it.

After sitting still for about an hour and finding a corrupt official, Ren rose from his position and face her. "We're done here. Follow me. We're going to the next place."

The next place was the Jounin Headquarters, where the Jounins came to mingle, get missions, fill up paperwork and all that jazz.

Ren covered the both of them in a shroud of Genjutsu and then they went back to waiting.

They did this with two more locations before they finally stopped near the Hokage Tower.

"Are you really allowed to spy on the Hokage Tower?" She asked, wondering how the 3rd Mizukage would've reacted if someone tried to spy on his office.

"I'm spying on the people coming and going from the tower, not the tower itself." Ren told her. "And yes, the Hokage specifically asked me to do so."

She arched a surprised eyebrow at the revelation. However, from what little she knew, Ren and the Hokage had a pretty good relationship with each other. So she probably shouldn't be so surprised by this.

Before she could say anything else though, an Anbu arrived in front of them.

"Shisui. I didn't know that you joined the anbu." Ren said and once she paid closer attention to the young looking anbu, she could definitely see the resemblance to the young Uchiha girl who came to spar with Ren every now and then.

"Ren. Please don't call me by my name while I'm on duty."

"Sure, Shisui." Ren said with an amused grin and the anbu sighed before he glanced over at her.

"Umm... hello to you too Ringo-san." The girl said. "And I don't mean to be rude, but are you allowed to leave the compound right now?"

"No. She isn't." Ren answered on her behalf.

Shisui stared at Ren for a moment before her shoulders slumped. "You know that you can't simply break rules because you feel like it, right Ren. The rules are there for a reason after all."

"She was feeling antsy after staying cooped up in my house for so long. So I decided to take her out with me." Ren said and she felt gratitude well up in her heart for the boy.

She had indeed been feeling a bit confined after staying in that place for an extended period. However, she had assumed the Hokage had finally granted her permission to move about freely. Apparently, he hadn't.

"I'll have to report this to Hokage-sama." Shisui said with a resigned voice.

"You do that. I'll come and talk with Minato-san once my mission is over." Ren said and Shisui vanished in a Shunshin.

She watched the anbu return back to the Hokage Tower before she turned to Ren. "Was this really wise?"

"Probably not. But you don't need to worry about this. I'll deal with any fallout." Ren said and she felt a familiar warmth in her heart once again. She leaned toward him and pulled him into a hug. "Thank you. I really needed this."

"Don't mind it." Ren told her and then they continued with his mission.

"Get up."

she instructed Itachi, Anko, and Rin Nohara, all three lying flat on their backs, injured and exhausted from their sparring session with her. The trio of girls showed rapid improvement, and each one of them

possessed the potential to surpass her in the future. However, they were still a considerable distance from being able to defeat an S-class kunoichi. The girls groaned as they slowly got up and dragged their bodies back into the training ground.

"Ren. A little help over here." She called out to one of Ren's Shadow Clones who had been busy practicing his Healing Technique on a half dead fish beside the lake.

The shadow clone came over and quickly started healing the minor injuries of the three kunoichi, preparing them for yet another intense sparring session.

While the Shadow Clone did that, she mused about how Jiraiya had entrusted her with the task of teaching these Kunoichi on how to survive an encounter with a very strong enemy.

From what little she knew, the skirmishes at the border area had increased in intensity and Jiraiya had been sent to the Northern border to take charge of the shinobi deployed there.

Judging by the situation, it was likely that a war could break out any day now. And if that happened, these girls would either be ready to face their enemies or they would become just another statistic in the battlefield.

She was still surprised that Jiraiya put her in charge of her three apprentice.

She still wasn't sure whether to be flattered by this show of trust of annoyed at having to teach three brats.

With widened eyes, she observed as the lightning-formed dragon descended from the skies at a speed faster than she could blink and crashed onto the ground with a thunderous boom.

The ground shook underneath her and the area where the Lightning

Dragon crashed turned into a 100 meter wide crater.

If that Jutsu struck her... then she would definitely die.

She knew a few defensive jutsu but they would not last an instant against an attack of such calibre. And while she was fast, the Jutsu was far faster so she can't escape either.

"That... that was an S-class Lightning Release Jutsu." She said, her voice trembling from the shock.

It was difficult for her to fathom that he had only begun seriously honing his skills in Lightning Jutsu after her joined him. In just a few months, he had crafted an S-class Jutsu, while she, with a lifetime affinity for it, had only managed to create or recreate B and A-class Jutsu.

Ren descended from the towering tree, where he had commanded the Lightning Dragon, and landed next to her. Then he took out a scroll from within his Inventory and threw it at her.

"That's your birthday gift." He told her and she blinked.

"Today is my birthday?" She asked, as she herself had no idea when her birthday was.

"No. I'm just kidding." Ren said with a cheeky smile. "Regardless, take that S-class Jutsu as a gift. But remember, it can only ever be used while there are clouds in the sky. Though the scroll also shows a few ways to create cloud in the skies."

She cast a glance at the overcast sky and nodded. "I understand." Then she became alert as she sensed multiple powerful Chakra signatures coming in their direction.

"Relax. It's just Anbu." Ren told her and her lips twitched.

Who else in Konoha had the gall to treat anbu like they were nothing special. Probably only S-class shinobi.

...which there were quite a few of in Konoha.

In fact, it was kinda absurd just how many S-class shinobi there were in Konoha.

And two of them were Kunoichi. Tsunade Senju and Ren's Sensei Kushina Uzumaki.

Three. If they counted her in that rank.

And that number will probably change to six when Shisui, Itachi and Rin Nohara grew up. Perhaps Anko as well.

And that's just the people she knew. There might be more hidden gems in Konoha that she's unaware.

Yeah. Absurd indeed. But it also explained why Konoha was seen as the strongest shinobi village in the Elemental Nations.

A moment later, a dozen anbu arrived in the clearing and surrounded them.

The ANBU leading the group gazed at the aftermath left by Ren's Lightning Dragon and then fixed his eyes on Ren.

"What did you do this time?" The anbu asked in a resigned voice.

"Just practicing a new S-rank Jutsu." Ren said with a nonchalant shrug.

the Anbu stared at Ren for a moment before he nodded. "Lightning Release?"

"Yup."

"I'll go and inform the Hokage." The Anbu captain said and then left the clearing, the other anbu quickly following in his wake.

Once they were gone, she turned to Ren. "Just how many S-rank Jutsu have you created?"

Ren thought on it for a moment and then shrugged. "I'm too lazy to count. Besides." He threw her a few more scrolls. "Those are a few more A-rank Jutsu that I created with Kakashi's help. Feel free to learn them if you the S-rank Jutsu is beyond you."

She licked her lips and then knelt down before pulling him into a hug, burying his face deep in her bosom. "Thank you, Ren. For everything you've done for me these past few months."

"Meh. You're my minion now, so the stronger you are, the better it is for me."

She chuckled at his words but didn't refute it.

For now, she'll be his minion. But once he's older, she'll become his wife.

Despite her initial reluctance, having witnessed Ren's swift development firsthand, the prospect now held a certain allure for her.

"I've seen you do this a dozen times by now, but I don't think I'll ever get used to it." She said as Ren sat on his bed and prepared the proper containers filled with nourishing fluid.

"This is important." Ren told her, and she could hear the resolve in his voice.

"I'm still not so sure about this plan of yours." She told him as he reached for his scalpel. "Are you sure this'll work?"

"Kinda. If hadn't learned about the Hashirama cells being researched by our R&D Department then I wouldn't be doing this. As without those cells, this entire plan would be meaningless" Ren said and then paused.

"On second thought, I'd probably still do it. If only out of curiosity and for personal research."

"Personal research..." She said in a deadpanned voice, and then pursed her lips as Ren reached for his right eye and took it out of its socket.

Just like that.

He cut the optical connection with the Chakra scalpel and then put the eye in the glass container.

Then he used mystic palm jutsu to stop the bleeding from his now empty

eye socket.

She quickly used a towel to wipe away the blood dripping down his chin.

And despite having done this a dozen times by now, the sight of his empty eye socket still made her feel queasy.

It wasn't even the blood or the empty eye socket, as she'd seen plenty of them throughout her life. It was the realisation that someone she cared for was willingly subjecting himself to this. The boy must have truly grown on her for her to feel such sentimentality towards him.

Ren gave her a reassuring smile (as if it would make her feel better) before he reached for his right eye and took it out as well.

Once he had put both his eyes inside the glass container, he closed the lid and put it inside his Inventory, where it'll be safe and frozen in time.

She quickly went about cleaning the blood from Ren's face. And once that was done, he laid down on the bed and covered himself with the blanket.

"Goodnight Ringo."

"Goodnight Ren." She told him and the very next moment, he fell asleep.

'And now my watch begins.' She thought as she gripped her two Kiba swords. 'At least until the 6 hours it'll take for his eyes to regrow in their sockets.'

The fact that Ren's bloodline helped him recover from any wound and regrow any lost body part with just 6 hours of sleep was still baffling to her.

And the fact that Ren used this ability as a cheat to collect multiple Mangekyo Sharingan eyes left her utterly speechless. But despite the brutality of it all, she could see the importance and pragmatism in what he was doing. Especially with the plan he was crafting.

A plan to give a pair of Mangekyo Sharingan eyes to every single Uchiha Jounin.

That, along with a pound of Hashirama Flesh should turn any Uchiha Jounin into a monster capable of throwing hands with S-class monsters. Or so Ren claimed.

Especially with Ren's Mangekyo Sharingan's abilities to recover the Chakra and health of the wielder at any moment.

She thought about fighting a Uchiha Jounin who can recover from any wound and has nigh infinite chakra and felt a shiver go down her spine. Yeah, if Ren's plan actually worked then Uchiha clan will easily become the strongest clan in the entire world.

And considering that she would be the wife of their future clan leader, she was all for it.

AN: And here we have it. A glimpse of Ringo Ameyuri's life.

She's not a good person. And she doesn't really love Ren either. But she's a pragmatic person and can see the way the wind is blowing. So she decided to hitch her cart to Ren's and join him on his ride to success.

She might come to love him in the future once they have a few children together but for now, she's only in it for selfish reasons. Nevertheless, Ren's evident care for her has undeniably caused her to develop a certain level of affection towards him.

Aside from that. Anko has joined Itachi and Rin Nohara's team since Orochimaru is too busy with his work and doesn't have the time to teach her.

Ren is helping Ringo become stronger since he sees her as his waifu.

The situation in the border area is deteriorating and a war is in the horizon.

And finally, Ren has started to collect Mangekyo Sharingan eyes in order to empower his clansmen and help Konoha by providing them with a

group of powerful shinobi.

Hope you guys enjoyed this chapter.

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Chapter 21- Teaching two

disciples

Tsunade Senju POV

"We're finished here. Next," she declared upon completing the healing process for the shinobi on the emergency table. Swiftly, he was wheeled out of the emergency room, making room for the arrival of another patient.

This one suffered from severe 3rd degree burns caused not by Fire Release Jutsu but by a Lightning Release Jutsu. And if not for Minato's quick teleportation as well as the work of their emergency healers, the shinobi before her would not have survived long enough to reach her. Her team already knew what they needed to do, and together, they got to work and saving the life of yet another shinobi.

Ultimately, the surgery extended for a full hour, and though they succeeded in saving the young shinobi, his right arm, having sustained extensive damage, couldn't be salvaged.

A good thing then that they were already working toward making artificial limbs with her grandfather's cells.

He wiped the sweat from her eyebrows and gestured for her to team to remove this guy. "Next!"

"Um... Tsunade-sama, we're done for the day." One of her subordinates told her and she frowned in confusion.

"Weren't there two more?"

"There were, but their injuries weren't as severe so Ren-sama healed them."

"Ren healed them?" She asked, having mixed feelings at the notion of a 6-year-old boy performing such complex surgical procedures.

It was not like the task wasn't within the boy's abilities either. Everything that she knew, the boy had already learned as well, thanks to his strange ability to absorb knowledge by consuming Medical scrolls and books.

The only thing he now needed was a lot of training and experience.

Which it seemed he was already getting. Without her permission.

Still...

"Bring those injured shinobi to me for a check up. I want to make sure that they aren't suffering from any hidden injuries that Ren might've missed." She ordered and her subordinates jumped to follow her orders.

She pressed her lips together, contemplating what she would have given to have such devoted and skilled subordinates during the 2nd and 3rd Shinobi Wars. If she had their support alongside all the innovative Iryojutsu she had recently developed, perhaps Dan would still be...

She shook her head to dismiss those thoughts. Despite her deep love for Dan, he had been gone for over two decades. Dwelling on the past wouldn't do her any good.

Her musings were quickly cut short as the two shinobi that Ren had healed were brought in.

She swiftly examined them and noted that although Ren's healing wasn't as proficient as hers, it was still more than satisfactory, without any overlooked issues or lingering side effects.

"You both are in good condition," she declared her verdict. Before the two could express their relief, she exited the room, heading in search of her new apprentice.

Although, labeling Ren as her disciple wasn't precisely accurate either.

After all, she hadn't really taught him all that much in the past two months. She simply provided him with Iryojutsu scrolls and books, and he absorbed them, acquiring all her lifelong skills in an instant.

Admittedly, he wasn't as proficient as her in those skills, but he was swiftly narrowing the gap with the assistance of his army of Shadow Clones who trained tirelessly day and night.

A weary sigh slipped from her lips as she walked past the ward where shinobi with less severe injuries were being attended to by the rest of the Medical staff.

2 and a half years. That's how long it's been since the 3rd shinobi war ended. Yet, their village was now under attack from all directions, and the looming possibility of another war hung in the air, ready to erupt at any moment.

And the reason behind it all? Ren Uchiha, who the other major villages wanted to kill before he grew too strong.

Was it any wonder that she harboured conflicting feelings toward the boy.

She finally reached the hospital backyard where her two disciples were supposed to be training. To her chagrin, they weren't, and she couldn't help but facepalm at the sight before her, even as her lips curled upward in amusement.

Ren was currently chasing a 12-year-old Shizune with a dead fish in his hand, playfully threatening to tuck it into her clothes in a sing-song voice.

To think that the same boy who can act so mature at times can also act childishly.

"Shizune-senpai. Hohoho. Running from me is futile~" Ren said as he

reached close enough to wiggle the fish over Shizune's head who let out a shriek and started running even faster.

...and this was the boy with a higher bounty than her and her two teammates. Their respective bounties were 82 million for her, 79 million for Orochimaru, and 68 million for Jiraiya.

She stopped the smile forming on lips and adopting an annoyed expression before she stomped toward her two disciples.

"What the hell is going on here!?" She barked out and her two disciples froze instantly.

"Ah... what's up granny." Ren said with a smirk and her eyes twitched before she brought her fist down on his head.

Boink!

"Ow"

"Now... wanna explain why the two of you are playing around instead of training as you should be?" She asked.

"It's all Shizune-senpai's fault!" Ren immediately spoke up, getting a look of shock and betrayal from Shizune.

"Oh. Explain how it's her fault when you were the one chasing after her with that dead fish."

"It was her break time but she refused to take a break. So I had to force her to take one." Ren said as he crossed his arms and gave her a smug look.

Her gaze softened as she turned toward her older disciple. "Is that true, Shizune?" she inquired.

Her senior apprentice bit her lip, glanced away, and then nodded.

"Hm... We'll discuss this later," she informed her senior apprentice before redirecting her attention to Ren. "And what's your excuse for taking a break?"

"Eh, I've got a dozen Shadow clones practicing Iryojutsu at the moment.

Plus, I've wrapped up my daily tasks. So, I can afford to slack off a bit."

he said with his typical nonchalant demeanour, leaving her to question if letting him become a medic was truly the right decision.

Which was rather arrogant of her, considering that Ren had the potential to become a far better medic than she herself could ever hoped to be.

Provided that he took this seriously.

"Show me," she demanded, and Ren led her to a forested area where dozens of his Shadow Clones were diligently practicing to master the Iryojutsu techniques he had already learned.

If anyone else attempted what Ren was doing at the moment, she would probably give them a good smack on the head.

After all, Shadow Clone jutsu was a Forbidden Jutsu for a good reason.

Its main purpose was to scout for enemies, and overusing it to learn complicated stuff could result in, at best, a severe migraine, and at worst, permanent brain damage.

But somehow, the boy had gained Resistance to the brain damage caused by the overuse of Shadow Clone Jutsu and could now use it with impunity.

No wonder he mastered Iryojutsu skills at such a rapid pace.

...she was so jealous of him for this. As were Orochimaru and Minato, she had no doubt about that.

It was just one of those aspects that elevated Ren above the typical shinobi. And another reason why the other villages would want to kill him before he reached adulthood.

"We're done for the day here. Come. I'll treat you two to some food."

"Okay, Sensei." She students chorused together.

Five minutes later, all three of them found themselves in a private booth

within a high end Akimichi restaurant. Her two disciples feasted on the delicious food while she sat there, gazing at the picturesque view of Konoha visible from their vantage point.

The legacy left behind by her grandfather.

"Umm... Tsunade-sama, why aren't you ordering anything for yourself?"

Shizune hesitantly inquired, and she offered a gentle smile to Dan's niece.

"I'm not hungry at the moment." She replied, which wasn't entirely untrue as her concerns about the looming possibility of another war left her without much of an appetite.

She took a subtle glance at Ren once again before she went back to staring at Konoha.

She wondered what the boy was thinking right now. Despite his usual nonchalant attitude, the boy was very smart and must have realised that he was the reason why Konoha was facing increased skirmishes at their borders.

How would she have felt if the other major villages went to war with Konoha in order to get her head.

If she had manifested Wood Release abilities at a young age and possessed even half the potential of her grandfather, that could have been a plausible scenario.

However, the mantle had been passed to the young boy before her, whom everyone feared might become the second Madara Uchiha.

No one talked about this in the open, but she knew that many of the old warhawks of Konoha were wary of what the boy might become in the future. Understandable, as they had seen the damage caused by Madara Uchiha with their very own eyes.

If her sensei held the position of Hokage instead of Minato, she wondered how things might have unfolded for the boy.

Would her sensei have surrendered the boy to Danzo, transforming him into a devoted weapon for the village? Or would he have taken the boy under his own wings, driven by a sense of caution to ensure his unwavering loyalty to Konoha?

She let out another weary sigh.

"Hm... Jiraiya-sensei wasn't wrong." Ren muttered to himself. She turned to look at him, only to find his gaze fixed on her chest.

Her irritation flared slightly as she inquired, "What wasn't he wrong about, brat?"

"106," the boy said with a serious expression. "The largest in Konoha."

She released an exasperated yet affectionate sigh, giving the boy another gentle bonk on the head.

"Ow."

"Aren't you too young to be thinking about such things?" She asked, half annoyed at what Jiraiya was teaching young children and half amused.

"You're never too young to be a man of culture!" The boy announced proudly and she let out a scoff while reminding herself to have a 'talk' with Jiraiya once he returns from the border.

'If he returns from the border.' A dark voice said to her and she easily ignored it.

Yes, there was a slight chance that Jiraiya might perish in a battle.

However, that likelihood was minimal, and further diminished by the presence of Minato.

She pushed those thoughts aside and redirected her focus to her students once again.

"If you're both finished eating, then come. I want to demonstrate a few of my medical tricks before you go," she instructed her students as she got up and left the restaurant.

"Are you going to showcase your grandfather's cells again?" the boy inquired, as he followed behind her and she shook her head.

"No, this is something specifically reserved for emergency healing," she informed the boy, who became visibly disappointed at her words.

Ever since she shared information about Konoha's confidential research on her grandfather's cells, the boy had displayed a peculiar fascination with them.

She couldn't fathom why those cells intrigued the boy so much.

Nonetheless, it seemed as if he had a plan in mind, as he had already approached the Hokage seeking a substantial supply for his clan members.

They eventually arrived at the hospital and proceeded to an underground chamber—the morgue—where the bodies of deceased shinobi were being stored.

"Um... why have we come here, Tsunade-sama?" Shizune inquired with a hint of hesitation, reaching the freshly preserved cadavers placed here under her directive.

"I'm going to teach you two how to extract organs from a corpse and label them correctly. Watch and learn as this might save the lives of many shinobi in the future."

Her two students nodded and she took out her scalpel before going to work.

Obito Uchiha POV

He stared at the corpse of the old man he'd just fought and felt a faint sense of fear creep over him at just how close the battle had been despite all his advantages.

Truly, you should fear an old man in a profession where most die young.

"You did well Obito." Black Zetsu's voice came from behind him and he nodded, shivering slightly due to the cold, as the Mizukage had turned the entire battlefield into a frozen hellhole.

"Of course." He replied, unwilling to show any weakness after his last battle with his former Sensei.

If Zetsu was aware of how closely contested the battle had been, he didn't reveal it. He merely motioned to the White Zetsus and began planting the corpses of Konoha shinobi across the battlefield.

"Will this really work?" He asked Black Zetsu as the creature took some of the 3rd Mizukage's DNA. "All this evidence seems too convenient. Will they really believe that this was done by Konoha?"

"Probably not," Zetsu remarked. "But keep in mind, Kiri is a bloodthirsty village. Even if the higher-ups are reluctant, the average shinobi is already eager for war. Besides, Konoha did capture their 3 tails. So, Kiri will be forced into this conflict with them whether they like it or not."

"...I still think that it's too convenient." He said with a frown before his eyes narrowed. "Have you planted White Zetsu among the villagers?"

"Finally, you're using your head. And yes, the White Zetsu I've embedded among the villagers will stir dissent against Konoha. They'll frequent shady taverns, spreading rumors about how Konoha seized their tailed beast. When the Mizukage demanded its return, Konoha had him assassinated."

"This still seems too convenient to me. Too easy."

"Perhaps." Black Zetsu agreed. "There's a small chance that we might fail. But with Kumo and Iwa already testing Konoha's defences and preparing for war, it is much more likely that Kiri will join them. If only due to the opportunity of violence and resources."

He hummed at those words and then nodded.

"Very well then. Once you're done here, return to the base. I'm leaving."

He said and before Black Zetsu could say anything, he used Kamui and left the place.

The pieces were already set. Now... he only needed to see them fall into place.

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Chapter 22- Secret Meeting

Dadoi POV

The meeting room door swung open, and the Tsuchikage, accompanied by his four guards, entered with a solemn expression.

"You're late." The Raikage growled, glaring at the Tsuchikage for the unnecessary power move and the disrespect.

"I had to make sure that you haven't done anything foolish, like setting up an ambush for us." Tsuchikage said with indifference as he settled into his chair.

The Raikage looked like he wanted to separate Onoki's head right then and there. However, after a few deep breaths, he managed to regain his composure.

"One day, Onoki, I'll claim that head of yours, and we'll see if you can still spout such nonsense," the Raikage declared before reclining in his chair. "But for now, we share a common enemy, so I'll collaborate with you."

Ignoring his Raikage's threat, Onoki surveyed the two other vacant seats in the room. "It seems you have failed to persuade the Kazekage and

Mizukage to join this meeting."

"The Kazekage..." Raikage said, his voice dripping with scorn and disgust, "is a weak coward who clings to Konoha like a limpet when it suits him. I never expected him to come. But the Mizukage... his absence is unexpected."

Onoki held back from offering any remarks, and a somber silence descended upon the room as the two Kage grasped the gravity of their situation.

One of the major villages might remain neutral at best or side with Konoha at worst. And the other, who should've joined them, had not even sent an emissary. It was worrying.

After all, despite how much Kumo and Iwa both liked to brag about being the strongest Shinobi village, all of them were well aware of the fact that the title had always rested with Konoha.

And even more so now that Konoha is under the leadership of a young, capable Hokage, boasts of plethora of S-class shinobi, and has even taken the 3 tails from Kiri, if their intelligence was to be believed.

To make matters worse, Konoha also held a numerical advantage, boasting around 32,000 shinobi, whereas Kumo and Iwa could only muster approximately 22,000 and 19,000 shinobi, respectively.

And that's just the numbers. In terms of quality, Konoha had more clans and bloodline wielders than both Kumo and Iwa combined.

And now they had given birth to a monster who is rumoured to be the second coming of Madara Uchiha. And as much as he hated the idea of going on a war with the explicit goal of killing a child, he couldn't help but wonder what other choice they even had.

"Hmm... send some more people to Kiri after this to find out why Mizukage didn't come. I'll do the same." Onoki stated, and then his

typically stoic demeanour faltered for a moment, the old man appearing almost... hesitant. "But for now, let's focus on the crucial matter. What intelligence have your informants gathered about the boy? Are the rumours accurate?"

"Which rumours? There are a thousand of them floating around, undoubtedly the work of Konoha's Counter-Intelligence department." the Raikage remarked with a disdainful scoff.

"Don't play daft boy. You know very well which rumour I'm talking about." Onoki said and he could see his Raikage's eye narrowing in anger at the disrespect, his chair's arm rest creaking from his grip. "The ones which say that a 6-year-old boy managed to defeat an S-class Kunoichi." His Raikage managed to control his anger once again and said. "I would hardly call that wench an S-class kunoichi. But yes... our men are still looking into it."

"Still looking into it? How bad are your spies that you haven't been able to confirm such a simple thing?"

"Mind your tongue Onoki. And don't play daft yourself." His Raikage said with a snort. "If your spies faring any better, then you wouldn't be asking me that question."

Onoki pursed his lips at that but gave a reluctant nodded.

And hadn't that been a huge kick to the gut. To learn that all their spies and informants in Konoha had either been captured or subverted without their knowledge and were now feeding them false information.

What made matters worse was that, despite dispatching a dozen spies each week ever since they learned about these rumours, none of their operatives achieved any success.

He had no idea what Konoha was doing to find their spies in such a short moment, but whatever method it was, it was proving to be remarkably

effective.

"Very well, then. You still must've found something; otherwise you wouldn't have called this meeting."

"Yes, one of our spies managed to return with some info." Raikage said.

"Oh. And what is this info. It must be something substantial for you to call me over for."

"Ren Uchiha shattered all the past graduation records upon completing the shinobi academy."

Onoki blinked at that. "That's it? That's the reason why you called me here?"

"The information might seem insignificant at first glance. But it becomes more useful when you realise that the last person to break even half as many records was Minato Namikaze, the Fourth Hokage, and before him, Orochimaru of the Sannin."

Onoki frowned at this new piece of information and leaned back in his chair.

"So... we now know that the boy who has more talent than his predecessors. That's something. But it's still not enough for me to send my people to war." Onoki said. "If I'm going to start the 4th Shinobi War, then I want solid proof that this boy is as much of a threat as we believe him to be."

"Don't play a fool now old man. We both know that is untrue." Raikage said.

"Whatever do you mean?"

"Six. Konoha currently has six S-class shinobi. The 4th Hokage, the retired 3rd Hokage, Jiraiya Tsunade, Orochimaru, and the 9 tails Jinchuriki. And that's just the shinobi that we know of. They might have another one of those hidden monsters like the Red Beast who decimated

the Seven Swordsmen on his own. Now they have the 3 tails as well. And a young boy who might become a more dangerous foe than even the 4th Hokage." The Raikage explained. "Even if we do not get the confirmation about the boy's true potential, ask yourself this, can we really afford to wait and allow Konoha to grow even stronger?"

Onoki stayed silent for a long moment before his shoulders slumped just a bit and he released a sigh. "No." He said, the word resounding like a loud gong in the otherwise silent room.

And while the meeting itself went for a few more hours afterward, he was well aware that the decision had already been made.

Probably even before this meeting ever took place.

Kumo and Iwa were now allies in the upcoming war against Konoha.

AN: Sorry for the small chapter. This was one of those times when I was still trying to see if writing small chapters work for me. It didn't so the future chapters are all big. Well... bigger than this one at least.

I'll upload another chapter tomorrow to make up for this one. Provided that I'm able to, since I have to drive seven hours tomorrow to send my maternal grandmother back to her home after the Winter Holiday.

Hope you guys enjoyed this chapter regardless.

Have a nice day

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Chapter 23- Eyes, eyes and even

more eyes

Fugaku Uchiha POV

He returned home from another tiring day at work and paused upon seeing Ren and Itachi sitting together on the porch.

Ren held little Satsuki in his arms, teaching Itachi how to be a better babysitter. And judging by the intense look in Itachi's eyes, she seemed to be taking this seriously.

Seeing them sit together like this made him think about the future. A hopefully peaceful future with lots of grandkids for him to dote on.

At that point, Itachi caught sight of him and offered a respectful nod.

"Welcome home, father."

He gave her nod before shifting his gaze to Ren. "And here I thought that you completely forgot about us after settling into your new house."

A house that even he was a bit envious of, as it was significantly larger and grander than his own and was located in a better location as well.

Not that he would ever admit that to anyone.

Ren smiled at his words but the smile didn't reach his eyes. "Fugaku-san, there's something important I need to discuss with you. Do you have a moment right now?"

And there it was. Ren Uchiha. The true Ren Uchiha and now the boy who plays around with Itachi and babysits Satsuki. This was the shinobi who managed to defeat an S-class Kunoichi, and might just be the strongest shinobi in their clan, even if a lot of the clan members had no idea about his true strength.

This was the person who would steer the future of their clan with his own two hands. So even if he didn't have any free time right now, he'll make it.

Mikoto presented them each with a cup of tea accompanied by snacks before excusing herself from the room. And as soon as she left, the ambiance took on a more solemn tone.

"Before we start. May I know why you didn't attend the last monthly clan

meeting. Or the one before that?" He asked.

Ren raised a single eyebrow at that. "You told me that it's not mediatory for genin to attend."

"Yes I did. But you're no ordinary Genin, Ren."

Because even without his power, Ren was now the richest Uchiha in their clan (even if, once again, most of the clan members were not aware of that).

Moreover, Ren held the prestigious status of being the disciple of the Hokage's wife. And had then studied under both Lord Jiraiya and Lady Tsunade.

If a Jounin of their clan had such connections, then he or she would've been given the seat of an honorary elder, irrespective of any other accomplishments.

...and come to think of it, the fact that Ren was forced to sit with other genins despite being the strongest, richest and well-connected Uchiha might have something to do with why he didn't care to participate in any clan meetings beyond the initial one.

Yeah, he was definitely feeling like a fool now. Though in his defence, he had given Ren that seat in order to shield him from the prying eyes of the elders.

"You're right Fugaku-san. And I don't really mind attending the clan meetings. But what I do mind is being treated like a toddler who doesn't know what's good for him. Or be seen as a tool by those decrepit old foggies who care more about their pride and honour than the lives of their own clan members."

Yeah... there was that as well. *Sigh*

"I'll go and have a talk with the elders before the next meeting. Would you come if we gave you the seat of an honorary elder?" He asked,

hoping that the elders hadn't cast the clan in a negative light in front of the young boy.

"I don't care about such matters. Do whatever you think is right." Ren said. "However, let's shift our focus to the main reason why I came here."

"Very well then." He said and gestured for Ren to continue.

"I want to know about the skirmishes in the border and the role that Uchiha clan will play in this whole affair."

He hummed at those words and thought about how to give a proper reply without pissing the boy off. "Hm... Uchiha clan has sent a few young men to the border. And we're going to send another group next month."

Ren raised an eyebrow. "What about the other clans? Are they sending any reinforcements?"

He shook his head. "Clans usually don't send out their shinobi until things have become more serious. But..." He trailed off, not sure how to proceed from here.

"But these skirmishes are happening because of me, a member of the Uchiha clan. So you feel honour bound to send reinforcements to the border." Ren said and despite his calm face, the clenched fists betrayed his true emotions.

"...yes." He said. "Whether we like it or not, these skirmishes are happening in part because of you. And whether you like it or not, you're a member of the Uchiha clan. And we'll gladly sacrifice our lives in the battlefield if it means getting another shinobi of Madara Uchiha's caliber."

Ren was silent for a long moment before he sighed. "I see."

"And before you ask, no, you'll not be allowed to go to the frontline despite how powerful you might have become."

"I wasn't going to ask." Ren said. "I'm well aware that even if the clan did

allow me to go, the Hokage would not."

"Okay. Was that all, or is there another reason for your visit?" He asked and Ren nodded promptly.

"I also came here to discuss the distribution of my Mangekyo Sharingan eyes." Ren said. And before he could even grasp the sheer absurdity of those words, Ren placed a dozen containers filled with eyes on the table. Examining the eyes, his jaw nearly dropped as he realized that each one bore a unique yet similar pattern.

They were all Mangekyo Sharingan eyes.

He gave a bewildered look to Ren and asked. "How?" Then he paused as he noticed the same pattern in Ren's eyes and shook his head. "No wait. When did you unlock your Mangekyo Sharingan eyes?"

"About a month after defeating Ringo Ameyuri." Ren said with a nonchalant shrug. As if he hadn't unlocked the near final stage of their eye at an age when most others haven't even unlocked their Sharingan eyes.

Maintaining what little composure he had left, he inquired, "And... what circumstances led to the awakening of these eyes?"

His own eyes, after all, had awakened when he witnessed his father's death near the end of 2nd shinobi war. And he couldn't think of any such tragedy that befell Ren in the past few months.

"No. I was just jogging around when my eyes just... evolved."

...

...

"...are you serious?"

"Yes."

"Of course." He said, holding the urge to throw a temper tantrum for the first time in his life. Because why the hell not? It's not like Mangekyo

Sharingan eyes are anything important. Just give a pair to the brat while he's out jogging.

"Um... Fugaku-san, are you alright?" The brat had the gall to ask.

He realised that he was breathing heavily and took a moment to calm himself before nodding. "Yeah, yeah. I'm fine. Of course. Why wouldn't I be?"

Ren stared at him for a long moment before he sighed. "Do you want to know how I got so many eyes?"

"No, I don't want to- Of Course I want to know!" He said, his heart beating rapidly in his chest before he closed his eyes and took deep breaths once again. He then opened his eyes and smiled at Ren. "How did you get so many eyes, Ren?"

'Did they fucking grow up on trees? Did you just found them lying around in your property? Or did the tooth fairy leave it under your pillow while you were sleeping?'

"You know how my second bloodline allows me to regenerate from any serious wounds after sleeping for 6 hours?"

"Yeah." He said, suddenly getting a very bad feeling about this.

"Well... after I became Lady Tsunade's student, I learned how to extract eyes successfully. And had a Shadow Clone extract my eyes." Ren said.

"After that, I went to sleep, and when I woke up, my eyes had regenerated. And I had an extra pair of eyes. So I've been doing just that every single night for the past month."

...okay what- that's just... no wait. Never mind.

"And why have you... created, so many eyes, Ren?"

"I think 'replication' would be the correct term here. But that's beside the point." Ren said. "The reason why I did this was so that I can give these eyes to the Uchiha shinobi who're going out in the frontline. I may not be

able to help the entire village right now, but I can certainly help my clan members."

"That's... that's admirable Ren." He said. "But are you aware that Mangekyo Sharingan eyes deteriorate with use, right? And that not everyone has the charka reserves required to use them to their fullest extent?"

"I do." Ren said, surprising him. "That's why I brought this as well."

With that, Ren placed another container on the table. This one was filled to the brim with Fuinjutsu seals and contained a peculiar, white dough-like substance.

"And what is this?"

"These are the repurposed cells of Lord Hashirama." Ren said and his jaw fell for the second time in this meeting.

Being an important part of the village, and a friend to the Hokage, he had known about those cells for a while now. And he knew just how impressive they were.

The entire thing was still a bit strange to him, but if the Hokage and Lady Tsunade didn't mind the 1st Hokage's cells being researched, then who was he to speak against it?

But...

"How did you even get your hands on this, Ren?" He asked. 'And please, please, please don't tell me that you stole it.'

"I bought it." Ren replied.

"You bought it?" He asked in a deadpan. "What? From a grocery shop?"

"I bought it from the Hokage."

"You can buy it from the Hokage?" He asked. He hadn't known that they'd started selling these things. No wait. "How much did it cost?"

"No. You cannot buy it from the Hokage. I can do it because I'm a special

case. And as for your second question, it cost me 20 million Ryo to buy 10 pounds of this."

That was... 2 high S-class mission payment. Or 20 high A-class mission payment.

He took a deep breath to calm the turmoil in his heart as the pieces started to fit in and he realised Ren's plan.

"So you want to augment the chakra of our clan members with the help of Lord Hashirama's cells?" He asked. He wasn't sure if this'll work or not. But if it did, then it would change everything.

"Yes. And are you aware that having Hashirama cells in your body can also slow down, if not outright prevent, the deterioration of Mangekyo Sharingan eyes."

His eyes sharpened at those words and he pinned the boy with a serious gaze. "Are you serious right now, Ren?"

"I am." Ren replied. "And I know that you have Mangekyo Sharingan eyes as well, so feel free to take some of it for yourself."

He unconsciously licked his lips and then sighed. "If this indeed works as you say, then I'm in your debt, Ren."

Ren nodded at his words. "This amount should be sufficient to supply about 5 people. So, aside from you, there are 4 individuals who can utilize my Mangekyo Sharingan eyes on the battlefield."

"That's..." He envisioned the kind of devastation that 5 Uchiha clansmen could unleash on the battlefield with enhanced chakra and Mangekyo Sharingan eyes each, and he gulped.

"What abilities do your Mangekyo Sharingan eyes possess?" He asked. Because a Uchiha who hasn't awakened his own Mangekyo Sharingan eyes would be able to use Ren's eye abilities.

"My right eye gives me the ability to recover from any wounds. And my

left eye allows me to completely recover my chakra."

Those... are rather simple but extremely powerful abilities. And if they can be used again and again in the battlefield.

He suppressed a shiver creeping down his spine and straightened up.

"We'll need to establish countermeasures to ensure that the enemies can't seize these eyes for themselves. Or the cells for that matter."

Because just thought of their enemies getting their hands on these Mangekyo Sharingan eyes or Lord Hashirama's cells filled him with dread.

"Already taken care of." Ren said as he took out two scrolls. "These Fuinjutsu seals were collaboratively created by the Sannin, the Hokage, Kushina-sensei, and me. They function similarly to the Hyuuga's caged bird seal. If the user dies or the eyes or cells are removed while they're still alive, they'll be instantly destroyed. The seals can also be activated from a distance in case the user is captured or turns traitor."

"Will the seal kill the user?" He asked, worried that this might be just another Caged bird seal that might get used in future to control the Uchiha clan.

"No. It'll only destroy the eyes and cells. And other than some minute pain and blindness, the user will remain unharmed."

"And who'll be allowed to control these seals?" He asked. Because while he trusted Minato, he didn't know who the next Hokage will be. Or the one after that. It is very possible that a future Hokage might harbour ill feelings toward the Uchiha clan and use it seal to harm the clan.

"I talked with the Hokage about this. And the master control of the seals of Uchiha clan members will be given to the Uchiha Clan leader, meaning you. But if the clan leader is seen abusing such authority, then the seal will be taken from him and given to one of the elders." Ren explained.

"That's good to hear." He said with a relieved sigh. "But... have you given any thought to who you want to give these eyes to?"

"Yes. While I initially wanted to give it to everyone, after some thinking, I decided that it would be wise to give most of it to the shinobi from your Dove faction." Ren said. "I don't want the Hawk faction getting too much power and causing troubles. Aside from that, I'll hand you the eyes and Hashirama cells, and leave their distribution to you."

He nodded, relieved that Ren is able to see the problems within Uchiha clan.

The elders from Hawk factions would undoubtedly be angry about this unfair distribution and might even get thoughts of rebellion. So he'll have to distribute it in secret at the start until the Dove faction is too strong. It'll be troublesome and this decision will definitely cause problems in the future but it's nothing he cannot deal with.

"The clan members and the ones who'll use these eyes and cells will be the ones to pay for the Hashirama cells. And you'll also get a commission for every single eye that you give to the clan."

"No." Ren replied immediately. "These battles are being waged on my behalf. The least I can do is pay for these things."

"I know that you have a lot of money Ren. But buying Hashirama cells for so many clansmen would bankrupt even you. No. These expenses will be shared by the clan and the individual clan members who benefit from it. And that's final."

Ren sighed. "Okay. You may give me the money required to buy the cells but I refuse to take any money for the eyes."

"No. We cannot just take these eyes without giving you any recompense, Ren. That's just not how the clan works." He said. "Besides, people have a tendency to not value things that they get for free. So there's that as

well."

Ren sighed. "Here I am, giving such a generous gift to you. And here you are, trying to turn it into a trade."

"Some gifts are too expensive to be taken without giving something in return." He said.

The both of them fell into silence after that. And after a long moment, Ren spoke up once again.

"If that is the case, then what would you say is the minimum value of these eyes?" Ren asked.

"The minimum value? I would usually say that these eyes are priceless, but considering that you can simply create a pair of them with 6 hours of sleep... let me think." He said and did a few calculations in his mind.

"About 1 Million Ryo. 2 million for the pair. And that's me really lowballing it."

"I'll accept it." Ren said and took out even more containers from his Inventory.

"Just how many of these do you have?" He asked in bewilderment.

"I've been at this for a month, so roughly 30 pairs." Ren said with an amused smile. "You don't need to use all of them right now. I've created a seal that'll freeze these eyes in time. You may put them in a hidden vault and save them for the next generation. Or the generation after that. I'll supply you with as many eyes as you can afford, so don't worry about running out of eyes anytime soon."

"...I cannot believe that we're having such a conversation." He said and then chuckled.

Ren chuckled alongside him and soon enough the both of them burst out laughing.

Once they'd regained their composure, he pinned the boy with another

serious gaze.

"So... Ren."

"Yes?"

"How about you become the next clan leader after me?" He asked.

"Not interested." Ren replied instantly.

"Come now. There's no need to be reject me so quickly. At least listen to my offer first."

"Nope. Not interested."

"Think of this as a favour to this old man."

"Nope."

"At least..." "Nope." "How about..." "Nope." "Can you at least..." "Nope."

AN: The Uchiha clan is divided into three factions in this story. The Dove, the Hawk, and the Neutral Factions.

The Doves are the Peaceful faction and want cooperation and peace with the village. Fugaku is the leader of this faction. It is also the largest faction right now, since the current Hokage is treating the Uchiha clan so well.

The Hawks are the Warring faction. They want to make Uchiha clan more powerful, even at the expense of the village. They feel like the Uchiha have been slighted by the village and want one of their clan member to become the next Hokage. They're the second largest faction in the clan. The Neutrals are self-explanatory. It is the small faction in the clan and mostly focus on business and earning wealth. They will side with whoever benefits them the most. And would undoubtedly join Fugaku if he offers them Mangekyo Sharingan eyes and Hashirama cells.

That's it for this chapter, hope you guys enjoyed reading it.

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Have a nice day

Chapter 24- Preparations

Minato Namikaze POV

'Hasn't there been enough bloodshed already?' He thought morosely as he signed off the compensation funds for all the shinobi who've died in the skirmishes thus far.

Well, not all of them considering that many of them were orphans who had no family. But still...

'Paying compensation for so many shinobi is definitely going to put a dent on our treasury.' He thought.

After all, it had been his own idea to start paying compensation to the deceased shinobi's family so that they can still support themselves without their primary breadwinner.

And as far as he knew, Konoha was the only place in the entire elemental nations who gave financial support to the kin of a fallen shinobi.

However, never in his wildest imagination had he expected that Konoha would be in the precipice of war so soon after the conclusion of the 3rd Shinobi War.

Up until this point, the casualties were still within acceptable limits. But once the war truly starts and the deaths started to pile up, will Konoha's treasury be able to withstand such a burden...

Just another thing for him to worry about.

He faced one of his advisors that he had summoned to his office for the duration of this war and asked. "Hurizen-san, has the Daimyo replied to our petition?"

The retired Hokage, who had been looking over a map on the side, raised his head to look at him and shook his head. "The Daimyo's demand

remains the same. He wants to meet Ren-kun and see if the boy is really as the rumours say."

"Sending Ren outside Konoha is dangerous right now." He said, and it was only half truth. The other half was that he just didn't want to send to boy to that cesspit of debauchery and corruption where everyone would want to exploit or manipulate him for their own purposes.

Furthermore, there was the concern that the Daimyo might try to recruit Ren to his side, or failing that, resort to assassination.

After all, the balance of power between the Daimyo and a hidden village is a delicate thing. Kept in check by the vast amount of wealth, allies, soldiers, personal shinobi, samurai and the monks under a Daimyo's service.

Had the 1st Hokage wanted, then he could've easily removed the Daimyo from his position and assumed control over the entire Land of Fire. But he didn't because that's just not who he was. And now Konoha has someone of that caliber once again. A guillotine blade that could come down on their head the instant the stepped out of line.

"I don't think the Daimyo cares about Ren like that." Hiruzen-san said, puffing on his pipe. "I don't think he really believes that Ren is a shinobi of Hashirama's caliber. More likely than not, this is just another tactic for him to withhold support and assert dominance in our relationship, showing us who holds the reins."

"Shortsighted fool." Fugaku scoffed from the side, working on his own increased paperwork now that he had become an Advisor on top of his duties as the head of Konoha police and the leader of Uchiha clan.

He knew that choosing Fugaku as one of his Advisors had been a controversial decision. But aside from being a trusted friend, Fugaku was also the leader of the strongest clan in Konoha.

A clan that has become even stronger thanks to their squad of Elite Jounin and Jounin equipped with Hashirama cells and Ren's Mangekyo Sharingan eyes.

Already, reports have started to trickle in from the border, attesting to the remarkable abilities of these Uchiha Shinobi. Even Jiraiya-Sensei had penned glowing praises about their prowess, along with a warning to keep the Uchiha clan close to him, lest they feel slighted and do something foolish.

Not that he needed anyone to tell him that. After all, Fugaku has become a certified S-class shinobi ever since he integrated the Hashirama cells in his body. Plus there were Ren and Ringo Ameyuri as well. That's three S-class shinobi in one clan.

Keeping all this in mind, he had easily disregarded Danzo's 'subtle' advice to keep the Uchiha at bay and not let them get too much power.

Instead, he had embraced them wholeheartedly. And now they were his most loyal supports and were winning the war for him. Almost singlehandedly, if some of the reports were to be believed.

"I would agree with Fugaku-san." Shikaku, his third Advisor said while leaning back on his chair. "The Daimyo is aware of our dependence on his support and aims to gain an advantage in our relationship by withholding it. I can't fault him for looking out for his kingdom, but in doing so, he risks alienating Konoha, and that might prove to be a more costly in the long run."

He held back a sigh. Dealing with Daimyo and the other nobles in Land of Fire was always exhausting, and it became even more taxing with the imminent threat of another war.

Each and every single one of the was offering him trivial amounts of money and demanding that he send his shinobi to protect their lands

from the enemy, despite many of them having private armies of their own.

Not to mention that the demands that some of them posed made his blood boil. One of nobles 'requested' ten kunoichis to serve as his bedwarmers in exchange for monetary support. Another had asked for Tsunade's hand in marriage in exchange for providing them with food supplies for the duration of this war.

One of the ladies had even been bold enough to ask him to sleep with her. He had rejected of course, considering that he was married and the woman was over 70 years old.

He wondered if any of these nobles grasped the fact that he could effortlessly slaughter their entire families in a single night if he so desired. Or have someone else do it for him with a single order.

And sometimes, when he had to deal with too much of their nonsense, he thought about doing just that. But then rationality prevailed and he recognised that these nobles were merely the lesser evil. Nothing more, nothing less.

"Any news from Kiri?"

"Aside from the assassination of their village leader, and them blaming us for that, no." Shikaku said and he held back another sigh.

And hadn't that been a punch to the gut. To learn that the 3rd Mizukage had been assassinated. And that Kiri now blamed Konoha for that assassination.

If there was any hope of Kiri staying out of this upcoming war, then that hope was throughly shattered now. Now their only major ally was Suna.

And Suna would only remain their ally for as long as it served their interests.

He was brought out of his thoughts with a polite knock on the door.

"Come in." He said, not raising his head from the paperwork.

"Hokage-sama. Danzo-sama is here to see you." His secretary said and he gestured for her to send the man in.

He still suspected that Danzo was the one who leaked info about Ren to the entire world. But despite thorough investigations into Danzo and his Root, they found conclusive evidence. Either Danzo hid his tracks too well, or was truly innocent. He didn't know which.

And considering how useful Danzo had been in proving critical intel on other villages, he reluctantly allowed the man to continue operating.

However, he remained vigilant and would act decisively if Danzo ever crossed a line.

"Hokage-sama." Danzo said with a brief tilt of his head as he entered the room. "I bring important news."

"Say it then."

Danzo tilted his head toward Fugaku and Shikaku, not speaking up and his eyes narrowed slightly.

"They're my trusted advisors. Anything you have to say, can be said in front of them."

Danzo's lips pursed at that. He knew that Danzo wanted one of the Advisor's seat for himself and wasn't happy with Fugaku getting that seat. But he'd already made his decision on this subject and won't change it.

"I'll not repeat myself Danzo." He said when the old man still didn't speak.

Danzo didn't seem pleased by that but he nodded nonetheless. "Both Iwa and Kumo have called back their shinobi from short and mid length missions. My agents have also gathered proof of them buying and storing weapons in large quantities."

He closed his eyes at the news and let out a disappointed sigh.

So it was finally about to start.

Ever since the news about Ren's abilities were leaked out, he knew that there was a large chance that they might have to go to war. But a part, a naive part of him had still held hope that it'll not come to this.

That they'll be able to talk with each other and come to a consensus of sort. But it seems like all his hopes were for naught.

If those two villages are preparing their armies then the war was already at their doorstep. And he couldn't afford to hesitate anymore.

He opened his eyes and glanced at Danzo. "How many shinobi are they planning to send to war?"

"Not many. Approximately 4000 for Iwa and 6000 for Kumo. I think they're reluctant to engage in an all-out war until they've verified Ren's true capabilities," stated Danzo, though the quirk of his lips said otherwise.

After all, the 3rd shinobi war only just ended. So despite their assertion of having around 20,000 or more shinobi, he was aware that a significant portion of that were merely Genins— who would only serve as cannon fodder if they were send to the battlefield.

That said, Konoha's own situation wasn't much better either. They might have a lot of S-class shinobi these days but their Jounin were lacking in numbers.

Just another reason to keep Ren out of war. Even if the boy was becoming more and more of a monster with each passing day and could hold his own against other S-class shinobi with ease.

But that didn't mean he would risk the boy being ambushed and vaporised by Onoki. The boy was powerful but he lacked experience.

"What about Kiri. How is the situation unfolding there?" He asked.

"A mess." Danzo said with a disdainful scoff. "The clans and the more

powerful shinobi are fighting amongst themselves for the chance to become the next Mizukage."

"Any idea about the candidates who might become the Mizukage?" He asked.

"There's Fuguki Suikazan, one of the most powerful seven swordsmen. He has the support of two other swordsmen, an elite shinobi group cultivated by him over the years, and a few minor clans. Aside from that, the Hozuki, Terumi and Kaguya clans are powerful and have their own worthy candidates."

"Would any of them be willing to work with Konoha if they became the Mizukage?"

"No." Danzo said without a moment's delay. "All of them are hardliners who would declare war on Konoha as soon as they come to power. And given the current climate in Kiri, if they don't take such a stance, then they'll not remain Mizukage for long."

...well, there went his hope of placating Kiri to at least remain out of the war.

"I propose that we assemble a team to assassinate their Mizukage candidates." Danzo said.

He sighed inwardly, having already expected Danzo to come up with such a radical plan.

"That would alienate Kiri from us and earn us their undying enmity." Hiruzen-san pointed out.

"Kiri already plans to go to war with us." Danzo retorted. "There's no point in hesitating now. We should act and act fast while they're still unprepared. Once a Mizukage is appointed, it'll be too late."

He gave this matter some thought and nodded to Danzo. "I'll consider this matter carefully. Please, don't let me hold you anymore. I'm sure you

have more pressing matters to attend to."

Danzo nodded and left the room.

Once it was just the four of them, he turned to Shikaku. "What do you think?"

"About the plan to decapitate Kiri's leadership?"

"Yes."

Shikaku adopted a thoughtful expression and remained like that for a long moment before he finally answered. "It's feasible. And despite the risks, if we go all out then there's a high chance of success. But I'm more worried about the aftermath."

"If we attack Kiri without any prior warning, then not only will we be attacking a major village without any war declarations, which might put a stain on our reputation. We would also be implicitly acknowledging our involvement in the Mizukage's assassination." Hiruzen-san said.

"They already believe that we assassinated their Mizukage." Fugaku pointed out.

"Yes. But there's a big difference between believing something and having solid acknowledgement of it." Shikaku pointed out with a sigh.

"Troublesome."

He thought on this for a long moment as well before he asked his advisors. "Is there any chance that we can delay or stop the upcoming war."

All his advisors shook their heads.

"I know it's a hard reality to deal with Minato." Hiruzen-san "But I think it's past time you accept that this war is inevitable."

"Hiruzen-san is right." Fugaku said with a comforting look. "You must stop thinking of the other villages as potential allies and start seeing them as enemies."

He looked to Shikaku to see if he had anything to say but the lazy bastard simply shrugged, as if indicating that the ultimate decision rested with him.

He closed his eyes and took another deep sigh.

And put himself back into the mindset of wartime leader.

"Fugaku, Shikaku, I need you to go to Kusa and Taki. If a war is indeed about to break out then we need their support as allies, or at the very least, their neutrality."

Both his advisors nodded in acknowledgement and he turned to the 3rd Hokage. "Hiruzen-san. I need you to travel to Suna. Assess the atmosphere in their village, gauge the sentiments of the common shinobi. While it's unlikely they'll fight alongside us, it's imperative they, at the very least, remain neutral."

Konoha could face 3 major shinobi villages on its own. He knew that because that's exactly what Konoha did in the 3rd shinobi war. But having to face all 4 of them together would force him to pull out all the stops. A scenario he genuinely wished to avoid.

Hiruzen-san nodded, and he directed his attention to where his Anbu captain was concealed. "Hawk, assemble your team and notify all clan leaders and council members to gather for a meeting at 5 pm."

With that he got up from his seat and used Hiraishin to return back to his home.

His advisors were wise and knew what they needed to do. And as for himself, he needed to write a speech for the citizens of Konoha. They needed to know about the upcoming war.

"Minato." His wife said once she noticed his presence. "You're home early today. What happened?"

Ignoring her question, he moved forward and pulled her into a hug,

feeling her soft curves in his embrace. They lingered in that moment for a while before parting.

His wife gave him a concerned look and gently held his face. "Minato.

What happened?"

"Kumo and Iwa have started preparing their armies." He said and let out another heavy sigh. "War is inevitable now."

"I see." Kushina said with an understanding nod. "What do you need of me?"

"For now? Nothing. But, it is very likely that both Kumo and Iwa will use their Jinchuriki during the war. I..."

His wife put a finger on his lips, shushing him.

"I understand Minato. I know my duty." Kushina told him, a determined look on her face.

He sighed "Rin Nohara..."

"She's not prepared right now." Kushina said.

"I know. But we do not know how long this war might last. It could end in a year or go on for a decade. I won't send her to the battlefield anytime soon. But it'll be best if she starts preparing as well."

Kushina nodded. "I'll increase her training. Anything else?"

"No. Just... go and spend some time with Naruko. We might not get the chance to do so later." He said.

Kushina nodded and turned to leave before she paused. "Oh, Minato."

"Yes?"

"If I go to the battlefield, then I want Mikoto to be the one to take care of Naruko."

"Okay. I'll go and talk with Fugaku about this."

Kushina nodded and left.

He then went to his room to start writing the speech before he

remembered something. Creating a Shadow Clone to handle the task, he left his residence and appeared in a secluded training area. He then took out a special kunai (not his) and poured his chakra in it before tossing it to the ground.

A moment later, Ren stood on the ground, that kunai in his hand as his eyes darted around for any threat.

"It's just me." He assured the boy who nodded and got up from his crouching position.

"Did you want something Minato-san?" Ren asked.

"Your idea to enhance the power of Uchiha clansmen was a rather creative and daring one." He said. "I plan to reward you with another S-class mission payment for that."

"Just doing my duty." Ren said with a shrug.

"Yes. But your action almost doubled the number of Elite Jounins that Konoha has. It would be remiss of me to not repay you for that."

Ren nodded. "Very well then. But I don't think you'd call me for just this. What do you really want Minato-san?"

He smiled at the boy's perceptiveness. "You're right. I wanted to ask if you have any other ideas to increase Konoha's power?"

If it was any other child, then he wouldn't ask them for advice. But this was Ren Uchiha. A young boy who had already added an S-class Kunoichi and multiple Elite Jounins to Konoha's roster.

And that was just him putting it lightly.

It was highly possible that some of the Elite Jounins who received Ren's Magekyo Sharingan eyes and Hashirama cells have also reached the power of a low S-class shinobi.

It would be foolish of him not to seek the boy's input for similar ideas.

Not when the war was all but inevitable.

Ren wore a pensive expression upon hearing his words, staying silent for a long moment before he lifted his gaze and uttered a straightforward sentence.

"Let me talk to the Tailed Beasts."

AN: Unlike the Daimyos in Naruto anime, the Daimyo in this world are not helpless, only relying on the Hidden Villages' benevolence to keep their seat.

I mean, the entire idea is rather stupid when you think about it. Shinobi are not charitable people. And if Daimyos were really weak then the hidden villages would've already turned them into their puppets.

So, in this fanfic, I'm trying to keep things a little realistic. The Daimyos don't have a force as powerful as a Hidden Village. But they do have decently powerful forces of their own, along with a large amount of wealth and powerful allies to call upon.

So yeah, a Daimyo's and his village's relationship is a little more complicated in this story, rather than the Daimyos being non entities who can be ignored at whim.

Hope you guys enjoyed reading this chapter.

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Chapter 25- Pre-war buildup

Itachi Uchiha POV

Supply run.

A simple C-rank mission to deliver Storage scrolls filled with Food, Chakra pills, medical supplies, and weapons to the border for her clan members.

They were doing good in the frontline, too good. And that's what worried her.

Yes, they were racking up kills by the dozens every day. But their enemies weren't idiots. They'll adapt. And then they'll start targeting the Uchiha. Just like how they'd targeted the Senju clan in the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Shinobi war. And in the time in between.

And look at how that turned out for the Senju clan. The once mighty clan now only had surviving kunoichi to carry on their legacy.

She feared this possibility every day, even as her clansmen cheered upon getting updates from the frontline, unable to see the grim future that might come to pass.

She landed upon another tree and stopped.

Something was wrong. The forest was too quiet.

She crouched down and made a few handsigns to use the summoning technique and summon her crows. However, she abruptly halted in the midst of it and dodged to the side as a flurry of kunai and shrunken assaulted her position.

The barrage of shuriken didn't stop and she jumped from one tree to another in order to dodge all of them.

Her heart beat a mile a mile as she tried to observe where the attacks were coming from. To see how many enemies have ambushed her.

'Calm down. Think rationally. Panicking won't help you.' She reminded herself as she took out her kunai and deflected a few shuriken that she couldn't dodge.

And to think that her first lone mission would end in this situation.

Jiraiya Sensei had to go to the Konoha-Kumo frontline to assume command. Then Rin had to leave a few days ago in order to train directly under Kushina-san. And then Anko was also sent to the Frontline, her

Snake summons being very useful in a war camp.

Only she was left behind.

But she didn't want to be left behind. She wanted to play her part in this war, which led to this situation.

With her surrounded by 5 enemy shinobi.

'Kumo.' her mind whispered as she eyed their forehead protectors. 'How did they know about my location to set up this ambush? Was this simple luck or did someone from Konoha leaked the info? No, I can worry about that later. I need to focus on my survival first.'

'I need to ask Ren for support.' She thought but before she could reach for the special Kunai Ren had given her, the attacks came.

A giant of a man brought his butcher's knife in an overhead swing, making her dodge to the left, only to immediately come under attack by two other shinobi, their kunai aiming for her heart and throat.

Clang! Slick!

She successfully blocked one of the attacks and redirected the other, causing it to strike her shoulder instead of her throat. Pain surged through her world, but then, in an instant, everything transformed.

The world became more vivid, more enchanting. The enemy shinobi appeared to move in slow motion, yet still too fast for her react. She recognised the awakening of her Sharingan, but there was no time to revel in it as the other shinobi continued their assault.

Listening to the various stories from the elders, you might be fooled into thinking that shinobi battles last for minutes if not hours with shinobi using dozens of Jutsus to kill their enemy.

The battles seen in the Chunin exams also fuel that lies. Making you think that real battles can last for a long time.

That's far from the truth.

Real battles are lightning fast. Blink and you'll find your head separated from your shoulders.

Even with her recently awakened Sharingan, she proved no match for the five Kumo shinobi and suffered severe injuries within mere moments.

Her right leg bled profusely from a deep slash, while her right shoulder sustained multiple bone fractures, rendering it unresponsive. Dozens of smaller cuts adorned her body, and her vision dimmed as darkness crept in from the loss of blood.

"Huh. Looks like you Uchiha aren't all that strong after all." the burly man chortled, conveniently overlooking the fact that it was five adult shinobi ganging up on a six-year-old Genin.

However, underestimating her and granting her a fleeting moment by taunting her would prove to be their undoing.

Swiftly, she retrieved a special kunai from her pouch, infused it with chakra, and hurled it towards the burly man. More precisely, it targeted the tree behind him.

The burly man easily sidestepped the kunai and laughed. "Ah... looks like you still have some fight in you. Don't worry. I'll beat that out of you soon enough."

"Are we taking her alive?" One of the other shinobi asked as they started to round up on her.

"I don't see why not. She's a girl. She'll eventually grow up and be capable of bearing children."

Her stomach tightened as she wished that this would work. That he would come.

"Well... knock her out then. And let's leave this place quickly." Another shinobi said. "You never know when one of those White eyed freaks might have their eyes on us. The faster we leave this place, the better."

And that's when it happened.

A tidal wave of Killing Intent engulfed them, and even though it wasn't directly aimed at her, she nearly lost consciousness.

"You won't be leaving this place." A soft, familiar voice came from behind. Her eyes brightened as she lifted her head, glancing at the recognisable figure standing behind her enemies.

Ren, his expression utterly blank, gazed at her, took note of the injuries she had endured, and then shifted his attention to the shinobi responsible.

"Huh. Who are yo-" That's as far as the shinobi went before Ren's form flashed and a blood spurted from the shinobi's neck.

"Fuck! Surround the kid!" The burly man roared and lunged towards Ren. Without even sparing a glance at the imposing figure, Ren swung his hand, enveloping his arm in wind chakra, forming a blade that effortlessly cleaved both the shinobi and his cleaver in half.

The other three shinobi stared at the bisected body of their leader. And then, at once, all of them left the clearing, each springing into a different direction.

Ren created 9 Shadow Clones to chase after them before he flashed to her side.

Her sight grew dimmer by moment and the last thing she saw was him holding her in a princess carry, his face twisted in concern, before everything plunged into darkness.

Minato Namikaze POV

He was listening to the report of one of his Jounin when the door to his room abruptly swung open, and an ANBU operative, clad in a blank mask, hurried inside. "Hokage-sama! There's been an attack."

Promptly rising from his chair, he gestured for his ANBU to stand down.

"Who was targeted?"

"Danzo-sama. We were returning from a mission when five Kumo shinobi ambushed us. I've been sent here to request reinforcements."

He knew that this might be a trap. But despite everything, Danzo was a highly valuable and capable shinobi. Losing Danzo would hurt Konoha and he can't afford that right now.

"Where?" He asked.

"Near the Nikawari village. 5 miles South from here." The Root anbu reported and he gestured for his anbu to follow him before he used Hiraishin and appeared in the village.

Disregarding the villagers, who seemed taken aback by his abrupt arrival, he scanned the surroundings and noticed smoke billowing from the distant forest. Without hesitation, he swiftly made his way towards the source.

Upon reaching the scene, he was greeted by a sight of complete devastation.

Entire trees were cut in half with Wind Release Jutsu. The ground was littered with craters, earth walls and earth spikes. Some trees remained ablaze, contrasting with others drenched in water, causing large puddles to form in the pockmarked ground below.

And amidst all the widespread devastation, lay the corpses of Root shinobi.

He immediately rushed toward the ones whose corpses were intact, still wary of an ambush, and checked for vital signs.

None. All of them were dead.

Eventually, he saw the sight that he'd feared the most.

Danzo, with half his torso missing along with his right arm, lay sprawled

on the forest ground, his expression a rictus of pain as his eyes stared blankly at the blue sky above them.

He let out a sigh and cursed his luck.

He was too late.

Raikage POV.

He stared at the report, an oppressive silence settling over his office as his fury rose with each word he read.

At last, his anger reached its zenith, and he slammed his arm onto the table, shattering it to pieces.

"What is this nonsense?" he demanded of the messenger, distantly aware that the hapless Chunin likely had no answers and certainly did not deserve the brunt of his rage.

"L... lord..." The chunin stammered and then went quiet at a severe look from him.

He stared at the report once again and took a deep breath to calm himself.

An elite team made up of bloodline wielders. A team that he'd assembled with the specific purpose of countering those damn Uchihas.

All of them dead.

'Just what the hell are they feeding those Red eyed freaks!?' He wondered, keenly aware that those blasted Uchiha had been nowhere near as dangerous in the 2nd and 3rd shinobi war.

No. Something has happened. Something large. Something that allowed a mere Uchiha Jounin to fight at the level of an Elite Jounin or a Low S-class shinobi.

This... this was a disaster.

If this continued, then the army he'd prepared to be sent the borders

would only serve as cannon fodder for those Uchiha. And he refused to let his shinobi be slaughtered in such a manner.

He thought on this matter for a while, contemplating his next course of action.

Should he dispatch another team? Should he go himself?

No, sending another team would likely end in their demise too. And going himself would lead to an escalation of the war. One that he didn't want right now.

He sat back on his chair and tapped the armrest, thinking on what to do in this situation.

Finally, he turned to his secretary.

"Bring me Yugito Nii and Bee."

'It was time that those Uchiha faced the real monsters of Kumo.' He thought. Though a part of him that he didn't want to acknowledge feared that this much might not be enough.

Kushina Uzumaki POV

She stood in the distance and watched as Ren perched on Kyuubi's shoulder, whispering in its ears.

She really, really wanted to know that those two were talking about but Ren had asked her for privacy and she'd promised to give it to him.

'No. Not Kyuubi. Kurama.' She reminded herself.

Because of course Kyuubi would have a name. Why the hell had she never even thought of that.

Well, the answer was simple. She had never truly engaged in conversation with it—or rather, with him. She'd sealed the tailed beast inside herself and punished it any time it lashed out.

She thought of Kurama as a monster, not even aware that he might not

be what everyone else had told her. That he might be an innocent victim, not deserving of any of the cruelties she'd imposed upon him throughout her life.

She felt sick to the stomach, knowing that she'd imprisoned and tortured a sentient being for no crime of his own.

Would Kurama even be willing to work with her. After all these years of hatred between the two of them?

'Oh, I didn't know that you weren't the monster I was told you were.

Sorry for the years of imprisonment and torture. Let's forget everything and get along from now on.'

If she was in his place, then would she be willing to work with her captor and torturer?

...most likely not.

And how the heck did Ren even knew all those things about the Tailed Beasts, when she knew nothing about them despite holding Kurama within her for over one and a half decades by now.

Oh, because he can see glimpses of the future.

She wondered what he'd seen in the future that made him so sympathetic toward the Tailed Beasts.

Suddenly, Ren appeared at her side, prompting her to take a deep breath in an attempt to quell the gnawing guilt in her stomach.

"What did he say?" she inquired, a mixture of fear and hope evident in her voice.

"He'll willing to work with you. But only if you apologise to him and free him from the giant rock he'd currently tied to."

She bit her lip. "If I removed him from that rock, then those seals will stop working. What if he took that chance to try and break out of my seal?"

"He won't." Ren told her. "Besides, I'm here, aren't I? Don't worry, nothing will happen to you."

She still felt hesitant about the entire thing. It's not like she wanted to keep Kurama imprisoned after learning about his situation. But what if he lashed out in anger after becoming free and tried to kill her.

"Trust is a street that goes both ways Sensei. To earn his trust, you must show yours. Besides, this is the least that we can do to atone for our mistakes, don't you think so?"

She gave a hesitant nod, all her instincts honed over a lifetime telling her to keep the beast caged inside her rather than letting it go free.

"You can do it Sensei." Ren said with a calm smile. "I believe in you."

She licked her lips and nodded. Then she gathered her resolve and started walking toward Kurama.

AN: Danzo fucked around and found out.

And Kushina takes the first step toward becoming a Perfect Jinchuriki.

It'll still take her a while before she can gain Naruto's Tailed Beast Mode.

But it's a good start.

Rin will eventually go through similar training. Though she should have an easier time of it, considering that Isobu doesn't hate her nearly as much and is a more chill guy when compared to Kurama.

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Chapter 26- An offer to Shisui

Ren Uchiha POV

He washed the blood off his hands and stared at his grim countenance

reflected in the washroom mirror.

This was the second time he'd killed people. However, unlike the first time when he'd done it in self-defence, this time, he purposefully went after his target and slaughtered everyone who stood in his path.

He felt tired. Not physically, no. His high Vit stat made it so that he could fight continuously for an entire week without suffering physical exhaustion. No, this was a mental exhaustion.

He had just ended the lives of people who were nothing but slaves to Danzo. Mere orphans who were raised by that monster to become the perfect killing machine for the village.

They hadn't wronged him in any way, and there was a slim possibility that Danzo and his Root had no connection to Itachi's ambush. But, he was pretty sure that the ambush was Danzo's doing. And he was determined not to allow that guy to jeopardize the safety of anyone close to him, ever again.

A part of him wondered why he was even feeling any guilt in this regard. Danzo posed a threat to the Uchiha clan, to his family. He had to go sooner or later. This was necessary.

'For the greater good of Ren Uchiha.' He thought sarcastically before he wiped his hands and left the bathroom before going to the room where Itachi was admitted.

He cast a genjutsu in the room and then swiftly switched his position with the Shadow Clone he'd used to keep her company while he went out to kill Danzo.

Itachi was currently sitting on a hospital bed, a medical gown covering her modesty while she stared out the window with an upset expression.

He had used his medical expertise to heal all her wounds but she was still suffering from blood loss. And blood transfusion was a bit more tricky in

the shinobi world, since along with the Blood group, you also have to make sure that the chakra type matches as well, otherwise there's a risk of chakra poisoning during the blood transfer.

To counter this problem, Tsunade developed the Blood Regenerating pills during the 3rd Shinobi war. Just another reason why she was seen as the Jesus of the medical world.

But while the Blood Renerating pills were effective, they worked slowly and left the patient lethargic and weak for the next few days until all the lost blood was replenished.

Hence why he'd forced Itachi to stay in the bed despite her eagerness to resume her mission. Stubborn girl that she was.

It wasn't until he'd sent a Shadow Clone in her place to complete that mission in her place that she finally calmed down. But she was still upset due to the whole situation.

It was her first solo C-rank mission after all. And she'd failed miserably at it.

This meant that she wasn't in the mood to talk. And thus, he was receiving the silent treatment, despite being her saviour.

Women... *sip*

At that moment, the door of the hospital room swung open and Mikoto rushed into the room with a worried look on her face.

Her eyes fell upon Itachi and the worry in her eyes diminished a bit as she rushed forward and pulled her daughter in a comforting hug.

After making sure that Itachi was safe and mostly healed, she turned around and pulled him into the hug as well, squishing him with Itachi.

"Thank you. Thank you so much Ren-kun." Mikoto said, her eyes glistening with tears.

He gave an uncomfortable glance to Itachi, who looked rather amused at

his predicament (the bitch) and awkwardly patted Mikoto's back. "Ah... it was nothing."

He thought about making a joke about saving his 'minion' but decided against it due to the current mood.

"Without you, my daughter might be dead. That's not nothing, Ren-kun."

Mikoto said in a chastising voice. "Come to our house this evening. I'll prepare a feast for you."

"Of course." He said and threw a quick glare at Itachi, who still looked amused, before extracting himself from Mikoto's hug. "I'll give you two some space to talk." He told Mikoto before he quickly ran out of the room.

Returning home, he was greeted by the sound of the rhythmic clash of swords. Following the noise to the backyard, where his second personal training ground resided, he discovered Ringo engaged in a spar with Shisui.

A Shisui who he hadn't realised was a girl until their 4th meeting.

Seriously, what was it with Uchiha girls looking it boys. Can't they have longer hair and wear some sort of makeup to make it clear that they were girls.

Then again, Shisui was only 10 years old right now, so it's not like he could really blame her for looking like a boy. She hadn't even reached her puberty yet.

"Yo." He said as soon as their spar ended and Shisui swivelled around, a genuine smile blossoming in her face as she caught sight of him.

"Ren-kun! When did you get back?" She asked as she moved toward him and pulled him into a hug.

"Just now." He said as he discreetly used his medical jutsu to examine her

body. No wounds. Good. "When did you return from your mission?"

"Yesterday evening. But I was too tired then to come and meet you." She said with a sheepish expression before she sniffed him and frowned.

"Where were you, Ren-kun?" She asked, looking more serious this time.

Did she smell the blood he'd just washed off? What the hell was she, a bloodhound?

"Itachi got into some trouble so I went to help her."

Shisui's eyes widened at his words. "Itachi-chan? Is she safe now?"

"Yeah. She is." He said, not explaining anymore but that seemed to be enough for Shisui.

Shinobi have their secrets after all. And she knew better than to push him in such a topic.

"Would you like to come inside, I'll cook for you." He said, glancing at Ringo as well.

His cooking skill was not as high as he'd preferred it to be. Meaning that it was not in the master chef category. But it was getting close. Using his Sharingan eyes to copy the work of other chefs definitely helped accelerate its growth.

"Sure. But I need to teach the girl a few more things before that." Ringo told him.

"Hm... you two can continue training then. I'll cook something in the meanwhile."

"Ohh... this is so good." Shisui moaned as she went through the spread of dishes he'd prepared for her.

"Not bad." Ringo announced her own verdict. She was a Tsundere through and through.

"Thank you." He said before he remembered something that he'd been

thinking about a while now. "Say Shisui-san."

"Yes?" She asked, still too engrossed in her food.

"You live alone, right?" He asked, knowing well enough that she did ever since her parents died near the end of the 3rd shinobi war.

"Yeah..." She said, not even looking at him as she devoured yet another bowl of food.

"Then how about you come and live with us?"

Shisui immediately proceeded to choke on her food and sputtered for a bit as Ringo patted her on the back and he handed her a cup of water.

Shisui finished the glass of water and wiped her mouth before giving him a confused look. "What's with the sudden offer Ren-kun?"

"Well, you spend a lot of your time here, training with Ringo, me, or Itachi. And my house is very big, with a lot of empty rooms. So I thought that I might as well give you this offer." He said.

Shisui gave a contemplative look to his home before she glanced at him.

A teasing smile slowly formed on her face and she fluttered her eyelashes. "Are you proposing to me, Ren-kun?"

"No." He replied immediately. "You're nowhere close to being strong enough for me to propose to you."

Well, not right now anyway. However, he was sure that she would reach Tier 6 in the future. And he would be a fool if he didn't try to rope her in right now.

"Oh, is that so, Ren-chan?" Shisui asked, and his eyes twitched, knowing that she was calling him 'Ren-chan' to annoy him.

"Don't make me spank you." He said, making both her and Ringo burst out into laughter.

Once they'd calmed down a bit, Shisui gave him a somber look and said.

"I appreciate the offer, Ren-kun. I truly do. But... I don't want to impose

on you."

And then Ringo bonked her in the head. "Don't say stupid things girl.

You're not imposing on anyone here." She said.

Well, it appeared Ringo had developed a fondness for Shisui. He couldn't blame her, though. Shisui was a cheerful and optimistic girl, capable of eliciting smiles from anyone she interacted with. It would be hard for someone to not like her.

He thought about how she'd died in canon timeline and took some vindication in knowing that he'd killed Danzo.

"Of course not. But you really feel like you're imposing on me, then you can pay for the rent and food." He told her, knowing well enough that some people didn't like being in other people's debt.

Plus, despite Shisui's young age, she was already an accomplished Chunin of Konoha. So paying a bit of rent wouldn't even put a dent on her budget.

"Hm... this is still too sudden. Do you mind if I think on it for a bit?"

Shisui asked.

"Take your time." He said with a shrug before he thought of something.

"When will you go out on your next mission, Shisui-san?"

"I don't know." Shisui said thoughtfully "But it should be a while before my team gets another C or B-rank mission."

"Hmm... in that case. Here." He said as he handed her one of his special kunai. And by special kunai, he meant that it was just a simple kunai with a Hiraishin seal on it.

"What is this?" Shisui asked, giving a curious glance to the seal on its handle.

"Well... what do you know about our Hokage's favourite jutsu?" He asked.

AN: Sorry for another small chapter. But the next one has 10K words so it should make up for this one. I'll upload it tomorrow.

Hope you guys enjoyed reading this chapter.

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Chapter 27- Attacking Kirigakure

Ren Uchiha POV

His hands glowed green and the wound in the gut was finally sealed, signifying the completion of yet another surgery.

"Give him a blood replenishing pill and have him rest for the next two weeks." Tsunade ordered, sounding about as mentally exhausted as him.

The staff quickly left with the now healed Shinobi and when no one else came after that, he heaved a sigh of relief. "Was he the last one?"

"Yes. Last one for today. Tomorrow, we do this all over again." Tsunade said with a sardonic smile and he felt that familiar pang of guilt inside him once again.

How many Konoha shinobi have died in these skirmishes so far? How many more will die before this is all over?

"Don't look so upset." Tsunade said, giving him a comforting yet sad smile. "And don't burden yourself with unnecessary guilt. None of this is your fault. Do you understand?"

He nodded, and had he not known about the canon timeline, in which Konoha had 12 years of peace before Orochimaru's attack, then he might have believed her. But as it was, he knew that this war is taking place due to his existence. And he'll have to live with that knowledge.

They went outside and paused at the sight of and purple haired woman

crying over the corpse of a man who wore Konoha's Jounin Jacket. Her heartbreaking wails akin to a hammer to his heart.

The man seemed to have been bisected in half. The death must've been instant. Even Tsunade would've struggled to heal a wound like this had she been in the battlefield herself.

He took a closer look and realised that he recognised the crying woman. Yugao Uzuki. A tier 5 waifu who would eventually sign up as an anbu. And the corpse she was crying over seemed familiar as well.

Observe told him that the guy was Hayate Geko. The one who was supposed to die at Baki's hands before Orochimaru's attack. Only now, he'd died many years before that.

Due to him.

A feeling of heaviness settled over him as he Tsunade directed him to a bathroom to wash their hands. But as they were doing so, he heard a loud siren sound from the center of Konoha.

The Siren, if played once, asked for all the Konoha shinobi and civilians to come out of their homes and listen up. If played twice, it meant for the civilians to prepare to go to the shelter while the shinobi became alert.

And if played thrice, it meant that they were under attack.

It only played once, meaning that an announcement was about to be made.

He and Tsunade went outside along with the other shinobi and civilians.

"Do you know what is going on?" He asked Tsunade who had a somber look on her face.

"I do." She said, but didn't elaborate on it.

At that moment, an Anbu shunshined in front of their group and started speaking. "Hokage-sama has an important announcement to make.

Everyone, please go to the main plaza."

He saw the veteran shinobi in the group exchange grim looks and felt a bad premonition in his heart as they started moving toward the main plaza.

Since he and Tsunade were shinobi, and important ones at that, they were allowed to sit on top of the various buildings overlooking the plaza.

And from there, he watched as the plaza and the streets surrounding it slowly filled up with over 150,000 people that called Konoha their home.

Then the Hokage arrived at the top of the Hokage Tower, followed by his three advisors and a group of Anbu, and started speaking using some sort of Fuinjutsu/Genjutsu Technique that allowed his voice to travel to every single person in attendance without being too loud.

"Everyone. Thank you for coming here in such short notice." Minato said.

"But I fear that I bring bad news today. I know that all of you have important tasks to go back to, so I'll keep this short. You all know that Kumo and Iwa have been attacking our borders for the past few months. But today we gained information that both those villages have dispatched an army of 4000 and 3000 shinobi to our borders. Thus, it is with a heavy heart that I announce that, we are now officially at war with Kumogakure and Iwagakure."

The speech lasted for another fifteen minutes for that, and the gist was basically that Konoha will send its own armies to secure its borders.

Minato didn't tell them how many shinobi will go to the front lines, but he later learned from Fugaku- that Hiruzen Sarutobi, the 3rd Hokage, will lead an army of 2000 shinobi to Kusa, which would turn into the Konoha-Iwa battlefield. And Jiraya would also lead an army of 2000 shinobi to the Land of Hotsprings which would become the Konoha-Kumo battlefield.

As Minato had said. They were now at war. The 4th shinobi war.

And knowing that he was the main reason why it started, he couldn't just sit back and do nothing.

He waited patiently for what felt like hours before the door to the Hokage's office opened up and a group of veteran shinobi walked out one by one.

He knew from having used Observe on them before, that all of them were the Elite Jounin of Konoha. Konoha used to have about 25-30 Elite Jounins. But with the help of his Mangekyo Sharingan eyes as well as the Hashirama cells, that number had now doubled.

And with Fugaku having used Hashirama Cells as well, the Uchiha clan finally had a legitimate S-class shinobi (excluding him and Ringo). So it was safe to say that the Uchiha clan was now the undisputed strongest clan in Konoha.

"You can go inside now." The secretary told him once all the Elite Jounin had shuffled out of the room and he nodded before stepping inside.

He found Minato standing by the window, gazing at the Hokage Mountain in contemplative silence.

"You know, when I took the Hokage's hat, I had no idea that we would have to fight another Shinobi war so soon." Minato said, his voice laden with a somber and melancholic tone.

He had no idea what to say to that so he remained silent.

A long moment passed before Minato took a deep breath and turned to face him. "The answer is no."

He frowned. "What do you mean? I didn't even ask you anything."

"But you were. You were going to ask me to send you to the frontline, weren't you?"

"...yeah."

"The answer is no."

"May I know why?"

Minato glanced at him before he walked around his table and sat on the Hokage's chair before gesturing for him to take a seat as well.

Once he did, Minato started speaking. "First of all, know that this war that we're fight is not because of you. No, let me finish. I know you feel guilty about all this. But we're not fighting this war because of you. We're fighting this war in order to uphold the founding principles of Konoha. Konoha was created so that our families and children could live safely. And had it been anyone else aside from you that was being targeted by the enemies, then we would have fought the war regardless."

He looked away at Minato's words, knowing them to be nothing but lies. After all, hadn't children been sent to the front lines during the 3rd shinobi war?

Furthermore, in the canon timeline, when Kumo abducted Hinata, the Hyuuga clan was asked to make a sacrifice to prevent Konoha from plunging into another war.

So yes, while Minato's words sounded sweet, but knew that the only reason why he wasn't being handed over to the enemies in a silver platter was because he was far, far more important to the future of Konoha than an Elite Jounin from the Hyuuga clan.

"You do not believe me." Minato said and when he remained silent, Minato continued. "That is understandable. I do not claim to know how you're feeling right now, Ren. But know that even if we did agree to send you to the battlefield, your participation will only serve to make the war even more intense."

"I can join up as an Anbu." He offered. "I know Tsunade-Sensei's Permanent Transfiguration Jutsu and can take the form of a grown adult.

You do not even have to send me to the battlefield. Just let me use Hiraishin to help. I can go anywhere and use my medical jutsu to heal any wounded person in the camps."

"The presence of another person who can use Hiraishin Jutsu so proficiently would only serve to make the other villages even more wary of Konoha." Minato pointed out. "Plus, you serve as our primary means of capturing spies and traitors. Now that we're at war, your services will be needed more than ever before."

"In that case, I'll just return back to Konoha every few days and search for the spies and traitors before going back to the battlefield."

"No." Minato said, his voice firm. "There is also the matter of your emotional stability. Children who are exposed to too many deaths and tragedies at a young age face psychological issues as they grow older. Considering how powerful you'll grow up to be in the future, I'm not willing to take any risk with your mental health."

He leaned back in his chair and stared at Minato. "You've given this a lot of thought, haven't you?"

Minato gave him a sardonic smile in return. "You're one of our most powerful shinobi. And if you join the war, then Ringo would presumably follow as well. The presence of you two alone will change the course of any battlefield you visit. Of course I've given this a lot of thought."

"What about all the shinobi who would die in this war?" He finally asked.

"Is my psychological health worth more than their lives. Worth more than the countless shattered families they'll leave behind?"

Minato was silent for a long moment before he stared him in the eyes and said one word. "Yes."

"What's got you so down today?" Ringo asked as they sat in the hot spring

pool, relaxing after a long and arduous sparring session.

"The war."

"No," She replied, sliding over to him, her soft breasts pressing against his back as she drew him closer. "Everyone is feeling the tension of the war, but your unease surpasses that of others. What's the reason behind it?"

He stayed silent for a moment and considered whether he should tell her or not. But if they were going to be married in the future, then they needed to trust one another. And trust can only be formed with constant communication and honesty,

"I want to join the war. But the Hokage is against it." He said. "And now I'm considering whether I should defy the Hokage's orders and join the war regardless."

"I'm surprised. If this were Kiri, the Mizukage wouldn't just have sent you to the battlefield; he would have sent you as a vanguard," Ringo remarked, a tone of amusement in her voice. However, the tension in her arms conveyed that her amusement was anything but genuine. "Did he at least explain why he didn't want you participating in this war?"

"He believes that the psychological damage I might suffer in the war is not worth the benefit of me being present in the battlefield."

Ringo hummed at his words. "He's not wrong, you know. I've never met a single shinobi in my life who has experienced war without being negatively affected by it. Well... aside from the crazy ones. But then again, they were crazy to begin with."

He turned to look at her. "So you're saying that I shouldn't join the war either?"

Ringo smirked at his words. "One thing you should know about me, Ren, is that I'm a very selfish person. I would gladly sacrifice this entire village if it meant protecting you."

He stared at her for a moment before he scoffed. "I don't believe you. I know there is good in you, Ringo, even if you do not like to show it."

"Keep telling yourself that." She said with a scoff even though his words warmed her heart. It felt... good to see someone having faith in her.

Resting her chin on his head, she pulled him into a closer embrace just as the door to the Hotspring swung open, revealing one of his Shadow Clones entering with a scroll in hand.

The clone dissipated after delivering the scroll, transferring its memories to him.

"What's in the scroll?" Ringo asked curiously.

"Strength of a Hundred Seal." He said with a smile. "It seems like Tsunade-sensei had already foreseen that I would ask her for this Jutsu and had prepared a scroll for me in advance."

"And what's does this Jutsu do?"

"It's the purple mark that you seen on Tsunade Sensei's forehead." He said as he used the Skill Book ability and absorbed the scroll, gaining all its information. "And it basically allows a person to store nigh infinite chakra within their body."

Ringo's eyebrows went up to her hairline. "That... sounds awfully convenient. What's the catch?"

"You need a decent understanding of Fuinjutsu and nigh perfect Chakra control in order to use this Jutsu."

"Ah..." Ringo nodded in understanding. "That would explain why I haven't seen anyone else with that purple mark. So... why are you learning it?"

"To gain a lot of chakra." He said, giving her a look that said 'this should be obvious'.

"No. What I mean is that, doesn't your Mangekyo ability also give you

near infinite chakra?" She asked.

"It does. But using that ability is taxing on my eye, eventually closing it shut from the strain of repeated usage. And I prefer to keep both eyes open during a battle."

"I see." She said. "It seems like you've decided to defy your Hokage's orders and join the war anyway."

"Yes." He said and felt her arms tighten around him.

"And why would you do such a foolish thing?"

"The Hokage might be willing to sacrifice his shinobi in order to protect my mental health but I'm not. I don't want to live with the knowledge that so many people died in the war because of me. I don't want to live with that kind of burden."

"So you would rather not live at all?" She asked.

He smiled at her barb. "I know my limits, Ringo. And at this point, there is no shinobi in the Elemental Nations, aside from Onoki, who's capable of killing me. And even Onoki has very little chance of doing so now that I can use Hiraishin Jutsu."

"You're being overconfident." She told him and he smiled.

"You don't need to worry about me, Ringo. I'm not going to die anytime soon."

"Yeah." She sighed, nuzzling deeper into him. "But the I boy I knew would."

He sat in a lotus position and used his Meditation skill before he started syphoning the chakra in his body into the seal in his Forehead.

A normal person requires anywhere from 8 to 24 hours to recharge his Chakra Reserves.

Compared to that, his Gamer system allows him to go from 0 to 100% in

83 minutes.

And that process shortens itself to about 27 minutes 20 seconds when using his Meditation skill, which currently stands at Level 37.

But... he was not going to do that either.

Instead, what he was going to use his left Mangekyo Sharingan eye technique: Soratatsu, to recover all his lost chakra in an instant.

So he spent a few minutes storing all his chakra into the seal. And once his total chakra was near zero.

Soratatsu!

Bam! Full Chakra reserves.

Ding!

Your left eye has suffered minor damage!

-1% to all abilities used with your left eye!

...yeah, this was a problem that he had already encountered when learning how to use his Mangekyo Sharingan eyes. Primarily, because his eyes were still at the Mangekyo stage and not yet Eternal Mangekyo.

He was also aware that a 6-hour sleep session would heal any damages incurred from the eyes' overuse.

So, he ignored the slight pain in his left eye and went back to storing chakra in his Strength of Hundred Seal.

Once his chakra neared depletion, he deployed his trump card once more.

Soratatsu!

Suffice it to say, it won't be long before he would have a large reserve of chakra stored in his Seal.

And once this step is complete, he'll go to war.

Or, well, he'll follow Ringo's lead since she has far more experience in war related matters than him.

The next day.

"You need to target their defensive fortifications, supply centres, R&D departments, and economic bases." Ringo told him. "Anyone can kill an enemy shinobi. But if you want to cripple an enemy village, then you need to cripple their ability to fight. And you do that by making this war so costly for them, that continuing it would just not be worth the effort anymore."

"So, what specific targets should we aim for if we plan to attack Kumo?" he inquired, gazing at the map of the Land of Lightning. While not highly detailed, it included most of the major landmarks—main cities, significant mines, outposts, vital trade routes, ports, and more.

"Don't overthink it. Identify one of their critical weaknesses and begin from there. For example, we know that the Land of Lightning is a significant exporter of copper and gold. Start by targeting the mines connected to that, the ports facilitating those resources, the trade routes, or even go for their ships - with Hiraishin, you have the flexibility to strike anywhere, anything, or everything. The choice is yours," Ringo suggested.

"Won't they have shinobi guarding these locations."

"Of course they would have shinobi protecting those places. Frankly, I'd be surprised if you encountered anything less than three teams of shinobi defending each of these sites at all times. And that's not even counting the Samurai or Rogue shinobi forces that the local lords hire to protect their business." Ringo said. "But this is war, you know. You are not going to accomplish anything significant without killing a few shinobi at least."

He hummed in acknowledgment, recognising that he might be in over his head. Nevertheless, this was crucial, and if someone has to do it, then

that someone might as well be him.

After a moment of contemplation, he fixed his gaze on the map and pointed to one of the more crucial targets. "I want to begin here."

Ringo raised her eyebrow in surprise. "That's a ballsy move. Attacking their largest gold mine. I can guarantee you that there would be at least 5 teams of shinobi guarding it at all times. And that's just from Kumo. The local lord would no doubt have a powerful force protecting that area as well. You'll face 2 Elite Jounins at the very least if you attack this place. Probably more."

"They won't be a problem." He told her, not out of overconfidence but because he knew his own abilities.

Unless Killer Bee or the Raikage himself came to fight him, there was no one in Kumo who's capable to stopping him for any significant length of time.

"Hmm... I believe you. But are you sure you want to-" He raised a hand, cutting her off as he sensed something into the distance.

He quickly put the map inside his Inventory and a few moments later, an Anbu appeared outside his window.

"Ren-san. You've being summoned to the Hokage Tower." The anbu told him and he frowned.

Did... did Minato figure out that he planned to go against his orders? No, that couldn't be it. With the thorough protection of Fuinjutsu seals on his house, there's no way anyone could spy on him. Not even the Byakugan or the Hokage's Crystal Ball would work on his residence.

So who...

He side glanced at Ringo, wondering if she had leaked the information to Minato before he shook his head.

No. He was not going to doubt her until he gains a definite proof that she

has betrayed him.

Well, sitting here and pondering wouldn't provide him with any answers, so he might as well go and get them from the Hokage himself.

"Lead the way," he instructed the Anbu, following behind as they made their way to the Hokage tower.

He entered the meeting room and paused upon seeing all the important people standing near the table.

Minato, Kushina, Orochimaru, Tsunade, Fugaku, and now him.

Basically, all the S-rank shinobi present in the village were in this room.

All, aside from Ringo. But Ringo was still not considered an official kunoichi of Konoha so that was understandable.

"Ren. Come, join us." Minato said without even looking up from the large map on the table.

He nodded and went forward, noticing that the map showed the various islands in the Land of Water.

(AN: Sorry but I wasn't able to find a proper map of Land of Water. But it's that cluster of Islands located at far Southern-East side of this map.)

He noticed Tsunade's eyes going wide as she noticed the Purple mark in his forehead but she refrained from commenting on it.

"Sensei," he greeted Kushina and Tsunade before quietly positioning himself beside Fugaku. He nodded respectfully to Fugaku and inquired, "What is going on?"

"We are making a—" Fugaku began, only to be interrupted by another person. "Kukuku. I didn't know our golden boy would join in on this plan as well," Orochimaru remarked, giving him an amused look.

But unlike the last time they'd met, this time, he wasn't afraid of Orochimaru and met his gaze confidently.

"He won't. He's just a boy. And my student. I won't let him," Tsunade asserted firmly, and he could sense that this argument had been ongoing for a while.

"Umm... What is going on, Sensei?" he asked Tsunade, who simply pursed her lips and remained silent.

His eyes twitched in annoyance, and he searched for an answer from the others, but no one else spoke until Minato shifted his gaze from the map and looked at him.

"Before we start, do you mind explaining why you learned the Strength of a Hundred Seal, Ren-kun?" Minato asked.

"Why not? It's a useful Jutsu." He replied but he had a feeling that Minato won't buy such an excuse.

Minato gazed at him for a moment, then chuckled and shook his head. "I would believe you, Ren-kun, if you hadn't gone to Tsunade-san for this Jutsu right after I told you that you won't participate in the war."

Minato's demeanour turned serious, and he gave him the 'Hokage look.'

"Do not lie to me, Ren. Why did you learn that jutsu?"

"That..." He hesitated, wondering if he was going to be caught before he even committed the crime.

"Did you plan on going against my orders and join the war on your own?"

Minato asked.

He lowered his gaze to his feet, unwilling to respond to the question.

However, his silence appeared to be an answer in itself.

"Oh Ren, you stupid boy." Tsunade said, looking defeated. Fugaku put a hand on his shoulder for support. Kushina facepalmed. Orochimaru chuckled in amusement. And Minato let out a heavy sigh.

"This is what I meant." Minato said, looking at Tsunade who in turned looked at him with eyes that promised punishment as soon as she got her

hands on him.

"You've made your point," Tsunade conceded with a heavy sigh. She retreated from the table and settled into a chair near the window, gazing out at the village, ignoring everything else.

"Okay. What is going on here?" He asked, even more confused now.

"Minato believed that you would do something reckless and join the war on your own," Fugaku conveyed, his grip on the shoulder tightening a bit.

"Lady Tsunade, Kushina-san, and I disagreed. Clearly, we were wrong."

"Oh..." He said, feeling even more guilty now. He would have to do something to make it up to Tsunade-Sensei after this.

"Yes. Oh." Fugaku said with a sardonic smile. "So, Minato. You were right about Ren. What next?"

"Well, considering that Ren-kun intended to defy my explicit orders, he'll receive a punishment and incur a heavy fine. Fortunately, we intercepted him before he actually committed the transgression, so the penalty will be lenient," Minato said.

He wanted to argue that he hadn't gone against the orders, yet, so he should technically not be punished. But after looking at Tsunade's already upset expression, he decided not to go against his punishment.

"Okay, then. What'll be my punishment?" He asked.

"That will be decided after we return from our next mission." Minato said.

"Our Next mission?" He asked, putting heavy emphasis on the 'our'.

"Yes. Since you're not going to heed my orders and remain in Konoha, I've decided to have you join our next mission."

He shifted his gaze down to the map and then back up at Minato. "Does this mission have anything to do with Kiri?"

Minato offered him a grim smile. "Yes. Our next mission is intended to ensure that Kiri doesn't participate in this war."

"You're late." Ringo said as he finally returned back home.

It was indeed late. The meeting stretched for over 8 hours, with Shikaku and other Elite Jounins eventually joining them as they fleshed out the next mission and all their individual roles in it.

It was his first time watching veteran shinobi work together on planning a mission. Even more so since this would be the most important mission many of them would ever take part in.

Whether this mission succeeds or fails, it would be classified as an SS-class mission. Success means one less shinobi village to fight. Failure meant making eternal enemy of Kiri.

"Sorry." He said, feeling mentally exhausted and nervousness for the next mission.

"What took you so long?" she inquired as she ushered him inside the house, seating him on a sofa beside her.

"We were planning for a major SS-class mission," he responded, contemplating whether to share the details with Ringo. Especially as he had asked for her to added to this mission as well. "One that I'll be a part of."

"Did the Hokage change his mind in letting you take part in the war?"

"No. But he surmised that I would join the war regardless. And he decided that if I was going to do it anyway, I might as well join him on this mission."

"Are you allowed to tell me what that mission is?"

"...no. But I would still tell you about this."

"Why?"

"Because not doing so feels like I'm betraying you." He said. Plus, he can't very well ask her to join this mission without telling her about what

exactly it entailed. "Ringo. We're going to attack Kiri in our next mission."

Ringo froze at his words for a moment before she sighed. "I see. And you're worried about how I would feel once I learn of this mission?"

"Yeah. You might have been a missing-nin for over a decade by this point. But Kiri was still your home. I want to know how you would feel if we attacked your home."

"Former home." Ringo correction, "My home is with you now. But with that said, why is Konoha attacking Kiri, and not Kumo or Iwa?"

"Kiri is currently in turmoil after the Mizukage's death. All the candidates for the seat of the 4th Mizukage are in conflict with each other. However, we know that once the next Mizukage has been selected, they'll align with Kumo and Iwa and go to war with us."

"Like they did in the 3rd shinobi war?"

"Yeah. We want to take this opportunity to launch a preemptive attack on Kiri. Our main plan is to assassinate the leaders of the various factions so that they won't have any viable candidates left for the Mizukage's position." He said. "Aside from that, we're also going to attack the major clans of Kiri in a bid to weaken Kiri."

Frankly, he was surprised by the sheer balls it took to come up with a plan like this. And the fact that Minato not only approved it but would also lead the mission spoke volumes about him. He was quite certain that Hiruzen Sarutobi would never have endorsed such a mission, and even if he did, he probably wouldn't participate in it himself.

"And you thought that I would be against this plan?" She asked.

He nodded, and she chuckled in amusement. Eventually, her laughter subsided, and they settled into a comfortable silence. He patiently awaited her words, and after a prolonged moment, she finally spoke.

"I hate Kiri." Ringo said, nuzzling her face against his own. "It was once

my home. And I loved it. But I also hated it. I hated the poverty, and the excessive the violence. I hated the fact that a more powerful shinobi could kill me, and no one would do anything about that. I hated the Graduation exam, in which I was forced to kill my classmates. I hated all the dangerous missions I was sent to. And I hated many other things. Yes, Kiri was my home. And I loved it, once. But eventually, that loved turned into dislike, and then into outright hatred. That's why, when I recovered from my disease, instead of going back to serve my village, I packed my shit and left."

"So..."

"No. I'm going to hate you for attacking Kiri, or anything like that. So you can relax." Ringo said, planting a soft kiss on his cheeks. "In fact, I'm going to join you in this mission."

"Huh?" "Was this really happening?"

"You heard that right. You plan on attacking the various important clans of Kiri, right? It just so happens that I have a bone to pick with one of them."

He glanced at her, realising that she was serious and that he might not even have to ask her to join the mission himself. "Are you for real?"

"Yup." She said cheerfully. "One thing that you do not know about Kiri, is that there is a caste system in place. It's a sort of unwritten rule. But the clans essentially form the upper caste, while the civilian shinobi make up the lower caste."

"Really?" He asked, this being the first time he'd heard something like this.

"Yeah. The lower caste shinobi are assigned riskier missions, not paid well enough, live in worse condition, endure disrespect from clan shinobi, and lead an all-around miserable life,." Ringo explained. "That

would've been my fate as well, had I not been chosen as the apprentice of one of the Seven Swordsmen."

"I see," he remarked, and he could certainly understand it. This would indeed clarify why Yagura's plan to instigate a bloody war against the bloodline-wielding clans in Kiri was so successful.

If someone attempted the same in Konoha, they would likely fail.

However, with existing animosity between the common shinobi and the clans, sparking a war between these two factions would be comparatively easy.

"Are you sure about this though?" He asked Ringo. "If you're doing this just to prove your loyalty to me, then you don't need to do this."

"Oh my Ren-kun. Don't be so naive. Just because I don't need to prove myself to you doesn't mean that I don't have to prove myself to the rest of your village. Or else I'll always remain an outsider in their eyes. Someone not to be trusted. Plus, I'm doing this to get closure. So don't worry about me."

"Hmm... In that case." He got up from the sofa and pulled her up with him. "Come, let's go and talk with the Hokage."

"Right now?" She asked, looking surprised.

"Yes. You've lived in Kiri, so you undoubtedly know a lot more about it than us. Any information you provide will be a substantial contribution. Plus, as you said, it will help demonstrate your loyalty to me and this village."

"Very well then. Lead the way."

Two weeks later.

He was currently using Tsunade's permanent Transformation Jutsu to look like a young teenager. On top of that, he wore an Anbu attire to

conceal his identity.

Around him stood 30 of some of the most powerful shinobi in Konoha village. Minato, Orochimaru, Kushina, Fugaku, Ringo, and him. Plus 24 Elite Jounin.

8 of those Elite Jounin had his Mangekyo Sharingan eyes, with the faint tinge of Hashirama cells in their Chakra. 6 were Anbu, and the rest were from various clans.

Hell, he could even see Tsume Inuzuka, Hyuuga Hiashi, Shibi Aburame, and a few other minor clan leaders in the team.

Yeah, Konoha was definitely going all out on this mission.

Well, except for Tsunade who'll remain behind to hold the Hokage's office in Minato's absence.

'There must always be a powerful shinobi in the Hokage's seat in the Hokage's absence.' Minato had explained when he inquired why Tsunade wasn't joining them on the mission. And he could certainly see the wisdom in that.

The Hokage could die in the mission, or face prolonged delays due to unforeseen circumstances. Or the village could get attacked while they're away from it.

"Is everyone ready?" Minato inquired, receiving confirmation from all present. Minato then turned to him and nodded. "Do it, Crow."

Crow was the code name he'd been given when wearing his anbu attire.

He nodded and created multiple shadow clones. "Please, everyone. Stand together."

Those who didn't know of his true identity were hesitant to follow his orders but a nod from Minato had them doing just that.

"Hiraishin: Second form. Mass Transfer," he declared, collaborating with his Shadow Clones to teleport everyone within the circle to the

designated location.

In an instant, they found themselves within a recently unearthed cave on a deserted island a few miles from Kiri. The cave had been sealed with Fuinjutsu in advance by his clones to ensure none of the Kiri sensors would detect their arrival.

Their earlier plan was to land in an island about 50 miles away from Kiri. But Ringo had told them about this small island which allowed them to come so close to Kiri without being detected.

He dispersed the Shadow Clones and ignored the Notification which informed him that his Hiraishin Skill has risen by one level.

Now that they were here, it was time for step two of the plan.

To infiltrate Kiri.

When they called Kiri 'Village Hidden in the Mist', they weren't joking around, unlike when they called Konoha a 'Village Hidden in the Leaves'. No, Konoha is simply surrounded by a vast forest. And what forest did provide them with a great measure of protection, it didn't 'hide' them from anyone. Difficult to hide a village when you have a dozen roads leading toward it from all directions.

But Kiri, it is subsumed by such a heavy fog that even seeing past 20 feet in front of himself was difficult.

If not for his Level 93 Chakra Sense and Level 14 Echolocation skill (one he'd learned in case he would have to fight blind), he would be completely disoriented and unaware of his surroundings.

As it was though, he was able to navigate the mist filled village with relative ease. And with his chakra tightly coiled with his own body thanks to his near perfect Chakra Control, he was all but invisible to the Kiri's sensors.

Maybe if Kiri had an emotion sensor like Uzumaki, they might have sensed him. But as things stood, he was able to move through their village with impunity.

His silent steps brought him behind a guard who remained clueless to his presence until the very end when a Kunai was lodged deep into his brain. He stowed the body and the bloodied kunai within his Inventory, ensuring that the scent of blood didn't linger. Following this, he created a Shadow Clone to take the position of the guard.

Then he moved on, hunting for the other guards. And he was aware that all around Kiri, several more Konoha teams were navigating through the dense mist just like him, assassinating the guards and infiltrating deeper into the village.

Though they didn't really have to go that deep, considering that Kiri was barely a fraction the size of Konoha.

Unlike Konoha, where the civilian population outnumbered the Shinobi by 4:1. In Kiri, you'll be hard pressed to find any civilians. And considering that Kiri's shinobi population itself always hovered around 10,000 and 15,000. To say that Kiri was small would be an understatement.

The main reason why Kiri was so dangerous was not because of its shinobi but because of its geography and their homefield advantage. As things stood, in order to attack Kiri, you'll have to cross hundreds of miles of sea and land on one of their islands, which are surrounded by water.

Not wanting to take such a suicidal risk with their armies, most other villages mainly focus on defending against Kiri instead of launching an attack. Meaning that Kiri could attack other villages with impunity without any fear of retaliation.

This was also the main reason why Kiri would've attacked Konoha once again despite knowing just how powerful Konoha had become. Because they didn't expect Konoha to attack them in return. Unfortunately for them, Hiraishin Jutsu rendered factors like distance and geography irrelevant.

If Kiri had a wise leader and its shinobi weren't bloodthirsty idiots, then it could've ruled the entire Sea area around the Elemental Nation. And they would've grown immensely rich from all the sea trade.

Alas, it was not to be. And by the time they are done with this village, it would be so weak that they would never even consider attacking Konoha.

After killing two more guards, he finally arrived at his destination.

Unlike other shinobi who had mainly been tasked with killing people, his task was a little different.

Instead of assassination, he was given the task of demolition.

And his first target in the list was the Port and all the ships docked in that port.

Sure, Shinobi can run on water. But doing so in the sea where the weather can change at a moment's notice is dangerous. Not to mention that only Jounin and above have the stamina to run all the way from Kiri to the main continent. Or even to some of the distant islands in this archipelago.

Suffice it to say, if Kiri wants to mobilise their shinobi army with any success, then they need ships.

Only, they'll not have any of those ships (or their port for that matter) by the time he's done with them.

Performing a series of hand seals, Chakra-based Fuinjutsu seals emerged beneath his feet, swiftly enveloping him in a barrier to conceal his Chakra usage. Completing this, he executed another set of hand signs,

generating a Shadow Clone infused with approximately 90% of his Chakra.

The seal on his forehead unfurled and the titanic amount of chakra he'd stored within it surged inside his Charka Pathways, filling up his depleted chakra reserves in no time.

Once that was done, he created yet another Shadow Clone with 90% of his Chakra.

He turned his attention to his two Shadow Clones and issued clear instructions. "Both of you are familiar with the plan. Utilize Swamp Jutsu to submerge the entire Port area underwater. Employ Fire Jutsu to incinerate all the ships, followed by Flooding Jutsu to drown any remnants. After that, if you still have any chakra left then slaughter any Kiri shinobi that comes near you. Is that clear?"

""Understood.""

"Very well. Stay here and wait for the signal. Or wait till the fight begins." He told his Shadow Clones before he dropped the Fuinjutsu Barrier and left. Quickly moving to his next destination.

The Shinobi Academy of Kiri.

The Academy was currently empty except for a few civilians working to clean it through the night.

Using Observe told him that the civilians were slaves that Kiri used for menial chores. Fucking Kiri.

He knocked them out and left them in a dumpster outside before creating a Shadow Clone to demolish the building once the battle begins.

Then he moved on to the next target.

The Mizukage's Building.

However, halfway to his destination, he detected a significant surge in chakra emanating from the other side of the village, accompanied by the

thunderous noise of a powerful Water Jutsu crashing through multiple buildings.

The sound was then quickly followed by a few kunai strikes before going silent. The alerted sentry was killed. But it was too late.

This was not a game where the other sentries will look for their missing comrade for a few seconds before declaring 'it must've been the wind'.

No, within seconds, the entire Kiri became abuzz with activity. He cursed his luck and abandoned all stealth, sprinting toward the Mizukage Tower at full speed.

Two of the shinobi guarding the tower noticed him and rushed forward to meet his charge. But he easily batted them aside before he reached the base of the Tower.

If he had more time at hand then he would've loved to infiltrate the tower and get all the useful stuff inside. But as it was, he could already sense a dozen shinobi rushing towards him from every direction. So he went forward with his mission to destroy the tower.

"Fire Release: Fire Annihilation Jutsu," he intoned, and a massive sea of flames erupted from his mouth, engulfing the tower and reducing it to ashes.

...or that's what would've happened at least, if not for the barrier that suddenly sprung up out of nowhere and held back his fire from consuming the tower.

His eyes narrowed as he recognised the telltale signs of an Uzumaki barrier, realising that Kiri must've acquired it when they slaughtered the Uzumaki clan.

But either the barrier was constructed by a novice, or the person controlling it had no idea what the heck he was doing, because the very next instant, the barrier fizzled out, and the dwindling fire engulfed the

tower.

He swiftly created a dozen Shadow clones to deal with the shinobi approaching him before making another hand sign and slamming his palm to the ground.

"Earth Style: Gaping Maw!"

A massive stone maw emerged from beneath the Tower, closing its jaws around the structure before pulling it beneath the ground.

"Earth Style: Maw Burial." He declared, and the stone maw intensified the pressure around the remnants of the Mizukage's tower, crushing everything within to dust.

Now absolutely sure that the shinobi here won't be able to recover the Tower, or anything inside it, he created even more Shadow Clones to deal with the multiple teams of shinobi converging in this direction before he rushed toward his next and final goal.

The R&D Department of Kiri.

Only, when he arrived at the location, he found its gates barred shut and its walls surrounded by a large Fuinjutsu barrier, stopping his advance.

'Of course the shinobi here would also have access to the Fuinjutsu barrier.' He thought but then paused as he took in the smell of blood coming out from within the barrier.

Fresh blood. And a lot of it as well.

Not just that, now that he had gotten a better look at the barrier, it was of a far higher quality than the one that protected the Mizukage Tower.

Also, instead of keeping out the intruders, it was created with the express purpose of keep the people inside it from leaving.

'Did these people have no idea how to use a barrier properly?' He wondered before he quickly used his own Fuinjutsu expertise to create a hole in the barrier.

The barrier was such superior quality that it was only because it wasn't designed to withstand external attacks that he managed to breach it.

Nevertheless, he swiftly infiltrated the enclosed area.

And quickly realised why the scent of the fresh blood was so strong as he saw the piles of corpses scattered around the R&D building.

'-the hell happened here?' He thought to himself before he shook his head and started making hand signs to use a powerful Ninjutsu and destroy the entire building.

But before he could finish, his Danger Sense flared and he jumped to the side as a golden chain emerged from within the building and flashed past him at blinding speed.

"Kushina-Sensei! What the hell!" He cursed as he saw the golden chain pierce the barrier like it was not even there and then go through two more buildings before it came to a stop and was retracted back into the building.

'Wait. Wasn't Kushina supposed to go to the Hozuki clan compound?' He thought to himself and wondered if the plan had been changed without his knowledge.

But then his attacker emerged from within the building, and despite the Henya mask she was wearing, he instantly realised that this person was now Kushina.

The size of her breasts and the size of her ass was slightly different. As was the shade of red hair trailing down her back. But most importantly. His Observe skill told him that this person was Mito Uzumaki, the widow of the First Hokage. A woman who should've died when she transferred the 9 tails to Kushina-Sensei.

'How's she alive? And what the hell is she doing here?' He wondered but didn't have the time to think anything else as a dozen chains emerged

from within her back and flashed toward him.

His danger sense, Mangekyo Sharingan, high-level agility, and near-perfect physical defense were the only factors that enabled him to survive the onslaught of her attack with only a few cuts and bruises.

-4 HP!

-2 HP!

-6 HP!

-3 HP!

-1 HP!

He stared at the string of notifications. While the damage wasn't even a small fraction of his total HP, and the minor cuts and bruises healed in the next second, the fact that he suffered any damage at all, despite his extremely high Physical Resistance, was impressive.

This meant that if it was anyone else, then those chains would've skewered them and turned them into Swiss cheese.

"Wait! We're on the same team!" He called out, noticing Mito preparing for another attack after realising he was still alive.

"Don't attack me. I'm from Konoha." He called out when he saw that his talk-no-jutsu was indeed working.

Mito was silent for moment before she whispered. "Those eyes..."

Then a deafening explosion shook the entire island, dispersing the Mist that veiled its surroundings. A shockwave of air slapped him in the face, and he looked in that direction to see colossal plume of fire ascending into the sky.

'It seems like Kushina-Sensei has joined the battle.' He thought as he sensed the corrosive chakra of Kurama envelop his senses.

"Kyubi's chakra... What is Konoha doing here?" Mito mumbled to herself, but his sensitive hearing picked up her words regardless.

"What are you doing here?" He asked here instead. "Aren't you supposed to be dead?"

Her gaze sharply turned in his direction, and he sensed the weight of her chakra intensifying. "What are you talking about, child?"

"You're Mito Uzumaki, the wife of the 1st Hokage. What are you doing here?" he inquired, before hesitating briefly. "Did someone use Edo Tensei to revive you?"

But even as he asked that question, he doubted its validity. Because her Observe description gave no such hint. And he could see her arms and they had cracks in them.

Moreover, the only individual known to possess the Rinnegan in this world was Madara Uchiha. He doubted that Madara would go to the trouble of resurrecting Mito, especially considering that Madara himself must be near death at this point, if not already deceased.

Wait. Was she alive due to the Universal Calibration? He had no idea how that would even work but it seemed to be the only thing that makes sense.

"...you're mistaking me for someone else." She replied and he had to stop himself from scoffing at her words.

"No. I'm sure I've got the right person." He said before he paused and took note of the building she'd attacked. The R&D building. Where all the secret research of Kiri was being kept.

Secret research... along with the Fuinjutsu knowledge they stole from the Uzumaki clan when they massacred its people.

Yeah, things were making more sense now. Though the timing was still a suspect. Was this mere coincidence, some sort of play from Mito Uzumaki to gain Konoha's attention. Or simply Universal Calibration at work once again.

"Are you here to take back your Fuinjutsu scrolls and get revenge for your clan?" He asked. It was possible that he might have been wrong but he frankly doubted it.

Mito's silence at his question was all the answer he needed.

"Konoha is attacking Kiri right now. Why not join us?" He asked.

Mito remained silent for a prolonged moment, deep in thought, before she shook her head. "That will not be necessary. I am not a part of Konoha. Not anymore." she declared. "Besides, why is Konoha attacking Kiri? Shouldn't you be busy warring with Kumo and Iwa?"

"We got intel that Kiri would go to war with us as soon as the next Mizukage was selected and decided to launch a pre-emptive attack." He said. "But what do you mean by 'I'm not part of Konoha anymore'?"

"That's none of your business, child." Mito said. "Though, I must ask, how did you recognise me?"

"My eyes allow me to see things that other people can't." He said, pointing at his Mangekyo Sharingan eyes. And while a misdirection, it wasn't a lie either.

"...I see." Mito said, as if understanding everything. "If that is all, then I'll take my leave. Though, before going, I want you to promise that you'll not reveal my existence to anyone else. I do not want to have to do anything with Konoha anymore."

"You want me to lie to the Hokage?"

"Not lie. Just... do not bring up our fight. That is all I ask of you."

"And why would I do that? In fact, what do you mean that you don't want to do anything with Konoha. You are the widow of the 1st Hokage, whether you like it or not. And your granddaughter is currently ruling Konoha in the Hokage's absence."

"Tsunade..." Mito mumbled to herself before she shook her head. "I do

not have the time or inclination to answer your questions. So how about we make a deal?"

"What kind of deal?" He asked.

"You keep my existence a secret. And in return, I'll give you the location of the 6 tails Jinchuriki."

"He's not in Kiri right now?"

"No. The 6 tails Jinchuriki left Kiri a few years ago and has not returned since. Konoha has already taken the 3 tails from Kiri, so I guessed that you might be interested in the 6 tails as well."

"Konoha didn't take the 3 tails from Kiri. That was a different circumstance." He told her. "But... I accept your deal. Give me the location of the 6 tails Jinchuriki and I'll not reveal your existence to anyone."

"I do not have his location right now." Mito said with a shake of her head and he frowned.

"You just said that you'll give me his location."

"I did. And I did know where he was a while ago. It will take me some time but I'm confident that I'll be able to find him once again."

"And why should I trust your words?"

"I give you my word as Mito Uzumaki that I will find the 6 Tails Jinchuriki and give you his location within a month." She said.

"Your word... very well, I accept it. But break your end of the deal, and I'll tell everyone in Konoha about your survival."

"Very well." Mito said before she threw a kunai at him that he caught with a Chakra Thread, wary of any traps from her.

But while the Kunai was indeed covered in Fuinjutsu seals, it didn't do anything to him. And a simple use of Observe had him raising his eyebrows in surprise.

"How do you know Hiraishin Jutsu?" He asked.

"Fufufu. I was the one who helped Tobirama create that Jutsu. Are you really surprised that I know this Jutsu?" She asked in a mirthful voice.

"I'll come and give you that information in a month. And I hope that you'll keep your end of the deal. For now, farewell child."

And with that, she vanished.

Using Hiraishin.

What the fuck.

He stared at the kunai with the Hiraishin seal on it for a long moment before it pocketed it.

He'll think on this later. For now, he had a job to finish.

A single hand sign and the entire Research and Development building was burned to cinders.

With his mission complete, he immediately went back to the centre of the Kiri village and saw the vast devastation caused by the Konoha shinobi.

To say that Kiri had turned into a hellhole by this point would be an understatement.

Almost all the buildings in the village were on fire. The streets were flooded with sea water due to the excessive use of Water Release Jutsu.

Kushina's use of Tailed Beast bomb had left a giant crater in the middle of the village. And a great part of the North-Eastern area had been turned into a swamp, courtesy of the Shadow Clones he'd tasked with destroying the Ships and the Port.

Good job Shadow Clones.

Despite the devastation though, the Kiri shinobi were still fighting, and now that the element of surprise had worn off, their sheer numbers were starting to overwhelm Konoha's shinobi.

All the shinobi and kunoichi who took part in this mission were either S-class or Elite Jounin. However, even their formidable skills could be overpowered by sheer numerical superiority, as evidenced by the demise of the 3rd Raikage against those 10,000 shinobi.

Well... time to change the dynamics a bit.

His Strength of Hundred Seal started working overtime and sent more and more chakra into his system, overloading his chakra system before he used his next Jutsu.

"Multiple Shadow Clone Jutsu!"

In an instant, his surroundings were filled with over a thousand Shadow Clones. And each one immediately leaped into the fray, assisting, rescuing, or healing the Konoha shinobi who were struggling in their battles.

If those Shadow Clones were made by Naruto, then they would've instantly jumped into the melee and died like the mooks they were. But his clones were smarter and mostly used Genjutsu and Ninjutsu in the battle.

And with how high his Genjutsu skill was, aided by the Mangekyo Sharingan, few shinobi ever escaped from his Genjutsu.

With that done, he glanced at the areas where the battle was most intense. Meaning the places where the S-rank shinobi were fighting against the clans.

He observed the chaotic battlefield, witnessing Manda, the giant snake, being besieged by Yuki clan shinobi. Minato swiftly maneuvered through Terumi clan members, while Kushina, in her five-tailed form, wreaked havoc among the Hoshigaki clan. Ringo clashed with Fuguki, the current wielder of Samehada. Fugaku's colossal 5-meter-tall Susanoo engaged in combat alongside Kaguya clan members, who were ruthlessly dispatching

Kiri shinobi.

Wait what!?

He focused on the last part once again and found that Fugaku and a few other Uchiha clan members had put the leaders of Kaguya clan into Genjutsu and were now using them to fight against other Kiri shinobi.

'...huh. That's a genius idea.' He thought as he negligently dodged the few shinobi trying to attack him and focused back into the battlefield. 'Still, we should've retreated by now. What the hell is taking them so long?' Well... that wasn't really a question as he could see why Konoha's forces haven't retreated.

Despite the extensive destruction they had unleashed, they had yet to eliminate the S-class shinobi vying for the role of the next Mizukage.

'Well, nothing to it.' He thought before he quickly rushed toward the battlefield where Ringo and two more Elite Jounin were fighting against Fuguki Suikazan and his team of anbu.

Fuguki immediately noticed his presence and swiftly disengaged from his battle with Ringo in order to block his attack.

However, he had enhanced his Chakra Sword to possess the weight of a mountain. When their blades clashed, Samehada emitted a sharp cry of agony as his sword effortlessly sliced through a few of its scales. This act demolished Fuguki's defence, propelling him into the ground with enough force to turn it into a crater.

A pulse of chakra sent through his feet immediately resulted in a spike rising up from underneath Fuguki's bulky form, but the guy must have had great survival instinct because even in his disoriented state, he managed to move to the side. Losing only a chunk of his flesh instead of getting a hole in his torso.

Witnessing this, Ringo swiftly charged ahead, unleashing a lethal

lightning attack at Fuguki. However, he quickly raised Samehada to take the brunt of the attack. Samehada howled in pain once more from the potent lightning strike and he used this chance to throw a Kunai at Fuguki's face.

The giant of a man moved to the side, dodging his kunai, only for Hiraishin to his back and shove a Chidori right through his shoulder, Fuguki turned back with alarm, surprised by the sudden appearance of another S-rank teleporter on the battlefield. However, before he could react further, Ringo arrived in front of him the next moment, swiftly slashing open his throat with her Kiba swords.

A great deluge of blood gushed out of Fuguki's neck and the guy put a hand on his throat, trying to stop his lifeblood from leaking out of his body.

But it was futile in the end as Fuguki seemed to have no experience in medical Jutsu.

Fuguki brought out his hand in front of his face, staring at his blood in shock, as if he couldn't come to terms with the fact that he was dying.

And then he swung his wind coated blade through Fuguki's neck, ending his life.

He inventoried Fuguki's head and corpse before he picked up Samehada, only for the sword to instantly grow spikes around its handle that tried to poke into his skin.

Unfortunately for the sword, his Resistance to Physical attacks made the spikes useless. Noticing this, Samehada immediately changed its method of attack and started syphoning chakra from his body.

Ding!

Gamer Body stopped chakra extraction from user's body!

Huh... he hadn't known that Gamer Body could do this. But nice!

He tried to put Samehada inside his Inventory but failed to do so since Samehada had enough sentience that it counted as a living being rather than an inanimate object.

Well... he'll just carry it around then. It'll destroy Kiri shinobi's morale if nothing else.

"Where to next?" Ringo asked and he noticed that she looked a little tired and injured from her battle with Fuguki.

Understandable, as the wielder of Samehada is usually the strongest of all the Seven Swordsmen. The fact that Ringo fought him for so long without losing any ground is impressive in and of itself.

"Go to Orochimaru and aid him in his battle." He told her as he quickly used Medical Jutsu to heal her minor wounds. "I'll go and help Minato."

She nodded and swiftly left this place, the two Elite Jounin followed behind her as well while he rushed toward his next battlefield.

Arriving at the Terumi clan compound, which had been utterly destroyed by this point, he quickly understood why Minato had failed to wrap up this battlefield by this point.

There were four main reasons for it.

First being the clan leader, who had the Boil Release bloodline and was a low S-class shinobi.

Second was Mei Terumi. Who had both Boil and Lava Release bloodlines and was also a low S-class shinobi.

Third being the numerous Jounin and the few Elite Jounin of Terumi clan who were putting up a great fight against the Anbu team that Minato had brought with him.

But fourth and main reason why Minato was still having difficulty in this fight was because Terumi clan had understood the one weakness of

Hiraishin and were doing their best to snatch up and destroy any

Hiraishin kunai that Minato threw around in the battlefield.

Even that had only slowed Minato in his slaughter and he could see that over half of the Terumi clansmen that already been Rasenganed to the afterlife.

But without those Kunai, Minato lost a great part of his mobility and was being held back by the two S-class enemies.

Not anymore.

He took out the Kunai Minato had given him earlier and sent his chakra coursing through it before he created one Shadow Clone who started making hand signs alongside him.

Minato sensed the emergency call from his Hiraishin kunai and immediately teleported to his side, extracting himself from the main battlefield.

And just as Minato did that.

"Fire Release: Great Fire Annihilation!"

"Wind Release: Great Breakthrough!"

A sea of flames poured of his mouth and was the further aided by the Wind Release Technique, turning into a grand inferno that burned everything in front of itself. By the time the fire died down, nothing remained of the Terumi clan compound but a charred land.

Well, nothing but the two pockets where Mei Terumi and the clan leader managed to use defensive Jutsu to survive the attack along with a few other clan members. The other clan shinobi were either dead or had run for their lives.

Minato's anbu flash behind him and he immediately noticed that almost all of them were injured in some form or manner.

It seems like the Terumi clan was more powerful than they had expected.

Almost as powerful as the Uchiha clan before he'd empowered them with his eyes.

"I'll take the girl. You take the old man." He told Minato as he created a dozen Shadow Clones to heal the anbu before rushing forward.

He threw a kunai at Mei but it seemed like she was already wary of Hiraishin attacks and dodged the kunai by such a large margin that teleporting to it was pointless.

So he continued running toward Mei who quickly made hand signs and sent a hot stream of water at him.

Only, his Resistance to Fire Release was so high that an attack like this didn't even register as warm to his skin.

He took the Boil Release attack at face and continued running forward, not taking a single point of damage from it before he came out of the other side and right in front of Mei Terumi.

The young woman seemed stunned by the fact that he'd taken such a powerful attack to his face without sustaining any burns, but not stunned enough to stay still as he launched his own counterattacks.

They quickly exchanged a flurry of Taijutsu techniques in which he overwhelmed her with his greater speed and strength, eventually breaking through her guard and slamming his fist into her stomach.

Mei let out a wheezing cough as she was folded in half around his fist and then thrown halfway across the battlefield from the impact. She skipped and rag dolled through the ground before eventually skidded to a stop.

He quickly gave chase but it seemed like the attack itself wasn't enough to put her out of the fight as she raised her head and spewed out a curtain of lava at him.

He threw a kunai right through the lava curtain and then appeared on

the other side, right beside Mei.

Her eyes didn't even had the time to widen in shock before he threw a light punch to her throat.

Her eyes bulged out of their sockets from the pain before his fingers flashed toward her most important tenketsu points.

"Eight Trigrams: Two Palms"

"Four Palms"

"Eight Palms"

"Sixteen Palms"

"Thirty Two Palms"

"Sixty Four Palms"

He missed some of the tenketsu points due to not having the Byakugan or as much practice with this technique. But the end result remained the same.

Mei wasn't able to access her chakra. Nor was she able to move her body properly anymore.

Credit where it was due, she still brought her head forward to slam against his own but he simply dodged her headbutt her and chopped her in the neck, making her lose consciousness.

He carried her on his shoulder, his prisoner of war, before he looked at the rest of the battlefield.

With his Shadow Clones and the Anbu keeping the other Terumi clan members at bay and with Minato only having to deal with a single low S-class shinobi, the battle had already ended.

He flashed beside Minato who didn't seem surprised by Mei's unconscious form on his shoulder as he spoke up. "We've done enough damage.

Should we retreat now?"

"Yes." Minato said before turning to one of his Anbu. "Singal retreat to all

Konoha shinobi. We're done here."

The Anbu nodded and launched a special fireball into the sky that went high up and then burst into a large blue ball.

"Take everyone back to the meeting point." Minato ordered before he used Hiraishin and vanished.

He shrugged and then stared at his Shadow Clones who had returned from chasing off the retreating Terumi clan members. "Take them back to the meeting point." He said, pointing at the Anbu.

Then he left to the other battlefields to make sure that everyone is able to retreat from Kiri safely.

Within 5 minutes, all of them were back to their starting point, staring at the still burning and thoroughly destroyed Kiri in the distance.

Of the 30 shinobi who had joined the battle, only 27 managed to return back safely. 3 of them having died in the battlefield.

The count should have been 5, but the two Uchiha clansmen, who appeared to have perished in the battle, had actually survived by employing Izanagi. He could discern this from the fact that one of their eyes was no longer functional.

He didn't blame them for it. Their lives were more valuable than a single eye.

Kushina had also discarded her Tailed Beast cloak, reverting to her human form, and was now resting in Minato's arms, thoroughly exhausted from the battle.

Minato turned away from the hellscape that Kiri had turned into and glanced at him, his eyes briefly flickering toward the unconscious form of Mei in his arms.

"Crow. Take us back to Konoha."

He nodded. "Gather together everyone."

And that's how their mission in Kiri ended.

AN: God fucking dammit! It took me over 4 entire hours to edit this chapter. I'm not writing a 10K chapter ever again. Though, the length increased to 11K after a few important edits.

An oh, we also reached 100K words in this fanfic, so there's that as well. Hope you guys enjoyed reading this chapter, because I absolutely didn't enjoy editing it. At all.

8 advanced chapters in Patreon.

My Patreon: <https://www.patreon.com/ankit1>

Have a nice day

Chapter 28- Getting another S-class waifu

Mei Terumi POV

She woke up in a cozy bed, her surroundings filled with brightness. This caught her off guard, as she had anticipated awakening in a dark cell, restrained against a chilly wall.

She stretched her body and found that the wounds she'd suffered in that battle against Konoha's Yellow Butcher and that strangely capable Anbu had been healed. Yet, even though she felt no pain, a sense of unease lingered as she sensed something amiss with her body.

She tried to manipulate her chakra, but her control fizzled out before she could even grasp it. She remembered that Anbu using the Hyuuga's Taijutsu technique to seal her Tenketsu points but this was something else. Something more insidious.

Swiftly rising from the bed, she examined her body more closely and quickly discovered the issue. Her pristine white skin bore a collection of Fuinjutsu arrays, meticulously drawn with the intent of preventing her

from accessing her chakra.

Well, this clarified why she found herself in a room instead of a cell.

Without her chakra, she would struggle to defeat an average Genin and didn't pose much of a threat.

Perhaps, had she dedicated more attention to Taijutsu and physical training, she might still hold some advantage. However, her reliance on Ninjutsu, fuelled by her dual Bloodline and abundant chakra, had now come to bite her in the ass.

She let out a defeated sigh and reclined back on the bed.

Her darkest fears had come true.

It was a fear shared by all Kunoichi. That someday they'll be captured by the enemy forces and being turned into a broodmare, valued only for popping out children for their captor.

With her extensive chakra reserves and possession of two bloodlines, the threat had always been distressingly real for her. However, upon reaching the status of an S-class Kunoichi, she had naively believed that her strength would render such a situation improbable.

So much for that.

The worst part was that she knew that there a small possibility of this outcome when they fought Konoha's Yellow Butcher.

After all, he was known as one of the most dangerous shinobi in the entire elemental nations. Even when they had outnumbered him, she knew that the odds of her either dying or being captured were quite significant.

But she'd fought regardless. Fought for a clan that she despised with every fibre of her being.

She fought despite resenting her parents for dying and leaving her all alone in this cruel world. She fought for the peers that she detested. Peers

that only saw her as an object to be seduced or envied. She fought for the elders who saw her as nothing but a ticket to a brighter future for their clan. And the rest of the clan who watched it all from the sidelines with indifferent eyes.

And finally, she fought beside her uncle, who always stared at her with those lecherous gaze. The one who she feared the most in her clan. And one who was the driving force behind her relentless training, if only to defy her fate of ending up as one of his concubines.

And she had succeeded as well. She finally become an S-class Kunoichi who could fight her uncle with a decent chance of success. Or, desert the village and survive the Kiri Hunter-nins that'll eventually be sent after her.

If only she had run away. Why had she stayed behind to fight? For what reason?

She had no real family, no true friends, no obligation to stay and fight for a clan she hated. She should have left her clan. Left her village. Gone out into the world and started a new life.

Wasn't that what she had always wanted. To live a peaceful life, away from all this chaos and violence. To marry a handsome young man, who would care for her and love her.

They would live in a cozy home, and raise many children. And she would not abandon them like her own parents had done for her. No, she would keep them safe from the meaningless, cruel life of a shinobi.

But now, here she was, in the hands of her enemies. The life she'd dreamed of was snatched away before she ever had the chance to live it.

She let out another heavy sigh at that realisation. A part of her wondered if she could escape from this place but she quickly discarded that idea.

The Fuinjutsu seals drawn by a master were not something that you

could be simply washed away with some water. Once drawn on skin, they became a permanent fixture, and lasted until another skilled Fuinjutsu master decided to erase them.

And as long as she had those seals, she was about as dangerous as your average genin. A pack of wild animals had a decent chance at killing her. Plus, she was sure that she was tagged with the Hiraishin marker that the Yellow Butcher and that mysterious Anbu used to Teleport around. So even if she succeeded in escaping Konoha (an outcome she doubted), they would simply teleport to her side and retrieve her.

And she would be put inside an actual cell this time, for trying to run away.

She sighed once again and wondered who her Captor was.

Was it the Yellow Butcher?

As reluctant as she was to admit it, that man was undeniably handsome. If he treated her with kindness and respect, then she might not even put up a fight. She would not be free, of course, but it would be facsimile of her dream, no?

But what if she was in the hands of some old elder who only wanted her as a broodmare.

Well... there was only one way to find out.

She got up from the bed and noticed that her usual attire had been replaced with a hospital gown. Never mind that for now.

She walked over to the door and tried to open it. To her great surprise, the door clicked open without any resistance. She'd expected it to be sealed shut with Fuinjutsu barriers.

It seems like her captor wanted her to have greater freedom. It would still be a cage, but it would be a large, comfortable golden cage.

She walked out of her room and into the corridor, and observed that the

entire house was made up of wood and stone. It was not as luxurious as she'd expected, but it definitely gave off a comfortable, homely vibe.

She could live with that.

Eventually, she stepped out of the house and found herself captivated by the sight of a stunning, shimmering lake nestled down the hill.

Having spent her entire life in Kiri, which was perpetually shrouded in heavy mist, picturesque scenes like these appeared downright magical to her.

...yeah, whoever owned this house definitely has a good taste.

But where the heck was he? Or any other residents of this house, for that matter.

For a fleeting moment, the notion of escaping crossed her mind once again. However, she swiftly dismissed the idea. There was no point in going there when she already knew the inevitable outcome.

She began walking toward the lake to get a closer look at its crystal-clear blue water when she heard a familiar sound.

The sound of metal clashing against metal.

She strained her ears till she heard that sound again and was able to pinpoint where the sound was coming from.

She moved in that direction until she came upon a training ground, and witnessed two people sparring with one another.

She instantly recognise both of them.

One of them was Ringo Ameyuri, the only female member of the 7 Swordsmen. The traitor who had abandoned Kiri during the 3rd shinobi war. A woman she had admired, as she too had wanted to escape from the Bloody Mist when she was young.

But... what was Ringo doing here. Had she been captured and brought to this place to serve as a broodmare as well?

She decided to shelve her questions for later and directed her attention to the second person. A child. And not just any child, but The Child. The catalyst of the 4th Shinobi war.

Ren Uchiha.

She doubted that there was a single shinobi in the elemental nations who didn't know about him by now. What with his bounty of 85 million Ryo despite him being only 6 years old.

It was rumoured that the boy was extremely dangerous and had defeated an S-class kunoichi in a single combat. The identity of the kunoichi he had defeated was never revealed in Kiri, but... could that kunoichi be Ringo Ameyuri? But, how was that even possible?

Ringo Ameyuri had served as a veteran in both the 2nd and 3rd Shinobi Wars. The notion of a 6-year-old child defeating her appeared ludicrous. But even as she thought that, the spar going in front of her very eyes made it clear to her that the both of them were equals. But surely Ringo must have been holding back, right?

She was well aware that had Kiri taken part in this war as well, then she might've been asked to target this boy. What with this boy's immense potential. But now, Kiri was gone. Destroyed to the point that it would take the village decades to recover, if it ever recovered at all.

She was brought out of her thoughts as the two of them finished their spar and started walking in her direction.

A sense of apprehension crept in as they reached her, uncertain if they would reprimand her for leaving her room. Fortunately, no such reprimand came. As the first thing the boy said was, "You're awake. Good. Have you fully recovered from your injuries? Or do you still experience any pain in your body?"

"I'm fine." She said, moving her body a bit to confirm that fact. "Whoever

treated me did an excellent job."

And she wasn't even lying about that. Fighting that mysterious Anbu had definitely left her with numerous internal injuries. The fact that she could feel none of that right now was nothing short of miraculous.

Then again, Konoha is home to the greatest medic-nin in the entire Elemental Nations, Tsunade Senju, so she perhaps shouldn't be as surprised by that.

"Good to hear that. Took me quite a while to heal you while being careful to not leave behind any internal scars." The boy said.

"Wait, what?" She asked in disbelief.

"What?" The boy asked, looking utterly innocent and clueless, as if he hadn't just uttered a load of bullshit to her.

"You are claiming that you were the one who healed my wounds?" She asked, wondering if the boy really thought her so gullible.

The boy gave a casual shrug in response. "It's not a claim. I did it. But feel free to not believe me. By the way, how are the Fuinjutsu seals treating you? They aren't causing any discomfort aside from restricting your chakra, right? No pinching, heavy feeling, or vertigo?"

"No. It's only restricting my chakra." She retorted with a glower before she paused. "Let me guess, you're now going to claim that you were the one who drew this sealing array on my body?"

"Once again, it's not a claim when I did it. And I know it's hard to believe just how awesome I can be. But you can praise me later. For now, how about breakfast?"

She scoffed at the boy's white lies, but her stomach chose that precise moment to emit a growling sound, making her go beet red in embarrassment.

Even Ringo, who had remained silent until now, erupted into laughter,

causing her to wish for the ground to open up and swallow her.

"Aye. She wants some food in her belly alright." Ringo remarked, and she shot a glare at the woman, resulting in even more laughter from the older woman, thanks to her reddened face.

"Come then. My clones must've prepared the food by now." The boy said as he started heading back toward the house.

"Clones? You can make clones?" She asked, wondering which kind of clones are capable enough of making food.

Water clones aren't very reliable and tend to pop if taken too far from the main body. Earth clones are somewhat slow and clumsy. Lightning clones are primarily useful for combat, and they demand precise chakra control to form, along with a great amount of chakra.

"Yup, my Shadow Clones." The boy informed her.

"Shadow Clones" She mumbled to herself, wondering what kind of clones they were before she remembered having read about it in one of her texts.

A secret technique of Konoha. Used mostly for the task of spying and espionage as it can return its memories to the original body upon being dispelled.

But, she also remembered hearing that Shadow Clones take a significant amount of chakra to create. So much so, in fact, that only people with Jounin level Chakra and above were granted access to the Jutsu.

She cast another glance to the boy, reassessing the potential threat he posed. Then she side glanced at Ringo, wondering if there was any truth to the rumours. Surely not, right?

A few minutes later.

She held back a moan as she savoured one of the most delicious food she'd ever tasted in her entire life.

Unlike her, Ringo Ameyuri seemed to have no shame at all and released an erotic moan that caused her to flush red in embarrassment.

She shot a glare at the older Kunoichi who simply gazed back at her with barely suppressed amusement."

That bitch was doing this on purpose.

But... the food was indeed very delicious so she ignored the older woman and focused on her plate instead.

"Seconds."

She ate.

"Third."

She ate some more.

"Fourth."

Then she ate even more.

By the time she finished eating, there was a tower of bowls balancing precariously in front of her and her belly did an admirable job of resembling that of a pregnant woman.

"Do you want more?" The boy asked, gazing at her in great amusement.

As if he had just seen some exotic creature.

She flushed under his gaze. "Hey! The food was very good, okay. And no, I'm done."

"I'm not denying that. My cooking skill has levelled up quite a bit recently after all." The boy said. "I'm just surprised to see someone eating even more than Kushina-Sensei."

She nodded, and then thought of something. "Did you really cook that food? Or are you lying about it like how you lied about healing my wounds and drawing this sealing array on me?"

The boy's left eye twitched even as he maintained his smile. "I'm suddenly getting the urge to bend you over my knee and spank you. Did you

forget the beating I gave you last night?" He remarked and then paused.

"No, wait. Ignore the last part. It makes me sound like an abusive spouse."

But far from ignoring it, she latched right onto that piece of information.

"You really have no shame, do you?" She asked the boy, now getting a bit upset. "Taking the accomplishment of others like this. Where are your parents?"

"Dead." The boy replied without a second's pause, making her flinch.

"And once again, I'm not lying to you. The Anbu who defeated you? It was me."

With that, the brat made a hand sign and used Transformation Jutsu to become the Anbu who had defeated her yesterday.

She sighed, wondering why the boy was even lying about something like this.

"Transformation Jutsu break upon the lightest of damage. You're fooling no one here." She pointed out.

The crow maked Anbu simply stared at her for a moment. Then he vanished.

Smack!

She flinched, massaging her ass that had just received a spank, and glared at the boy, who immediately returned back to his original position.

Then, she halted as she comprehended exactly what he had just done.

"Hiraishin. You used the Hiraishin Jutsu." She said in disbelief, before pausing as she realised the absurdity of her statement. "No, there's no way you could've done such a thing. You probably used Genjutsu or something to fool me."

The brat dropped the anbu transformation and rolled his eyes in

exasperation. "It seems like you're really not going to believe me no matter what, right?"

"Come up with better lies next time if you want me to believe you." She said with a scoff.

"In that case, I have no choice." The boy said before he stepped forward and placed his palm in her bloated stomach. A green glow emanated from his palm, causing her to step back.

"What are you doing?" She asked.

"Helping you digest your food faster."

"And why are you doing that?"

"So what when we spar and I eventually defeat you, you won't complain about not being at your best."

She rolled her eyes at the boy and raised her hands, displaying the Fuinjutsu seals covering them. "How do you expect me to spar with you when I can't even access my chakra."

The brat simply performed a handseal, and in the next moment, the Fuinjutsu characters withdrew from her body and returned to a large seal drawn right over her heart.

...and she gained access to her chakra once again.

What?

...

She swiftly lunged for the boy, fully intending to take him hostage as a means to secure her freedom.

The next moment, she found herself sprawled flat on the ground, gazing at the sky, with all her primary Tenketsu points sealed.

"Patience." The boy said, his red eyes and calm demeanour taking a more dangerous edge. "We're going to spar in a moment. Don't be in such a rush to get your ass kicked."

She stared at Ringo, who hadn't budged from her seat during her attempt to attack the boy. And it dawned on her that maybe, just maybe, the boy wasn't lying to her after all.

Half an hour later, after the boy defeated her for the 18th time in single combat and then proceeded to heal her once again, she finally acknowledged that the boy hadn't lied to her about anything.

And the rumours about the boy, if anything, were watered down.

A realisation that filled her with no small amount of dread.

"Now, are you ready to talk?" The boy asked, offering her his hand.

And what else could she do but nod and take his offered hand.

"...you do not need to apologise for killing my uncle." She told, not that Ren had even killed her lecherous uncle. It was the Hokage who had done that. However, even if it was Ren who did it, she would never hold it against him.

"Are you sure? I might not have swung the blade but I certainly played a part in his demise." Ren said.

She chuckled before leaning forward to kiss him on the cheeks. "Yes, I'm sure. I despised my uncle and didn't really care for the rest of my clan.

And while I wouldn't have wished for their deaths, I'm not going to mourn them either."

The only people in the clan she didn't dislike were the children. And the non-shinobi members of her clan had escaped with them to the secret underground tunnels as soon as the battle began.

"It seems like your clan was as bad to you than the Uchiha clan was to Itachi." Ren murmured to himself, making her wonder who this Itachi person was.

"Maybe if I was a boy, things wouldn't have been so bad for me." She

said. "But I was born a girl with vast chakra reserves and two bloodlines. And no parents to protect me. Everyone either wanted to fuck me, or were jealous of me."

"Hmm... in that case, you may thank me for rescuing you from that horrid place." Ren said magnanimously and she suddenly felt the urge to punch him in his face.

But then she remembered the completely one-sided beat down she received at his hands and calmed down.

"I'm not going to thank you. You may treat me nicely here, but I'm under no illusion that I'm anything other than a prisoner of war in Konoha."

"I suppose you can see it that way." Ren said and then leaned forward, his red eyes peering into hers. "Or... you can see this as a new start to your life. One where you can live the life you've always wanted."

"And what kind of life do you think I want to live?"

"A peaceful one. With family." Ren said and her retort died in her throat.

"...how did you know that?"

"My bloodline gives me basic information about anyone I look at."

"Seems like a handy ability to root out any spies and gather information on your enemies."

Ren simply smiled at her words, declining to say anything further about his bloodline. She nodded, realising she shouldn't press further on this topic.

"So... where do we go from here?" She asked. "What are your plans for me?"

"I want to marry you and raise a family with you." Ren replied with a straight face.

She felt an impulse to laugh at his words, but when as his expression remained unchanged, she realised he was completely serious about this.

"...how old are you again?"

"Six years old."

She tried to think back on the kind of person she was at the age of 6. And while she wasn't bad for her age, she didn't even come close to Ren in terms of maturity or power. Still...

"Aren't you too young to be thinking about marriage right now?" She asked.

"I like to prepare for things in advance."

"...you are ten years younger than me."

"Ringo doesn't mind. And she's over 3 decades older than me." Ren said, gesturing toward the swordswoman who lay naked under the sun, receiving an oil massage from a Shadow Clone of Ren.

She opened her mouth to respond but found herself at a loss for words, and quietly closed her mouth instead.

"If... if I accepted this proposal. Then when will we marry?" She asked.

"Like, how old would you be..."

"At age 12. So six years from now. Five and half, if you want to be more accurate."

She felt faint at the idea that she might have to actually marry a boy ten years younger than her.

"Do I have any other choice?" She asked, dreading the answer.

"What choice would I have had if Kiri had attacked Konoha and captured me?" Ren asked and her hopes withered as she knew the answer.

They would brainwash him until he's completely loyal to Kiri. And that's if they're feeling generous. More likely than not, they would simply slit his throat and consider it a job well done.

"Why did Ringo accept your offer?" She asked, suddenly curious about her fellow, older kunoichi, who was also defeated and captured by Ren.

She was seeing a pattern here.

"I don't know. Maybe she got tired of living as a rogue-nin and wanted to live a peaceful life. Maybe she felt her biological clock was ticking and desired to have children before it was too late. Maybe she sought safety and security. Or maybe, she wanted the bragging rights of being the wife of the next God of Shinobi." Ren said with a shrug. "I don't know her exact reasons. If you truly want to know, then you'll have to go and ask her yourself."

She nodded dumbly, a bit fixated on the God of Shinobi part.

And, Ren wasn't even exaggerating about this. If he had grown this strong in just 6 years, then how formidable would he become by the age of 12? Suddenly, the idea of being married to him didn't seem as undesirable as she had initially thought.

Yes, he would be ten years younger than her, still just a boy when they eventually wed. However, she could make it work. Her dream of having a caring husband, a peaceful life, and a home filled with children could still become a reality.

Yes, she might have to share him with other women, which was annoying. But, she could make this work. It would just mean that her children will have many more brothers and sisters to play with.

With that in mind, she got up from her chair and nodded to Ren. "In that case, I accept your offer."

AN: From Canon, we understand that Mei's primary desire was a happy marriage. Another aspect we know about her is that she either didn't care for her parents or they passed away early in her life, to the extent that she doesn't even remember them. Mainly because she didn't mention them even once in the entire story, nor did we see them in any

flashbacks.

Furthermore, I deliberately crafted her background to prevent her from harbouring resentment towards Ren and Konoha for the death of her clan members. It might come off as cheap plot but I don't want Ren to spend the rest of his life dealing with family drama. And I believe that you readers wouldn't want to read such a story either.

I want my story to be realistic but not realistic to the point that it starts to resemble real life. With my mother nagging me at every waking hour. Plus, the Universal Calibration he brought for 10 points automatically changes the world so that MC will have a higher chance of getting together with the waifus.

So... yeah. That's it for this chapter. Hope you guys enjoyed reading it.

8 advanced chapters in Patreon.

My Patreon: <https://www.patreon.com/ankit1>

Have a nice day.

Chapter 29- Gaining a new ally

Mito Uzumaki POV

She sat in the outskirts of Kiri, a thin barrier making her invisible to any and all sensors within. Well, those that were still alive at least.

Her Kagura's mind eye allowed her to sense the entirety of Kiri, giving her a good picture of the various battles going on inside the village.

Unlike what she'd shown that mysterious Konoha Anbu, she hadn't truly left Kiri. She'd only pretended to do so, while in truth, she merely stashed away all the valuable stuff she'd stolen from Kiri's R&D Department before returning to observe the rest of the battle.

Truly, when she had decided to infiltrate Kiri today in order to take advantage of the chaos, she hadn't expected that someone else would have the same idea.

It seems like Konoha's new Hokage was more proactive than little monkey, who would never have even thought about attacking another Major village unprovoked. Especially when Konoha was already at war with two others.

But from what she could sense, the 4th Hokage's risky venture seemed to have resulted in great victory.

Because when she came to Kiri this evening, intending to steal all their secrets from the R&D Department, she had sensed about 13,000 shinobi within the village.

Now, she could sense only half of that number. And while half might not sound so bad, Kiri had suffered far more in terms of quality than quantity.

All of the S-class shinobi that Kiri had were now dead. Their chakra flickering away into nothingness as their lives were snuffed one by one through the course of this operation.

And a similar fate befell all the Elite-Jounins who had fought in this battle. It appeared that Konoha was intentionally focusing on eliminating Kiri's leadership and powerful shinobi.

Not to mention the additional casualties - among those who managed to survive the conflict, a significant number would succumb to their injuries. Furthermore, many others would either desert the village or die to infighting in the next few days.

Even now, when all the Konoha shinobi had pulled out, the Kaguya clan members were still on their ruthless campaign to slaughter the rest of Kiri's population. And while the others had banded together to put them down, without the help of any S-class or Elite-Jounin to lead them, the best they could do was drown the Kaguya in bodies.

And that only scratches the surface of the devastation.

Every piece of infrastructure that Kiri once took pride in has been utterly obliterated by the Konoha shinobi.

Their Mizukage Tower? Gone. Their clan compounds? Gone. Their Port?

Gone. Their Shinobi Academy? Gone. Their R&D Department? Gone.

Their T&I Department? Gone. It was safe to say that the Konoha shinobi had destroyed everything of import within Kiri.

And while the buildings themselves could be easily repaired, the information within would be forever lost to them.

All the Jutsu that Kiri had collected so zealously over the decades had now been reduced to ashes. The same for all their intelligence, research, and most importantly, the remaining 7 Swords.

Kiri would take an entire generations to recover from this damage.

Assuming they ever recovered at all and didn't just fell to infighting.

And she would do her damned best to make sure that they indeed fall to infighting. A few key assassinations and then blaming the other party for it would make sure that the remaining Kiri shinobi would start blood feuds and kill each other until none remains.

It was a fitting end to one of the villages who had destroyed her clan.

Yes, revenge was sweet indeed.

The only person left with the ability to take charge and unite Kiri at this point, was the Jinchuriki of the 6 tails. And that was one of the reasons why she had volunteered to give his location to that Konoha Anbu.

Only problem was, she had no idea where he was.

But locating him shouldn't be difficult for her. She'd met him a few year ago, after all. It was more by coincidence than anything, but she'd taken that time to remember his chakra signature in case she ever needed to find him again.

And it seemed like she would have to find him again. In one month at

that.

Now, finding a single shinobi in the entirety of the land of Water would be a difficult prospect for anyone, give that there are hundreds of islands in this archipelago. Some of them large enough to hold entire kingdoms. But, she was not just anyone. She was Mito Uzumaki. Someone who can use Hiraishin Jutsu to go anywhere, Shadow Clone Jutsu to be anywhere. And last but not the least, use Kagura's Mind Eye technique to scan a vast amount of land for a familiar chakra signature.

She estimated that it would take her no more than 2 weeks before she found the Jinchuriki of 6 tails.

And when that happens, she would go to that Anbu and see if he had kept his end of the bargain. If he had indeed kept the knowledge of her survival to himself, then she would give him the Jinchuriki. If not, then she'll simply extract the Tailed Beast and keep it for her own clan.

She loved Hashirama but he had been hopelessly naive when he handed over the tailed beasts to the other villages, hoping that it'll keep the balance of power and maintain peace.

She would be sure to rectify this mistake on his behalf.

Though... she wondered who that Anbu was and how he recognised her so quickly.

Sure, he had the vaunted and feared Mangekyo Sharingan of the Uchiha clan. But if rumours were to be believed, then every single Uchiha fighting on the frontline had such a pair of eyes these days. It was confusing to say the least.

What was even more confusing was that the anbu was using Tsunade's Permanent Transformation Jutsu and her own clan's Strength of Hundred Seal.

To further complicate matters, this Anbu, after encountering her, had

gone on to defeat two other S-class shinobi. This outcome left her grateful that she hadn't chosen to escalate the confrontation against him. She was good. She was very very good. But she was not good enough to defeat a shinobi who can defeat two other S-class shinobi in a matter of minutes.

Worst part was that that young man was also capable of using Hiraishin, which made his threat go up another level in her mind.

'Just when did Konoha produce a monster like him?' She wondered to herself.

Never mind. Once she's done thoroughly destabilizing Kiri's remaining elements and have found the 6 tails Jinchuriki, she'll sneak back into Konoha and find that person herself.

Until then, she had more tasks at hand before she could complete the first third of her revenge.

—— —

Ren Uchiha POV

Two weeks later.

Ding!

You've slept for 6 hours in a comfortable bed!

HP and MP fully restored!

Negative status 'Blindness' removed!

He stared at his bedroom's ceiling with his newly restored eyes and then shifted his attention to his Inventory where another pair of Mangekyo Sharingan eyes rested.

By this point, he had created enough eyes to supply all of Uchiha's Jounin. The reason he was still creating more of them was so that he could replicate the Tenseigan Energy Vessel on the moon.

See... he has a theory.

The theory being that even if Toneri did activate his Tenseigan, those eyes should be at the same level as the Rinnegan. Maybe a bit stronger, but definitely not strong enough to allow him to cleave the moon in half. The reason why Toneri ended up becoming so strong was not because of his own eyes but because of the Tenseigan Energy Vessel which held thousands of Byakugan eyes within it and supplied Toneri with his true power.

And he planned to do the same with his own Mangekyo Sharingan eyes. Not sure if it would work, but it was worth a try.

After checking up on his newly grown pair of eyes, he turned his attention to the two women occupying his bed on his left and right.

To his right lay Ringo, still pretending to be asleep. But having lived as a Rogue-nin for over a decade and a half meant that she slept on a hair's trigger and woke up at the slightest hint of movements or sound around her.

He hoped that she would eventually overcome this and attain better sleep. However, apart from that, there wasn't much he could do to help her. He definitely couldn't take her to therapy as there were no therapist in the Elemental Nations.

To his left lay Mei Terumi, who had become surprisingly clingy ever since she accepted him as his future partner.

Given her upbringing, she probably needed a shit ton of therapy as well. But once again, no therapist in the Elemental Nations.

He hoped that the next world he ventured into after the Naruto world would be a more advanced version of Earth, potentially with access to therapists. Since he had a feeling that all the waifus he Captures in this world would have some sort of problem.

Freeing himself from Mei's embrace, he leaped out of the bed, grabbed

Samehada—who acted like a thirsty whore and immediately started sucking on his chakra—and swiftly exited the room.

He went downstairs to his lab where dozens of his Shadow Clones were working to advance his expertise in Fuinjutsu, and developing the next version of Hiraishin. One that would allow him to move anywhere within a barrier without having to rely upon the Hiraishin Kunai. And he dispelled them one by one.

Ding!

You've suffered damage from Memory Overload!

You gain -1 Intelligence stat due to Mental Damage!

Ding!

Resistance to Mental Damage increased by 1!

Ding!

+1 to Fuinjutsu Skill!

+1 to Hiraishin Skill!

+1 to Barrier Fuinjutsu Skill!

He ignored the notifications as he was well acquainted with them by now, and well aware that the -1 to his Int stat was a temporary debuff and would revert after 6 hours of sleep.

And thank the gods for that. Because if that '-1 Int' wasn't temporary, then there was no way he would be able to use his Shadow Clones with such impunity.

Next, he proceeded to other rooms where dozens of his Shadow Clones were deeply absorbed in diverse activities like cooking, drawing, writing, singing, and more. Activities that were designed to enhance his skills for day-to-day life.

After dispelling them and absorbing their memories, he ventured outside to retrieve the final set of Shadow Clones. They had received the largest

share of his chakra and were dedicated to enhancing his proficiency with all five elements, as well as Yin and Yang. Their tasks also included advancing his skills in Iryojutsu, Kenjutsu, Shurikenjutsu, and crafting new jutsu for him to employ on the battlefield.

His Lightning affinity had now reached the point where he believed that he would be able to use the Lightning Cloak of Raikage, if he had the skill book for it.

Unfortunately, he didn't, and was thus left with the task of creating that particular Jutsu from the ground up.

Recreating this particular Jutsu had been far more difficult than any other Jutsu he'd created till date. So he expected his Shadow Clones to take up to an entire month to recreate it.

He also wasn't sure if there was anyone in Konoha who would be able to use this Jutsu once he'd recreated it. Not any of the old fogeys anyway, as this Jutsu required a great deal of Physical ability. Perhaps Kakashi and maybe Satsuki, once she's old enough. Maybe Ringo as well, now that he thought about it.

He created dozens of Shadow Clones once more and set them back to training before he strolled over to the bench overlooking the lake and settled down.

Life was indeed good.

He was one of the strongest Shinobi in the elemental Nations. He had two beautiful S-class Kunoichi to keep him company. He had good connections with almost all the higher ups in Konoha. And he had unlimited potential for growth.

The only chink in his otherwise picture perfect life, was the 4th Shinobi war that was still raging on at the borders.

Sure, the war had slowed down a bit ever since the news spread about

Konoha attacking and destroying Kiri. But he had a feeling that this was just the silence before the storm. And things were going to become much, much worse in the future.

Well, at least now they only had to contend with two enemy villages instead of three.

Placing Samehada on his lap, he began channeling his chakra into it, opting not to dwell on the countless lives claimed by the Konoha shinobi in their mission to Kiri.

He'd personally only killed Fuguki, who was a shit stain on humanity his shadow clones having dealt with everyone else who tried to attack him.

But he couldn't help worry about Kushina who had wiped out entire blocks of buildings with her Tailed Beast Bomb. Surely killing many innocent children in those blasts.

'Don't think about it.' He admonished himself. 'Nothing good comes from pondering on such matters. Plus, had those children survived, they would've most likely grown up to be bloodthirsty shinobi. Now, they're gone, and there's nothing I can do about it, even if I wanted to.'

His thoughts were interrupted by the approaching sound of footsteps and the sense of familiar chakra drawing near.

"You know, you look quite adorable when you're all serious like this," Mei remarked, taking a seat beside him.

Her hand reached for Samehada, intending to pet it, but Samehada swiftly recoiled, hissing disapprovingly, much like a displeased cat.

He hated cats, devils-spaws that they were, and had half a mind to give the sword to someone else. Someone who needed it more than him and could put it to better use. But he doubted that Samehada would want to separate from him at this point.

"And you look stunning when your hair is all messy like that," he

remarked, enveloping her in his arms and drawing her closer. Mei responded with a punch to his shoulder, blushing beet red at his straightforward compliment.

One thing he'd come to learn over the past two weeks was that Mei was weak to anything romantic, and thus used this card on her whenever she teased him about his age or height, even if it sometimes felt a bit cringy. However, she truly did appear exceptionally beautiful with her disheveled hair. The only thing missing from this picture was her wearing his t-shirt without any other clothing, and it would be perfect.

Unfortunately, he was small enough that none of his clothes would fit her at this moment, so that dream would remain just that till he grows up.

"Mou. You're just saying that tease me."

"Of course." He said, his hand slipping beneath her to playfully pinch her butt.

Mei jumped and then adopted a put-upon expression. "Hey! You aren't allowed to touch me like that until we get married."

He shrugged at her words. "Sorry. You're just so beautiful that I can't help myself." He said, feeling the urge to cringe even as the words left his mouth.

If it was anyone else, then cliché lines like these would never work on them. But this was Mei, so she instantly turned beet red and covered her face to hide her expression.

"Stop saying such things!" Mei said, sending a cute glare his way. "How can you even say such things when you're only 6-years-old."

"Just because I can't fuck you doesn't mean that I cannot appreciate your beauty." He said and she went scarlet once again.

"So crass." Mei sighed. "You have to be more gentle with a lady."

He snorted. "When I see a lady, I will be."

"Ugh."

"Fufufu. Someone is in a good mood today," Ringo remarked, strolling up to them and taking a seat on his right. She planted a gentle kiss on his cheek before handing both him and Mei a glass of milk.

He was a growing boy and needed all the milk he could get.

...it was also a good habit to pass on to his children once they're born.

Though once again, that won't happen for a few years yet.

"Ringo-senpai. Ren is teasing me. Help." Mei said, pretending to be a victim.

Having face the 21st century modern feminist women who had distilled the essence of being a victim into an art form, her pitiful attempts never worked on him so she had started seeking assistance from others. Only, Ringo had lived a very hard life and had no pity for victims either.

"I'm afraid I can't do much to help you there, Mei." Ringo said as she sipped her own cup of tea. "You're too easy to tease after all."

"Urgh! You're both ganging up on me!"

"Yes. Yes we are." He said, thinking about the future when their talk would take a whole different meaning.

Man... it sucked to be this small.

Their playful banter persisted for a while until he detected someone approaching his home. Someone familiar.

Ringo and Mei must've noticed something in his expression because both of them went taut in an instant. Like a drawn bow, ready to let loose at the feather's drop.

"Relax." He told his women as he got up from his seat. "It's nothing to be worried about. Stay here, I'll return as soon as I can."

Ringo and Mei shared a glance before they nodded and he used shunshin to approach the person waiting outside his home boundary.

"This is not bad." The woman said as she studied the Fuinjutsu barrier surrounding his lands. "I can identify the Uzumaki Seals you used as the foundation for this project. But you've clearly made numerous alterations and improvements over them. I approve."

"Mito-san." He said with a dip of his head in greeting. "I suppose that you're here to fulfill your part of the deal."

"Unless you told your Hokage about me?" She said, still studying her Fuinjutsu barrier with an unconcerned expression.

"And if I have?" He asked with a smirk.

"Then I'll simply take the 6 tails for myself." She said, her expression remaining calm as before.

"Huh... don't worry, I haven't."

"Good. You're such a talented young man. I would be a shame if we aren't able to collaborate in the future due to any current misunderstandings."

He nodded and Mito gave a soft smile before she made a few changes to his barrier, and the barrier unfurled in front of her, allowing her to enter his home without raising any alarm.

He wasn't really surprised by this display, as she'd been alive before this village even started and had more experience in Fuinjutsu than anyone else in the world. However, witnessing her effortlessly navigate through his enhanced barrier still irked him a little.

"Don't look so down. Your barrier is good enough that if it was anyone other than me, then they would have no hopes of bypassing it." Mito said with a teasing expression.

"You'll not be able to bypass my barriers the next time." He promised her, making her chuckle at his words, but not in a disparaging manner.

"I look forward to that. It would be such a pity if a talent like you stopped improving merely because you thought that you were good

enough."

He nodded, taking that lesson to heart before he asked. "So... are you going to talk here or would you like to come to my home?"

"Hmm... here is fine." She replied, mending the barrier behind herself, leaving no trace of its prior breach.

Yeah, she was definitely showing off.

"I have more defences in my home to let me know about any intruders."

He said, almost defensively. It's not everyday that someone barges into your home and reveals just how useless your first line of defence was.

The very defence you had spent days constructing and were so proud of.

"That's good." She said, patting his cheek and getting an annoyed look from him. "A paranoid shinobi is a living shinobi."

Then she did something and her entire presence vanished from his senses.

He could see her but that was about it. He couldn't smell her, he couldn't hear her, and he definitely couldn't sense even a single iota of her chakra.

That, with how incredibly high levelled his Chakra Sense was, unnerved him more than he would ever care to admit.

Especially since his Chakra Sense was the main line defence that he'd just talked about..

Damn... this woman was scary. But then again, isn't that what they say about all old shinobi? Beware of an old man in a profession where most usually die young.

This saying was usually reserved for the 3rd Hokage, who was able to defeat Orochimaru and the weaker versions of both 1st and 2nd Hokage.

But this woman was already married and raising her children when the 3rd Hokage was young enough to be in the shinobi academy.

"Don't look so disheartened." She said, pinching his cheek and getting another annoyed look from him. "You're still young. Only 6-years-old. I'm

sure that once you get older, you'll be able to bypass my defences just as easily."

He nodded, feeling somewhat reassured as he recalled that he was still very young and had ample time to mature and improve his skills.

"Do you have the information on the 6 tails Jinchuriki?" He asked, intending to change to topic and not be reminded of just how much inferior he was to her in Fuinjutsu skills.

She could've so easily slipped past all his defences without any difficulty.

And use the Reaper Death Seal to extract his soul and kill him.

...and he had been so sure about being invincible in the Elemental Nations too.

It just goes to show how little he truly understood.

But he would overcome her, just as he'd overcome all other challenges he'd faced in his life.

Mito nodded as she retrieved a chair from a storage seal inscribed on the back of her hand, settling into it. She then produced another chair and gestured for him to take a seat as well.

Once he took his seat, she started speaking. "His name is Ukatata. One of the most powerful shinobi of Kiri. He is also a pacifist, who grew weary of the violence inherent in the life of a shinobi, and left Kiri a few years ago. The only reason the 3rd Mizukage didn't brand him a traitor was because Ukatata never left the Land of Water in his wanderings.

Moreover, attempting to forcefully bring him back would undoubtedly lead to the loss of many skilled shinobi."

"I see. Is he still in the Land of Water then?"

"Yes, and he's currently on way back to the village to unite the remaining factions that have descended into a multi-sided civil war."

He arched an eyebrow at that piece of information. "They're fighting

amongst themselves?"

"They are now." Mito said with a calm expression that sent shivers down his back.

Yeah, he was never going to take an older shinobi lightly after this. Ever.

"I see." He said before deciding to get straight to the point. "I plan on taking 6 tails for myself. Do you have a problem with that?"

"None whatsoever." Mito said with an uncaring shrug. "I would support it even, considering that the last Jinchuriki of the 6 tails had a hand in the destruction of my clan."

Ah... so that's why she was doing this. To get revenge for her clan.

He appreciated having this piece of information, as understanding Mito's motivation made her actions more predictable. However, he couldn't shake the feeling that Mito had disclosed this information precisely for that reason.

Really, even talking with her made him feel like he was playing 4D Chess. And losing. Without even knowing that he was losing.

"I do not need your support. Just tell me where the 6 tails is and I'll take care of the rest."

Mito arched an eyebrow at that. "You're confident in your abilities. That's good. But I must remind you that Utakata has a strong bond with his Tailed Beast. While he may not be a perfect Jinchuriki, he's as close as one can get without reaching that state. Moreover, he's highly experienced. Defeating him won't be as straightforward as you might be envisioning."

"Perhaps. But I've never fought an opponent who made me go all out in a fight." He said, wondering what her agenda was. "I want to see just how strong I truly am with this fight."

"And in doing so, you would alert everyone in the elemental nations

about the missing status of the 6 tails Jinchuriki, further increasing tensions between the major villages."

"Not if I take him to a remote corner of the world with Hiraishin before I start the fight." He said. "But I have a feeling that you have an answer to this dilemma as well."

Mito nodded. "Let me help you. I assure that there is no one in the Elemental Nations who knows more about extracting and sealing Tailed Beasts than me. Whatever plans you have in regards to the 6 Tails would go more smoothly with my help."

Well... seeing as how she found a way to survive Kurama being extracted from her, and having witnessed her Fuinjutsu prowess, he couldn't deny that. But...

"Why do you want to help me?" He asked.

"Because you're destined to become a force that'll surpass my husband and Madara, making them seem like second-rate shinobi in comparison by the time you reach your prime." Mito said. "Others might not be aware of this but I am. Is it really so surprising that I want to be in your good graces? An alliance with you would only help me in the long run."

Well... she wasn't wrong. But could he really trust her?

"I don't mind being allied with you. But before shaking hands, I want to ask you something?"

"Go ahead. If I can answer it, I will."

"How are you still alive?"

"Oh. You want to know how I survived the Kyuubi being extracted from me?"

"No. I don't care about that. I'm sure I'll figure that part out myself eventually." He said, and he wasn't lying either. "But what I want to know is, how are you still moving around despite your age. Sure, Uzumaki live

for much longer than your average shinobi. But even with a longer lifespan, you should be bedridden right now. Not traipsing around in the territory of other major villages."

Because obviously, he'd used Observe on her, and her stats weren't those of an old woman who's near death.

No, her stats were even better than that her granddaughter Tsunade, which was saying something.

"You want to know if I figured out a way to achieve immortality." Mito said, tilting her head. "Do you want to become one yourself?"

"I'm not looking to copy your version of immortality, if that's what you're worried about. I already have my own version of it and intend to share it with my women once I'm old enough to marry them."

"Really?" She asked and he nodded. "And yet, you still want to know how I became immortal myself?"

He nodded again.

Mito hesitated for a moment before she started speaking. "You might not be aware of it, but Uzumaki clan has ways to contact the deities of this world."

"Deities like the Shinigami?" He asked, even though he was actually thinking more along the lines of Jashin.

"I see that you already know about the Reaper Death Seal then. But yes. Deities like them. And some of them are more than willing to trade with mortals, if the offer is good enough."

"And what did you offer these deities?" He asked, feeling slightly apprehensive.

"10,000 souls." Mito said, her voice calm and measured. "A steep price, yes. But it was a price I was more than glad to pay if it meant avenging my clan. Plus, I took that price from my enemies."

"And you've already paid this price?" He asked, wondering just many shinobi she must've killed during the 3rd shinobi war while in disguise.

"I'm currently at around the 7,000 mark." Mito said and he nodded, not sure how to feel about this.

On one hand, this woman killed a lot of people in order to gain immortality for herself. But on the other hand, she did it in order to avenge her clan. And price was paid from the lives of her enemies.

A part of him wanted to call her a monster for what she had done, but another part of him knew that he would have done far worse were he in her position.

The more he talked with her, the more and more her life sounded like a thriller-action movie.

One that he would love to watch.

"I see." He said in the end. "So once you've paid the full price, you'll complete your end of the deal and become functionally immortal?"

"...yes. Does learning about the amount of people I've killed worry you?"

Mito asked. "I wouldn't blame you if you don't want to ally with me any longer."

He thought on this for a moment before he shook his head. "No. But I want to set the terms of our alliance."

"Oh... and what do you have in mind?" She asked.

"Marry me."

Mito was silent for a moment before she burst out into laughter.

"Fufufufu. I don't know why I didn't see this coming, considering that you already have two S-class Kunoichi by your side."

"Is that a yes?" He asked, doubting that it would be so easy. And he was proven correct immediately afterward as Mito shook her head.

"No, datteba!" She exclaimed.

Did she just...

He shook his head and decided to focus on the more important topic right now. "Is that a no?"

"No." Mito said again. "I admit that this proposal caught me off guard. It's not everyday that an old woman gets proposed by a 6-year-old boy. Come to think of it, why do you even want to marry an old woman like me?"

"Because it's my dream to have a harem of S-class Kunoichi." He said. "I want to have a large family, with all of my children having the potential to reach S-class."

Mito stared at him for a moment before she chuckled and shook her head. "A harem of S-class shinobi. I don't know if you're brave or foolish, child. Foolish more likely than not."

"So... what is your answer?" He asked

"Hmm... you know what, I'll give this some thought. Though I would most likely decline in the end. Nonetheless, I hope you would consider me as your ally even if I decline." Mito said. "For now, let's talk about what you plan to do with 6 tails and how we can go about making that plan a reality."

"Very well." He said and then started telling her about his plan.

AN: We see the world from Mito's eyes. And learn in greater detail about how the situation unfolded in Kiri after Konoha's attack.

We also get to see a small glimpse of Ren's day to day life and see his plan to create a replication of the Tenseigan Energy Vessel with his own Mangekyo Sharingan eyes. And we eventually see his interaction with Mito where he gets to learn that he's not the largest fish in the pond.

Well, he technically is. The only skill where Mito is better than him in the

Fuinjutsu. And probably Sensing skill as well, due to her Kagura's Mind Eye. But this is still a big shock to him as he considered himself the best in the Elemental Nations.

We don't get to learn how Mito survived Kyuubi's extraction, but we do learn how she's still alive and young. She made a deal with an outer deity. 10,000 Souls of her enemies in exchange for immortality. This part is a bit of an AU but with how bullshit the deities in Naruto world are (like Jashin and Shinigami), it shouldn't come off as too improbable.

That's it for this chapter. Hope you guys enjoyed reading it.

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Have a nice day.

Chapter 30- Contemplations of an
old man

Onoki POV

He stood on the side and watched once again as a new contingent of shinobi was deployed to the front lines to reinforce their army.

Another group of young, promising shinobi with their entire life ahead of them. Lives, that they might never get to enjoy because he decided to send them to war.

He shut his eyes, reminiscing about the past when he, too, had been dispatched to the battlefield by the 2nd Tsuchikage.

Word about him having the Dust Release had already spread by then, leading to the 2nd Tsuchikage taking him under his wing. Because of this, he was deployed in the safer areas during the war. To areas that saw the least amount of combat and could easily be reinforced by other powerful shinobi.

This isn't to suggest that he didn't fight powerful enemies where a single

misstep could mean the end of his life. Near the end of the 1st shinobi war, he was as much a guard to the Tsuchikage as he was a student. Or that's what his young mind told himself at least.

Then the 1st Shinobi War ended, and a few years after that, his mentor fought the 2nd Mizukage to a standstill and both of them lost their lives. Being the student of the Tsuchikage, an S-class shinobi with a powerful bloodline, and having the backing of a powerful clan allowed him to take the seat of the 3rd Tsuchikage.

And he'd pledged to himself that he'd bring peace and prosperity to his village, steering clear of senseless conflicts with other major shinobi villages.

If only he'd known.

Then the 2nd shinobi war arrived at his doorsteps. No, who was he deceiving? He was the one who brought that war to other's doorsteps. Suna and Ame had been expanding their territory, attempting to acquire the lands of their more fertile and resource-rich neighbours. In response, Konoha declared war on them. And when it seemed that Konoha might emerge victorious and seize control of the Land of River and Rain, he chose to enter the battlefield to keep them in check.

He could still remember the first time he had seen the casualty report. How the feeling of guilt and despair had almost overwhelmed him. So many young lives snuffed out due to his actions. Due to his orders- orders that they had no choice but to obey, because not doing so meant death. Sending young, promising shinobi to the battlefield, knowing very well that they might die, always weighed heavily on his conscience. However, that sense of guilt had significantly diminished over the years.

There was a time when he used to read and memorise the name of every single shinobi who died due to his orders. And the personally go to each

of their homes to give condolences.

Now, the only thing he saw was causality reports and statistics. And the burden of giving condolences was left to their respective Jounin Sensei. He wondered if that made him a worst monster for his own village than any of the enemy villages. If his own decisions had caused the deaths of more of his people than the enemies did.

The burden of the Tsuchikage hat had become overwhelming by the end of the 2nd shinobi war. And he promised to himself to never go to war, ever again.

Then, the 3rd shinobi war came knocking and he plunged his village into war once again.

That war lasted for over 8 years. And by the end of it, every single major village had resorted to sending children to the frontlines. The very children that the major villages were build to protect.

'Where had it all gone so wrong? Why cannot we simply have peace and live together in harmony? Why must I stain my hands with the corpses of my own people?' He asked himself.

By the time the 3rd shinobi war ended, he had been desperately searching for a successor. If only to spend his remaining years with his granddaughter.

But there was no one who was capable of taking the mantle from him.

Oh, there were some who had the potential and he'd even considered the two Jinchuriki for the task. But in the end, he found himself unable to choose a successor.

They were either too weak, lacked the correct mindset, or didn't have enough support from the major clans or the shinobi population. And he needed to be careful with his choosing.

After all, Iwa was not just any shinobi village. It was a major shinobi

village. One of the great 5. And often butted heads with Kumo for the position of the 2nd most powerful village in the Elemental Nations. Not just anyone could lead the village. Not when both Konoha and Kumo had both been blessed with powerful Kage.

And thus, his search continued.

Continued till the day he caught wind of rumours about a young shinobi in Konoha. A 6-year-old Uchiha who managed to defeat an S-class Kunoichi. And it triggered flashbacks of his past, when Madara had effortlessly defeated both him and his teacher.

The mere thought of Konoha having such a formidable shinobi in their ranks once again sent shivers down his spine. And he knew that he couldn't let this monster reach adulthood, or the entire Elemental Nations would suffer.

Back in that time, Hashirama had been there to keep peace. To keep Madara in check. But there was no Hashirama now. Who would keep this new threat in check?

So... he plunged his village into war once more.

And now his shinobi were dying once again. Dying at his orders.

He stared at the portrait of his mentor, hung in the wall of his office and sighed. 'Is this what you envisioned when you choose me as your successor, Sensei. When I die and go to the Pure Land, would you greet me with open arms, commending my efforts, or would be disgusted by my actions.'

Worst part of it all was that he didn't even hate his enemies.

Oh, there was a time when he did. A time when he used to despise and singled out any enemy who killed too many of his shinobi. Sometimes even at the risk of his own life.

Hell, he'd gone far enough to make a secret alliance with the other major

villages in order to wipe out the Senju from the battlefield. And once most of them have been wiped out, he made yet another alliance to do the same to the Uzumaki.

But by this point, the embers of his rage had long since burned out. And when he looked at his enemies, his own face stared back at him.

They didn't choose this war. They were not some evil monsters trying to kill his people. They were the same as his own people. Fighting a war they didn't want. Hoping to survive yet another battle and return safely to their families.

But all the same, he couldn't let there be another Madara Uchiha in the world.

And so off they went to war.

He stared at the map once again, contemplating his next strategic move.

He was tempted to push into the Land of Fire. Deeper and deeper until they'd forced that accursed brat out so they could take his head.

However, the leader of the enemy army was none other than Sarutobi Hiruzen. The former Hokage of Konoha. One of the most dangerous shinobi in all of Elemental Nations and the only man he had ever regarded as his equal.

Rushing a war against the likes of Sarutobi Hiruzen would be tantamount to leading his men into a futile slaughter.

Knock Knock

His contemplation was interrupted by a knock on the door, and judging by the sound, it was his secretary. They'd worked together for long enough that he was able to recognise her by her footsteps and knocks.

"Come in." He said, his eyes not leaving the map for an instant.

His secretary came in and stood beside him before clearing her throat.

She only skipped the customary wait when the information was

exceptionally critical. Thus, he raised his eyes to her, and the somber, defeated expression on her face caused his heart to plummet.

"There's news from Kiri," she informed him, prompting his mind to conjure the most dire scenarios.

Kiri would never ally with Konoha. That was not his fear. What he feared was the possibility that Kiri might abstain from engaging in this war.

Kumo and Iwa were powerful villages. But even working together, it might not be enough to defeat Konoha. Not when Konoha had a large number of S-class shinobi, and an extensive network of allies.

Even now, he received daily updates from his spies in Suna. Additionally, a regiment of shinobi guarded their Southern borders in case Suna chose to align with Konoha in the ongoing war.

Kiri was weak enough that even them joining the war, victory wasn't guaranteed. But their chances would definitely rise by a fair amount.

Especially now, when the Uchiha clan have decided to hash out a veritable army of Elite Jounins out of nowhere and were slaughtering the Kumo army with impunity.

The war had only just started and Kumo was already losing men by the hundreds every single day. And he himself was too wary to commit too many men, or advance too aggressively.

Having Kiri join them would finally turn the war to their favour. But now, he had a bad feeling that things would not go as they'd planned.

"Kiri was destroyed." His secretary said and for a moment, he wondered if he has started to hear things in his old age.

"What?"

"Kiri was destroyed. Not completely but to the point where they'll not be taking part in this war." His secretary said, loud and clear.

He collapsed into his seat, all fight leaving him for that instant.

He would never show such a weak side to anyone else in the village. He was the Tsuchikage, after all. Their bastion of strength. He was the pillar who held the village in place when all else seemed to be crumbling around them.

But he'd worked together with his secretary for a long time. And she'd seen him through all his highs and lows.

And this was undoubtedly a low point. The only comparable instance was when the Yellow Butcher of Konoha decimated an entire regiment of Jounins on the battlefield, forcing him to conclude the 3rd Shinobi War in complete defeat.

And now...

"How?" He asked, his voice barely audible to his own ears.

"Konoha launched a surprise attack on Kiri during the night. It seems like The Yellow Butcher brought an elite company of shinobi to their borders, launched a devastating attack and then retreated before the battle could turn against them."

"And what were the Kiri shinobi doing? Were they just sleeping when Konoha attacked and slaughtered all of them?" He asked bitterly.

Kiri might be weak, but they had a group of S-class shinobi of their own. While none of them were powerful enough to contend with the likes of him, Hiruzen or the Yellow Butcher, they were powerful in their own right.

So how did this happen?

"Konoha deployed the Yellow Butcher, the 9 tails Jinchuriki, the Snake Sannin, Wicked Eye Fugaku, former member of the Seven Swordsmen-Ringo Ameyuri and an unknown S-class Anbu in the battle along with about two dozen Elite Jounin." His secretary reported. "From the reports our spy sent us, over half of Kiri's shinobi population along with all its S-

class and Elite Jounin were killed in this attack."

His face fell further. "Not even a single person to take the mantle of the next Mizukage?"

"There is still the 6 tails Jinchuriki who was out of the village during this attack. And one of the Rogue Swordsmen might return now that the village is in such dire straits. But aside from that, no."

He rubbed his forehead and held back the urge to laugh at this utter madness.

Kiri. One of the 5 great shinobi villages. Defeated. In a single night.

It reminded him back when Iwa, Kumo and Kiri allied together to attack Uzushioakure. The home of the Uzumaki.

He could still vividly recall the carnage that ensued in that battle, where the members of the Uzumaki clan, vastly outnumbered at 20 to 1, valiantly fought until their last breath.

Not even half of their army returned from that battlefield. With Kiri losing of both its Jinchuriki in that battle, and Kumo losing its 2nd Tailed Jinchuriki.

And this was when they took the Uzumaki clan by complete surprise. He shuddered to think how that battle would've gone if the Uzumaki had the chance to prepare for their attack.

And now, a major village has been wiped out in a similar manner.

"At least tell me that Konoha lost a few of their S-class shinobi in this battle?" He asked, clutching at straws at this point.

"We don't have a report on that. But from what our spy witnessed, the Konoha shinobi managed to retreat in good order after the battle."

"And we do not have any spies in Konoha to tell us the situation there."

He said with a subdued chuckle. "The 4th Hokage, along with all other shinobi sent to this battle might be dead now, and we would have no way

of knowing."

Not that he believed that such a thing would happen. The 4th Hokage, with his Hiraishin Jutsu, was nigh unkillable in the battlefield. The same went for Orochimaru. And while information on the 9 tails Jinchuriki was sparse, Jichuriki don't tend to die easily. And the 9 tails is the strongest of all the Tailed Beasts.

The only one he believed could've died in that battle were Fugaku, Ringo Ameyuri, and that unknown S-class Anbu. However, even all three of them they died, which he doubted, the war would not turn in their favour.

His secretary maintained silence in response to his despondency until he shifted his gaze in her direction. "Is there anything else I need to know?"

"No, Lord Tsuchikage."

"Then you're dismissed." He said as he rose from his chair. "Take the rest of the day off. And tell them that I won't be taking any visitors for the rest of the day"

His secretary looked like she wanted to say something but in the end, she simply nodded and left the room, leaving him to his own thoughts.

They had started this entire war in order to kill a child with the potential to become another Madara Uchiha. With the belief that if 3 of the Major villages worked together, then they might defeat Konoha at last.

But it seemed like the Yellow Butcher just added another achievement in his belt, by eliminating Kiri from the board.

Seriously. Who just goes into another shinobi village at night and slaughters their entire high ups along with half their population.

He tried not to think about how they did just that, if not worse, with Uzushioakure.

If both Kumo and Iwa used all their resources and manpower, then there

was slight chance that they might win. What at what cost?

Would they even remain a major village by the end of this conflict. Or would they be weakened to the point that a minor village would be able to take that mantle for themselves.

And even if they won this war, there was no guarantee that they would succeed in killing that Uchiha boy.

For all they knew, the Hokage might send the boy away to be hidden away in some remote corner of the world. A place where the boy could train until adulthood, becoming the very monster they all dreaded, and then come and wreck bloody vengeance on both Iwa and Kumo.

Kiri, joining this war, had been his hope to turn things around. To end things quickly. And now that hope had vanished, reduced to nothing but dust.

'And now, is there a way to win this war. Or would I just have to continue sending young men and women to their deaths, hoping for a miracle.' He thought, knowing well enough that there was no answer waiting for him out there.

Ren Uchiha POV

He used Hiraishin and arrived at a campsite riddled with lifeless bodies. And in the midst of those corpses sat a girl, only a few years older than him, staring at the corpses of her friends in a near catatonic state.

He used Chakra Sense to make sure that there wasn't any other shinobi lurking around, and then used Shadow Clones to double check and then create a parameter around the campsite.

If his meeting with Mito had taught him anything, it was that his Chakra Sense was not infallible. So it's always better to have a second way of checking and securing his surroundings.

After making sure that everyone in the surrounding was truly dead and not merely pretending, he finally approached the Uchiha girl who knelt before the corpse of what he presumed was once a dear friend.

He pulled her into a hug, an action made easier by the fact that she was still kneeling. And then felt worried when she showed no reaction to his presence.

One of his Shadow Clones dissipated and sent memories detailing how the attack likely transpired, based on the evidence scattered across the campsite.

They were sleeping, and got attacked by enemies at dawn. The sentry got killed instantly but was able to make some noise to alert the others. That gave them enough time to fight but they were still too unprepared and both the Jounin and Chunin fell in short order.

And she would've died as well, if not for the four pointed shrunken shaped pattern now swirling in her eye.

Despite his his Hiraishin kunai to everyone he holds dear, why is it that he always arrives too late? Is this the same anguish Minato feels whenever he cannot rescue someone? The fastest individual in the Elemental Nations, yet always late when it truly matters.

"Shisui." He said but the girl remained unresponsive.

He patted her cheek but her eyes didn't leave the body of her deceased friend. Or was it something more?

He created another Shadow Clone who went around collecting the enemy and friendly corpses in two separate scrolls, along with all their belongings.

Only after the bodies of her teammates were securely sealed did Shisui display any response.

Tears trickled down her cheeks as she leaned into his embrace. Her body

began to tremble, and he gently tightened his arms around her.

"Yes, let it all out Shisui. Let it all out." He said and she finally burst into tears.

And despite the fact that she finally acquired the eyes he'd wished for her, and the fact that she was finally close to the Tier 6 mantle, he couldn't help but feel terrible about this whole ordeal.

Nagato POV

His opponent stood in front of him, his main body hiding inside yet another puppet, while the aftermath of their battlefield lay scattered around.

An entire army of puppet had been brought forth to fight him. And now, all of it was nothing more than scrap. Even his enemy's main weapon, the 3rd Kazekage, looked like it would fall apart at any moment now.

"Sasori. Would you accept your defeat and join us? Or do I have to kill you?" He asked in the voice of his deceased friend, his tone uncaring and unchanging.

"You're strong. I admit it." Sasori rasped out. "And those eyes. What are those eyes?"

"These, are the eyes of a god. If you're wise, you would kneel and pledge your service to me and my organisation."

"Akatsuki, yes? And what's the goal of your organisation?"

"Eternal peace, for the Elemental Nations."

Satori's puppet stared back at him for a long moment. "And how do you plan on accomplishing that?"

"You'll be informed of our plans when you join us. Now, make your choice."

"Heh. Choice. Do I even have that?"

"Yes. You can always refuse and die."

"Who else is in your organisation?"

"You'll learn when you join us."

Sasori was silent for another long moment before his puppet moved toward him and made a show of kneeling. "In that case, I pledge my loyalty to the Akatsuki."

He nodded, despite being well aware that Sasori would never truly be loyal to them and would backstab them at the first sign of weakness.

But that was the price of doing things this way.

They'd tried doing things peacefully. And that led to their entire organisation being wiped out. With him and Konan as the only survivor.

His friend dead at his own hands.

"Gather your puppet and come find me in Ame. Do not think or running."

He said and turned his back in another show of dominance before he had his Deva Path leave the battlefield.

"Did you succeed?" Konan asked, standing guard beside his true body and he nodded at her.

"He pledged his loyalty to us. Now, we see what his words are worth." He said and his friend nodded, using her Fuinjutsu seals to seal up all his Paths for their return back home.

"Very well then. Let's head back to Ame."

He sat on the balcony of the tallest tower of his village and stared at the metallic buildings all around him, a relic of a bygone era.

"I heard that you succeeded in gaining Sasori's allegiance." Madara's voice came from behind him and he nodded, not turning around to face the man.

Talking with Madara was always a risky prospect. Mostly because he still

didn't know the man's true strength and his motives. He doubted that the man was even Madara. But regardless, he was someone to be wary of until they found a way to negate his Intangibility.

"How many Akatsuki members are there now?" Madara asked, coming to stand beside him. Or more correctly, the Deva Path he was controlling.

"Seven." He replied. Himself, Konan, Pakura, Kakuzu, Juzo Biwa, Zetsu and lastly Sasori. Eight, if they counted Madara, which he didn't.

"We need three more then." Madara said and then a black swirl formed beside him. A moment later, a body dropped out of the swirl and landed beside him. "Here's one more then."

He stared at the body, his eyes showing him the robust Chakra System of this man. And despite all the heavy injuries in his body, the man was still breathing, proof of his great vitality.

"Who is he?" He asked.

"That's Fuji Kaguya. The leader of the now destroyed Kaguya clan. An S-class shinobi, thanks to his powerful bloodline." Madara said. "Unruly though. Do not expect him to submit until you've defeated him half a dozen times. Brutally. And even then, be wary of his bloodlust and violent tendencies."

He nodded. "Anything else."

"Kiri village has been all but destroyed by Konoha."

"I'm aware of that."

"Suna has yet to take part in this war, but they're a weak village to begin with. And the other three villages are warring with each other."

"Are you going somewhere with this?" He asked.

"Our enemies are as weak and distracted as they'll ever be. It's time we begin with the plan."

He shifted his gaze to Madara and the man stared back at him. Their

stare off lasted for a long moment before he got up and carried the limp form of Fuji Kaguya with him.

"Very well." He said as he left the balcony. "We'll start with the 1st tail and then move up from there."

AN: In canon, Akatsuki waited that long because the 3 tails died with Yagura and took years to reform. But 3 tails is still alive in this world. All other Tailed beasts are also accounted for, plus the major villages are currently at war with each other. This is as good a chance as any for the Akatsuki to gather the Tailed Beasts.

We see things from the perspective of Onoki. How he feels about this war and how the destruction of Kiri will impact him.

Aside from that, Shisui unlocks her Mangekyo Sharingan and gains Kotoamatsukami. And Sasori joins Akatsuki after being personally defeated by Pain.

That's it for this chapter. Hope you guys enjoyed reading it.

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Have a nice day.

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