

The First Legendary Beast Master #Chapter 21: Outside? No, Keep Working - Read The First Legendary Beast Master Chapter 21: Outside? No, Keep Working

Chapter 21: Outside? No, Keep Working

After the skills training with the mages finished, and they had all managed to drag themselves to lunch, exhausted but satisfied with their progression, Karl began to mentally prepare himself for the afternoon skills training.

Hawk was happily resting on the table with a chunk of roasted meat, but Karl could tell that the bird's mind had already wandered to the monster blood treated delicacies that had been stored in the taming space for him to snack on all afternoon while his leader learned how to fight.

"Do you think that they will let you go out with the newbie training patrols? I know that you're training alone, and on a different learning program than everyone else in the first year class, but we also heard the teacher talking today about how they might black badge you soon, and then you'll be able to lead a group into the woods.

The actual classes always have wilderness assignments, but they can't go without an awakened or stronger team leader, so most of the first years have to beg for favours from the upperclassmen, or wait until the teachers organize an outing." One of the girls asked.

She was also a black badged awakened mage, but looked older than many others in the misfit mages class, so she might be in her third year, not her second.

"I will have to ask Sergeant Rita about it. I didn't know that the others had to leave the academy grounds to do things in their first year, so it's all news to me. Other than the combat training class, where I don't actually spar with many of the other students because I'm physically strong and untrained, you guys are the only student interaction that I have." Karl explained.

"Oh, that makes sense. This early in the year, you wouldn't be doing much of anything but learning the basics. It's mostly the alchemists, druids, garden witches and such that have to go outside into nature to train. Their skill set requires it." The mage agreed.

"Yeah, and the more esoteric mages often don't leave the library for more than an hour or two a day for their entire time at the academy. They just learn as much as they can about spells, and then never actually use them for anything. I should have worked harder to be one of them, it would be less exhausting." One of the boys added.

"If you can, you definitely want to go outside, though. There are all sorts of good things out there, especially for a meat lover like Hawk, and you'll get extra credit for leading the group, which you can spend at the supply room."

Sergeant Rita's voice came from behind Karl. "Are you lot trying to steal away my student? He's got a long way to go before he's ready to go out into the wilderness unaccompanied."

The Mages laughed and everyone pointed at the bird on the table.

"Did you know that the Windspeed Hawk can use [Wind Barrier]? With that and Rend, it's already tougher than most of us. Plus, it's a magical beast, and there's still a whole Karl to go with it." One of the mages explained.

Rita gave the mages a stern look that said she wasn't going to be changing her mind on Karl going on wilderness outings, no matter whether he got the black badge or not.

"Your plates are empty, and Hawk has finished basking in the attention, so pack him away and get to the training class. We will be testing your memory today." Rita ordered, then left Karl to clean up and follow behind her.

"Looks like the mention of going outside got her upset. I'll see you all tomorrow." Karl laughed as he transferred Hawk back into the Taming Space.

He could do that from a distance, but he wasn't sure just how far it worked from, as he hadn't tried it from more than across the room. That was another skill that he would have to practice with Hawk eventually, once their bond and bodies were strong enough that they could operate individually and didn't have to rely on each other for everything.

Well, maybe they wouldn't wait on the bodies to get stronger, Windspeed Hawks were better known for their skills than their durability, but the sentiment was the same.

Karl jogged down to the training area, where Sergeant Rita was waiting for him with a few older students, and the regular class was just beginning to assemble in the locker room to get changed.

"Give me two minutes and I will be back out." He called as he saw the Sergeant already changed and waiting.

"Bare feet and shorts, shirt optional." One of the older students called back.

That was the normal sort of training outfit for the mixed martial arts class, so Karl didn't think much of it as he got ready and came back out.

"Not bad, still young but a good bit of muscle mass, lean and solid." One of the older students noted when Karl returned without a shirt. It would just get in the way while

sparring, so he was carrying it with his towel and water bottle, both sourced from the shelves in the changing room along with the training outfit.

Rita looked over Karl and the training group. "Alright, first we will start with a quick sparring session to see how much of your training you actually managed to remember. I remember giving you some resources that will help you retain knowledge, so I have high expectations."

Karl couldn't tell how strong these students were supposed to be when everyone was in training outfits, but the boy he was paired up with was only a little larger than he was, and slightly more heavily muscled.

None of the students in this training class were pure bodybuilder physiques, it would interfere with their flexibility. That didn't mean much when there were supernatural abilities involved. Many of the Warrior Classes got strong physical enhancements as they practised, as good or better than the feedback that Karl got from Hawk.

"This will be a three-minute round. Now, start." Rita announced.

His opponent darted out a jab to test Karl's reaction speed, which he blocked while moving forward for a knee strike. Being smaller, it was to his advantage to get as close as he could, where the other boy's reach advantage didn't mean anything.

He had learned that yesterday while getting beaten up by Rita.

He only knew a few strikes, punches, knees and elbows, along with a few blocks, but hopefully, it would be enough to get him through the next three minutes.

The older boy aimed a strike at Karl's head, which he ducked under and punched toward the stomach.

This opponent was fast, nearly as fast as Rita, and he danced out of the way instead of blocking, which allowed him to move out of Karl's punching range. It put Karl on the defensive as the boy counterattacked, but either he was weaker than Rita or he was holding back, and he didn't manage to land a solid hit for the next minute as Karl threw a few kicks and tried to get back in close again.

It wasn't working, the boy had figured out the trick to keeping Karl away with knee strikes, and the two were at an impasse when the round ended.

"Not bad. But neither of you could land a hit to save your lives." Rita admonished them.

"He's short, and stupidly fast. If you want someone who can beat him up in a sparring match, ask the Monk Classes, not me." The boy complained.

Chapter 22: Situational Awareness

After two hours and a dozen opponents, Rita finally stopped calling more people to the ring.

"Alright, I have the combat data that I need. It looks like Karl here has a pretty good memory and instinct for someone who has clearly never won a fight before in his life. That's good enough for us to get started on the next round of instruction." She announced.

"The next round? What exactly are we going to have to do next? I'm already struggling to win a fight here unarmed, I'm not sure that throwing more knowledge at me is going to help." Karl asked.

Rita laughed at Karl's concern. "No, we're not going to force you to learn even more in the next few days. Instead, what we will be doing is tying everything that you have learned into one practical lesson and then grinding it into your brain until it is impossible for you to forget it.

You need to be able to block attacks while fighting, and work with Hawk at the same time. Like a Mage that has been tasked with both offence and defence, you'll be working overtime, and you need to build your situational awareness."

Karl nodded like he understood, but Rita saw right through his subterfuge.

"What I mean is that you must be aware of where all threats are at all times, or either you or Hawk could get yourselves into a lot of trouble. You're not indestructible, and enemies will try to lay traps for you.

That means you can't let the Hawk act freely on instinct, they will know what to expect from that. You have to guide him while also protecting yourself and maintaining a solid offence so that you can fight your way out of trouble if it finds you." Rita explained.

"Well, that sounds like a lot of work, so it must be important. How am I going to do that?" Karl asked.

"Practical skills training class. You will have accuracy and speed training with the mages in the morning, martial arts training in the afternoon, and then an entire day of practical skills training every week.

Now, tomorrow is normally the odd day for most students, where they take their elective subjects instead of their core training. For you, that means practical skills. Then the day after is an off day, so catch up on rest and healing, and you'll be back with the mages on Monday morning."

At least there was still an off day.

"Now, you can call it an early day and go get something to eat. Tomorrow will be a long one, and the first time is always the hardest. But trust me, this class will be important for you, especially if you start collecting more Monsters on your side." Rita added, then walked away.

Karl wanted to argue that he could do perfectly well like the mages that he worked with, just doing theory for half the day and practical skills for the other half, but that didn't seem to be an option now that he had been singled out as having a unique skill.

The fact that he was currently one of the strongest freshmen briefly entered his mind, but as Karl hadn't actually interacted much with the other new students, his skills could only be compared to the second year students, where even the misfits of the class could probably take him in a fight.

It didn't feel all that impressive as a title.

When he showered, changed and finally got back to the student cafeteria for an early meal, there were a lot more students than usual hanging around, chatting and laughing. These were the other freshmen that Karl didn't usually see, who were still undergoing mostly theoretical training for the noncombat skills that they had awakened.

Unlike the scorched, frozen and bruised freshmen who would show up later, these looked surprisingly cheerful, though Karl could see that whatever they were doing was wearing them out, and they were mentally exhausted.

"Oh, it's the first through the field. Why don't you come and join us?" One of the girls asked as Karl stepped into line behind her.

"It looks like I already have a reputation." Karl laughed as more people turned to look at him.

A boy a few places in front of him nodded. "They use your group as the example of what sort of courage and caution we are supposed to have. You all managed to make it all the way without any issues, other than the ones caused by other groups that weren't as good.

The teachers want to make sure that we all know it too, and the others from your group, Dana, James, and Kruger are already living the celebrity life in class. Well, mostly James and Kruger, since Dana disappeared into the Library to do her mage training on the first day and doesn't really come out much."

The girl who had greeted Karl laughed. "That's because she wants to find a way to reduce the casting cost of her magic until she can use it for a whole fight. I told her that it's not realistic, mages are burst damage sorts, blast it hard and hope it dies, but she's bent on being able to fight for longer without switching to area effects, which don't work well in a group."

Karl shrugged. "We've all got our own style, I guess. But being able to work in a group is important as well. I heard that later in the year everyone gets a chance to go out on missions for extra credit, and that is normally done in a larger group with one of the seniors."

The students in line all nodded eagerly as the girl replied. "We're looking forward to it. The extra credit isn't about marks in class, it can get you all sorts of special privileges. Well, it can get us all sorts, but I heard that you already have an assigned tutor and customized classes, so you don't need to worry about the two biggest ones that everyone wants."

"It's not all sunshine and rainbows. A full-time tutor means full-time customized classes on their schedule, not yours. I would love to be able to slack off." Karl laughed.

The students around him snorted in amusement. "Even without them, the teachers are right on top of anyone who tries to slack. It's like they know the instant that you're not working as hard as you could be, and they're trained to jump on you and make you catch up. The pure amount of homework that we all got the first few days because we treated class like school was insane."