

Wizard: Starting With the Knights Breathing Method #Chapter 1: Practicing for Two and a Half Years [Fully-Levelled Archery] - Read Wizard: Starting With the Knights Breathing Method Chapter 1: Practicing for Two and a Half Years [Fully-Levelled Archery]

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In the year 1003 of the Holy Calendar, in the month of the Northern Winds (November).

Emerald Kingdom, Black Mountain Province, Lake County, Blackwater Valley

The river valley plain was covered in silver, and smoke curled up the air amidst the plains. Some small wooden houses were scattered here and there.

On higher ground, a not-so-majestic castle was built against the mountain. The collapsed towers and battlements tell you a tale of the downfall of the castle's owner.

On the hillside outside the castle, in the haystack covered with ice and snow, a rabbit sought food while keeping on guard against its predators.

Seventy meters away, a young man in a white leather jacket and velvet cap hid behind a tree. His brown boots dug into the snow, but he was well camouflaged with his clothes.

He drew out his bow; it was clear that it was no ordinary hunting bow but a bow used in military battles.

Accompanied by the sound of the arrow piercing the air, the rabbit fell to the ground instantly, the arrow piercing through its head, dyeing the snow a scarlet red.

[Archery Proficiency +1]

[Archery: Level 1 (9999/10000) Level 1 (Max)]

Rabbit meat

Levi licked his lips as he opened his proficiency panel.

Levi Snyder

Archery: Level 1 (Max)

Riding: Level 1 (Max)

Aristocratic Dance: Level 1 (Max)

Hand-to-hand Combat: Level 1 (Max)

Basic Swordsmanship: Level 1 (Max)

Looking at the proficiency panel in his mind, the corner of Levi's mouth raised.

Finally, my archery has reached its limit. Any prey that I target might as well be dead as soon as I lay my eyes on them. I could have been considered a Proficient Archer back then. To think that I was just a knight back then.

In two and a half years, I have mastered the five basic skills that knights need to master: riding, archery, dancing, fighting, and swordsmanship. This should be enough for me to begin my breathing method.

Only by learning the breathing method can one become a real knight. In this world, where natural disasters and man-made disasters continue to erupt, even the strong get preyed on by supernatural powers.

After all, the original owner of this body was killed by an [Evil Spirit].

Levi is not a native of this world.

Three years ago, in the first millennium of the Holy Calendar, the time traveller awoke to find himself in a noble's body, and the proficiency panel was his saving grace.

Judging from his old memories, when the body's original owner was fishing in the Blackwater River, he caught a female corpse in white with empty holes for eyes and dishevelled hair. Her skin was bloated with water, and she could only be an evil spirit that was described in legend—the Water Fairy.

Then, his original owner fell into darkness, and Levi overtook this body.

Knight Fred soon found him by the river bank, wet and unconscious. He was surrounded by a mass of foul-smelling plants and rotten fish, chanting, 'I'm not in the air force and other inexplicable words that he spoke in his dream.'

Knight Fred thought he was angry that he couldn't catch any fish.

Naturally, Levi didn't mention this to anyone. It would be difficult to explain how he was still alive despite that encounter with the evil spirit.

But that evil spirit left a shadow on him, and now he doesn't dare to even step foot near Blackwater River.

In fact, evil spirits are regarded as legends, and most people have never seen them.

Just like the legends that speak of wizards who could control the four elements—wind, lightning, earth, and fire—but, of course, no one has ever seen them.

Even the well-informed Knight Fred assured that wizards were just things of legend.

Wizardry—what a noble and mysterious profession. No matter how strong a knight is, they are no match for a wizard.

Levi yearned for it, knowing that most legends are not without reason. After seeing an evil spirit, he was sure that there were wizards in this world and that they weren't just a subject for bards to sing about.

However, with his abilities, he knows it's useless to pursue becoming a wizard. He had to keep his feet on the ground.

Since he was ten years old, he has been training on his five knightly skills. Now, with the help of his panel, in less than three years, he has practised all five skills to the maximum.

Levi was confident that most of the knights, even Knight Fred, were no match for him, especially in terms of archery.

Levi was now 12 and stood 1.75 meters tall. His back bulked with muscle, which contrasted with his childish face.

In this world, most men could never hope to become as strong as Levi.

Traditional weapons are king; a strong body is required to carry heavy weapons and armour into battle.

Now, he was ready to begin the breathing method.

This breathing method is dangerous; you will damage your body if you aren't strong enough. You might even damage your mind.

This is why knights were required to complete all five knightly skills before they could begin the breathing method.

Levi smiled as he picked up the rabbit and turned around to go home.

Below the hillside, a middle-aged knight with silver hair looked at Levi with a smile on his face and said, in a very gratified tone, 'If the master was still here, he would be elated to see how far you came with your archery.'

This was Knight Fred, who was called the Snake Knight by his enemies as well as followers alike. The Baron told Levi that he was someone he could absolutely trust.

This was true. Levi remembered that the Baron spent more time with him than himself.

To a certain extent, the master-servant relationship that they had was closer than the blood relationship that the Baron and Levi had.

Your Excellency, you praise me too much. I have yet to do anything great; I wish to begin my breathing method as soon as possible so that I can become a real knight. The winter is coming, and long nights await us. Other knights of thieves may soon invade our territory and threaten us. I simply cannot live under your protection for the rest of my life. After my father died, we lost the Land of Tulips in the South, which was like spring all year round, and the Land of Storms in the East, which was rich in minerals. This is our last home as the remaining bloodline of the family and for the sake of the Snyder family, I must become stronger!

Despite this, he looked unwilling, clenching his hands into fists.

A black snake holding a candle was the family emblem of the Snyder family. Hence, they were also known as the Family of Black Snakes.

His father, Baron Thord Snyder, was known as one of the Seven Hussars of the North. He was also known as the Earl of the Land of Tulips and the Lord of the Land of Storms.

Compared to the sullen Blackwater Valley, the Land of Tulips and the Land of Storms were much more prosperous.

Levi was born in the Flowering City of the Land of Tulips; the climate was humid, and the plains were open and fertile.

Although the Land of Storms was, as its name suggests, stormy, it was extremely rich in minerals.

This was the peak of the Black Snakes; having five thousand soldiers under his command was no easy feat.

The Baron himself was a Great Knight, so he had power over all the regular knights.

Only the rare Legendary Knights, like [Lionheart Knight Ryan], [Golden Knight Greck], [Blood Knight Brad], [Winter Knight Fryer], and other legendary figures, surpass the Great Knights.

Holding this peak position, they were at the top of the pyramid.

Until three years ago, the Baron was recruited by the Emerald Kingdom and the Holy Church for the Millennium War against the Tuva Empire by the sea.

He never returned.

All Levi got was news that his father had perished in battle.

By law, titles are hereditary, and all three territories of the Baron were inherited by Levi. However, it needs to be formalized by a special envoy sent by the King.

Soon, at least in name, Levi became the new Baron.

Considering the situation at the time, Levi took the initiative to return to Blackwater Valley, where Baron Thord made his fortune. This was managed by Knight Fred.

The Bloody Earl and the Silver Earl, who had coveted their fathers territory, took over the Land of Tulips and the Land of Storms with the help of their master behind the scenes, the Duke of Montenegro, and the Kingdom turned a blind eye to this.

Levi voluntarily gave up the two lands and dedicated them to the Duke of Montenegro to avoid any conflict. This made the Duke very satisfied. However, in Levis view, this wasnt a surrender but a strategic move; if he were to stay in the Land of Tulips or move to the Land of Storms, it would be tantamount to suicide, knowing that he lacked the status of a Great Knight to guide his army to victory.

I have a proficiency panel, so I may as well return to safety and become a fallen noble.

Besides, he didnt enjoy being king anyways. All he wanted to do was cultivate himself perhaps become a Great Knight or even a Legendary Knight. One day, he could become a Wizard.

After all, from what he had discovered, Wizards are capable of achieving immortality, and only Wizards can fearlessly venture through the lands without worrying about demons and ghosts.

However, he still had to act for his fathers sake.

Therefore, his plans were clear: learn the breathing method, become an official knight, earn some money in his own practice, and, after becoming strong enough, travel to the Seven Kingdoms and embark on a journey to look for wizards.

Meanwhile, Knight Fred listened to Levis bold announcement and smiled, Baron Levi, my master, you are indeed ready. Come with me.

Chapter 2: The [Black Snake with a Candle] and [The Mad Knight]

In the basement of the castle

An underground, secret room that Levi had never visited.

The mechanism that activated the secret room slowly protruded from the ground.

A worn-out parchment that had withstood the test of time lay quietly, with scarlet paint painted on it in a variety of scribbles and incisions that formed a circle.

On the periphery of these scribbles was a snake with black scales that seemed to surround the entire castle. The giant snake was abstract, and a simple candle stood on its jaw.

This is the ancestral breathing method of the Snyder family, also known as the Black Snake Breathing Method. The Snyder blood flowing in you is the key to all of this. I'm afraid that this breathing method alone is more precious than this entire valley, Knight Fred explained solemnly.

Levi breathed heavily. His journey was about to begin.

As far as he knew, the knights divided the breathing method into four grades: superficial, excellent, perfect, and legendary.

90% of breathing methods are superficial.

This is because of luck, and nobody can ever control their fate. To become a Great Knight, you need 90% talent, 9% opportunity, and 1% effort. This is categorized as excellent breathing.

Perfect breathing is only possessed by powerful families, like the Duke. They are all quite rare.

As for legendary breathing, it almost only exists in legends.

One of the important characteristics concerning breathing grading above excellent is that most of it are inherited through blood, and the Black Snake Breathing Method is a method that belonged exclusively to the Snyder family.

Some tried to steal this inherited type of breathing. What was the result? Their breathing degraded to superficial, or the blood vessels in their body burst due to madness.

Some say that this is a curse to prevent them from stealing.

Levi wasn't worried about this. After all, he had Snyder blood in him.

Under the guidance of Knight Fred, he practised it in the secret room for about half a month.

During this period, Knight Fred stood by his side. Although he didn't know how to breathe like a Black Snake, he had a lot of experience and guided Levi.

One day, Levi woke up with a strange posture. He was sweating profusely, and his veins were bulging. His face was flushed red, and he found himself short of breath.

He felt that his blood was boiling, circulating at an extraordinary speed. The energy in his body was being burnt, and extreme hunger washed over him.

Hhungry

Like a beast, he growled lowly.

When Knight Fred saw this, he had already prepared a plate of barbecued meat, a bowl of goats milk, and a large portion of bread rolls, which were all slathered with a layer of fruit jam, as well as boiled cabbage.

This included carbs, protein, and vitamins. Nobles in this world rarely eat vegetables, thinking that they are low-grade foods. But Levi knew the importance of a balanced diet.

He inhaled the food like a storm, and soon his hunger disappeared.

Even though he ate a meal meant for two fully grown men, he was only 80% full.

Meanwhile, the proficiency pane was in his mind:

Levi Snyder

Black Snake Breathing Method: Level 1 (1/1000)

Once a skill appears on the proficiency panel, it means that it has begun.

The next thing to do is to improve.

At the same time, it also meant that he was becoming a knight's attendant.

A Shield Squire, a Sword Squire, and a Quasi-Knight.

These are the three stages of apprenticeship before one becomes an official knight, known as the Knight Attendant.

As a Shield Squire, you need to learn how to use a shield. As a Sword Squire with advanced swordsmanship, once the breathing method, as well as external techniques,

have become attuned, you will become a Quasi-Knight. The next step would be to condense the Seed of Life.

If you succeed, you will become an invincible knight on the battlefield; if you fail, it will become challenging to become a knight.

It seems like our young master has begun the Black Snake Breathing Method. Although you are much slower than your father, you are stronger than most of us. You may feel very hungry, so prepare enough food in advance before practising, Knight Fred explained. Otherwise, this hunger will gnaw at your mind, and you will become like an animal, driven by your hunger, and you may even do something wild and depraved. This is how [the Mad Knight] has come to be, and they are all burnt at the stake by the Church.

Mad Knights were civilians who practised breathing methods to protect their families, to sustain themselves, or to live a life of superiority.

However, they walked upon the edge of madness time and time again, and yet, they would end up devouring their family, their closest ones.

Knight Fred closed his eyes upon mentioning the Mad Knights. He was a knight from a humble background, so he knows that feeling of madness well. Hence, he owed his life to the former Baron, who saved his life.

Chapter 3: [Secret Medicine] and [Black Qi]

Levi knew what Mad Knights were knights who tread on the edge of madness one too many times.

Feeling primitive hunger take over him, he was a little shocked and even doubted himself.

However, thinking of the terrifying evil spirits, the greedy and sinister nobles, and the endless war brought about between kingdoms he steeled his heart.

I will stay vigilant, Knight Fred. Thank you for the reminder.

Even then, Levi knew he needed to find a way to make money. Otherwise, this barren Blackwater Valley might not be enough to support the two of them, or worse, it might need to be cleansed by the Glorious Knights of the Church.

Fred nodded, Next, you need to wear armour daily, as well as hold a shield and carry out weight-bearing training. Then, you need to integrate your breathing method to ensure you won't be dragged down by your heavy armour. In addition, there is a formula for the secret Snyder medicine, so I suggest you write it down somewhere.

Levi nodded. To speed up his practice, medicines were often required.

The formula for the Snyder recipe wasn't complicated: 50 grams of snake blood, a snake gallbladder, 10 grams of turtle shell powder, 10 grams of plant ash, three pieces of mandrake petal, one drop of ambergris, one drop of liquid amber, and 100 millilitres of pure water.

All of these, except ambergris, were easy to find and inexpensive.

Snake blood and snake gallbladders had varying effects on the medicine.

As for ambergris, that might be a bit troublesome.

In his previous life, ambergris was found in the belly of a creature known as a sperm whale.

However, in this world, it comes from the glands in the mouth of a beast called the [Earth Dragon].

According to the bards of the kingdom, this is one of the most dangerous animals in the wilderness.

They are powerful and invulnerable; they love devouring shiny things like coins and gems.

Under normal circumstances, you have to kill it with the best weapons after a vigorous battle or have more than five knights trap it with poison and finish it with a large crossbow.

The Legendary Knight [Lionheart Knight Ryan] hunted an adult Earth Dragon before his promotion to a Legendary Knight.

This was a great feat; previously, three great knights had failed to kill an Earth Dragon, and a young Great Knight died because of it.

The Lionheart Knight succeeded and found a total of 8,000 gold coins and priceless jewels in the maw of the Earth Dragon.

Ambergris is often priceless in the market.

A small bottle of ambergris is worth one hundred gold coins, or five sets of high-quality knight armour, or twenty healthy, young, and middle-aged serfs, or one hundred well-fed cows, or

With Levi's current resources, he couldn't afford it.

I don't need the medicine yet.

In the following time, Levi started to experience growth step by step, and none of his journeys felt boring.

Knight Fred would introduce some basic theoretical knowledge of knights to Levi, which benefited him a lot.

A breathing method is a technique that adjusts the rhythm of breathing as well as stimulates the blood potential in a knight's body, thereby strengthening and improving their physique.

This improvement is far beyond normal exercise, so one must stuff themselves with food to cope with the use of energy.

Different breathing methods have different uses, too.

The Black Snake Breathing Method focuses on defence.

Once you have practised this method, you can start to try to condense the seeds of life to advance to a formal knight. Then, your physical fitness will be greatly improved, and you will have a greater ability to resist attacks than normal.

In addition, a light, black, fluid-like film will cover a knight's arms, making their skin and flesh tough and resistant.

Although it was not invulnerable to swords and guns, it was not bad.

This film was generally known as Black Qi by the Knights, but the Church called it a sacred power, saying that the gods themselves bestowed protection upon the Knights.

In this era, the masterminds behind great kingdoms are often the church. Levi felt that the church was simply a front for money laundering. If the god of your church is so almighty, why is it not a priest who knows of magic guarding the church, but Glorious Knights instead?

In short, Black Qi is something that appears in tandem with breathing methods.

If a breathing method were to focus on agility, Black Qi might cover their legs, allowing the knight to have increased agility.

This is the power of the breathing method. Once a knight becomes a Great Knight, this black air will cover his entire body, strengthening him.

Except for a few places, such as the eyes, the Great Knight would be invulnerable like an Earth Dragon.

They are practically gods on a battlefield, being immovable forces and unstoppable objects.

Therefore, Levi never believed in the nonsense that his father had perished in battle.

His father was practically a god, so how could he die on the battlefield? With his strength, he could easily run away, too, if the battle were to turn sour.

A Legendary Knight being dispatched is a possibility, but they have a mind of their own. Even the kingdom and the church have trouble ordering them around.

Hence, he concluded that his fathers death was a conspiracy by the church.

Therefore, to keep himself safe, he decided to reside in Blackwater Valley.

Accumulate resources, build high walls, and become my own king.

He kept these values close to his heart. He didnt want to be king, but he wouldnt mind being a lord in his own right.

Chapter 4: Advanced Breathing Methods

[Black Snake Breathing Method +3]

[Black Snake Breathing Method +2]

[Black Snake Breathing Method: Level 1 (233/1000)]

Levi practiced his breathing method silently day by day.

Except for resting and eating, the rest of his time was spent practising.

The other servants rarely saw him in the castle. On the rare occasions they saw him, he would be twisting his body strangely or wearing heavy armour and holding a shield, constantly defending against Knight Freds attacks.

I feel ashamedour lord is young, but he puts in the effort to push himself forward.

What? Hes still training? Id better work extra so that the lord may give me an extra piece of food the next morning.

However, no matter how hard they worked, they could never get his attention. After all, Levi worked tirelessly.

Seeing his efforts, Knight Fred was very pleased. He took care of trivial matters in the castle so as not to disturb his master.

However, some disputes required Levi to judge fairly. Since he was a lawyer in his past life, this was the only remnant of his past life left in him.

Soon, the Coldest Winter Month (December) fell upon them.

This means that the cold winds will only grow more violent, as will the snowstorms.

Many serfs dilapidated wooden houses had been in disrepair for a long time, and they were completely destroyed by the wind and snow.

Levi ordered Knight Fred to house these serfs in the castle and provide them with employment. Women would serve Levi as maids, taking care of their daily lives.

The men were incorporated into the military so that the number of men under his command reached an unprecedented level.

fifty.

They were all led by Knight Fred, who taught them basic combat skills. After training, they would repair the castle and did the heavy lifting, as well as grazing and farming.

The elderly and children would perform menial tasks. Everyone would get their share of food: a piece of bread and a bowl of red bean soup.

The bread was stale but delicious nonetheless.

Levi and Knight Fred themselves were unable to eat any higher-quality bread due to the productivity of Blackwater Valley. This is because they had to eat way more than the average person to cope with their status as knights.

Levi's daily food intake had increased by five or eight times that of a normal person, while Knight Fred required three times that of a normal person.

Levi's generosity made the serfs very grateful, but he was too busy focusing on his breathing method.

Seeing the visible improvement in his body day by day, he felt a sense of accomplishment.

Of course, he was always on guard against the arrival of other knights or bandits that wandered across kingdoms.

After all, Levi was a good target for robbery.

With Knight Fred around, Levi didn't have to worry about ordinary foreign enemies.

Although Knight Fred was out of business for some time, his title as the Snake Knight still served as a deterrent in the surrounding lands.

In addition, Levi would observe Knight Freds training of the military from time to time. Their progress could clearly be seen under his guidance. Levi nodded in satisfactionthey would be an important asset in the future.

To be honest, the population of Levis current territory was pitiful.

After all, he came here with nothing.

Soon, the winter months passed, and it was 1004 in the Holy Calendar, the first day of the Primordial Month (January).

Today was the birthday of the Father in Heaven.

Coincidentally, it was Levis birthday.

Levi Snyder is now thirteen years old.

The Blackwater Valley was still cold and bleak. Levi had just finished his weird and twisted breathing method and stretched his 1.8-meter-tall body. He stood on the second floor of the castle in a domineering pose, his hand on his hip and another hand looking outward, staring at the residents below.

He radiated a gloomy aura like that of a snakecold and calculating. His muscles were full and round, with visible lines of abs that pressed against his tunic. He was like a perfect, ancient Greek statue.

Seeing Levi, the serfs couldnt help but sigh, Hes just thirteen?

Looking up at the light snow, he felt comfortable.

New year, new weather. The castle was soon decorated with lights and festive decorations. The maids ran across the halls busily as they giggled, preparing the lords birthday dinner.

The soldiers also had a rare drink of spirit and chatted happily with Knight Fred. They thanked the Knight and the Lord for their generosity and sent New Years and birthday wishes to the Lord.

The other serfs bestowed ham, cheese, dried fruit, and wine to express their gratitude to Levi.

Compared with the other greedy, lowly lords of the world, Levi still held an incredibly modern attitude and respected his people.

Therefore, although the serfs were poor, they were satisfied.

Here, they felt human. Here, they felt safe under Knight Fred's protection.

Of course, Levi was in a good mood, but not because of the celebrations.

After two months of non-stop training, he finally broke through to the second level.

Chapter 5: [Swordsman Dawn] and [Wild Boar Rider]

Levi Snyder

Black Snake Breathing Method: Level 2 (1/5000)

Shield: Level 1 (Max)

It may be because Levi's foundations were so good, and Knight Fred was guiding him along the way.

Reaching the second level was far simpler than he had imagined.

As for his shielding ability, he only practised it to his limit, and it was far less difficult than archery or basic swordsmanship.

Today, he has entered the second stage of King Attendance: the Sword Squire.

Then, his third step would be to become a Quasi-Knight.

A full 5,000 proficiency points were required, so he estimated that it would take at least half a year to become one.

Having practised his breathing method almost daily, he needed to rest his body and mind. Otherwise, he may go insane.

Now that he was a Sword Squire, his physique must be twice that of a normal man. With his bare hands, he could easily beat five adult men in hand-to-hand combat.

However, he lacked actual combat skills.

Another important skill of Sword Squires is swordsmanship, as well as combat skills with other weapons.

Knights rarely fight with fists; with the existence of weapons, it would be stupid to fight with fists and feet.

To learn swordsmanship, he would have to ask Knight Fred. After all, his father admitted that Knight Fred was way better than him in terms of that.

In the earlier days, while Knight Fred travelled the Kingdom, he was known as the Swordsman Dawn.

What a handsome name!

However, there was no rush. Today was the New Year, and Levi wanted to give himself a day off and enjoy the richness of nobility.

At the banquet, Levi sat at the Lords seat, and Knight Fred sat beside him.

No other nobles were present; it was a cold winter, and most roads were blocked by heavy snow. Besides, the valley was in a remote place. Although lands such as the Land of Rocks, the Land of Frosted Winds, and the Land of the Silver Moon were in close proximity, they were too far away.

Only in the summer would business exchanges take place.

In short, the barons in Blackwater Valley were all miserable. That is why Levis father was so legendaryhe started from nothing before becoming the lord of three fertile lands.

Levi didnt like dealing with other lords. It was best for everyone to just co-exist peacefully with no strings attached.

The outermost part of the banquet was the serfs, who were shy and timid. They enjoyed the same food as the lord, but they kept themselves small in fear of making their lord angry.

At the same time, the serfs didnt expect their generous and mighty lord to be so young. He didnt look thirteen at all.

After drinking for three rounds, Levi ate on his own, enjoying his maids massaging his tired and worn-out muscles. The maids rubbed at Levis extremely thick and firm body, blushing unreasonably.

These maids were all young peasant girls who loved to gossip, but they were reserved in the presence of Levi.

Suddenly, a short and stout boy came to Levi and knelt on the ground with a plop. He placed a cloth bag in front of him. Levi knew he was the son of the old blacksmith, Toby, and his name was Milan.

Little Blacksmith, Milan. What is it that you seek? Levi asked.

Milan opened the cloth bag, and inside was a sword that shone with a cold light.

My Lord, this is the best sword that I have made last year. I would like to dedicate it to you, he lowered his head and bestowed.

Oh! he exclaimed, taking the sword. The blade had few impurities and could be considered a sword of decent quality.

It is indeed a good sword, Levi praised, and he beckoned the boy to get up. Is your father still well?

Milan lowered his head and knelt down again, begging with sobs, My Lord, when my father and I were pulling ore on the mountain, we ran into some members of the Wild Boar Gang. I ran away, but my father was captured I have no choice but to seek your help.

Levi's face turned cold, The Wild Boar Gang? What I was most concerned about happened; don't worry, I'll deal with it. Go home and await the good news.

Because of this, Levi lost his good mood in an instant.

After the dinner, Knight Fred came to look for Levi and found that he had murder painted in his eyes.

The Wild Boar Gang kidnapped Toby, the blacksmith. Targeting my blacksmith? The absolute gall! he seethed. The leader of their gang is Pig, the Hog Rider. With my breathing method, they should mean nothing to me.