

Wizard: Starting With the Knights Breathing Method

Chapter 26: Seven Legends and Seven Cups of Wine

Nobody knows when the Shining Tavern started to emerge in the major cities of the Kingdom. Travellers from across the world would report on traces of the Shining Tavern in many other countries as well.

This is an organisation spread across the entire continent that foresaw underground transactions, entrustment, and other activities.

Of course, this is also a place where the rich come to have fun. Beautiful, gorgeous women and charming, masculine men from foreign lands would converge at this spot.

The worlds inside and outside the tavern are different.

Levi learned of the Shining Tavern from his father.

He wouldnt want to be in it even if he could.

However, now that there isnt any ambergris left in the market, he has no other choice.

A glass of Lion King Spirit for your worries.

Levi took out a gold coin and handed it to the burly man, who exuded the strength of a Knight.

Being able to employ a Knight to guard the door highlights the mystery behind the Shining Tavern.

An organisation that is detached from nobility, kingship, and even the theocratic authority of the church.

One gold coin could buy you many valuable things a cow, a sword, a holy prayer from the priest of the Church

But here, it is only worth an overpriced drink.

It is also the ticket to enter the tavern.

The burly man handed over a glass of wine that shone in a pale golden light.

Drink, and ye shall enter.

The Lion King Spirit is used to commemorate the Legendary Knight known as Knight Lionheart.

The Shining Tavern rotates seven kinds of wine over seven days, and all of them are priced at 1 gold coin:

The Lion King Spirit, Blood Wine, Brew of a Hundred Flowers, Snow Beer, Dark Rum, Golden Spirit, and Unknown.

Besides this, there is no other wine.

These seven wines are said to commemorate the seven deceased Legendary Knights.

Ryan, the Lionheart Knight

Brad, the Blood Knight

Irina, the Flower Knight

Fryer, the Winter Knight

Black, the Dark Knight

Greck, the Golden Knight

Anonymous, the Knight of a Thousand Faces

Nobody knew the real name of the final knight.

Many speculate that the mastermind behind the Shining Tavern was a Legendary Knight, which explains why it was capable of appearing all over the Seven Kingdoms and how it was able to open a black market under the noses of nobility and holiness.

Levi wasn't worried that the wine was poisoned, and he downed it in one go.

After drinking, he walked into the tavern, and the excitement and hustle and bustle washed over him.

The smell of overwhelming hormones and alcohol rushed into his nostrils.

At the bar, a coquettish lady drank the Brew of a Hundred Flowers alone. Levi guessed that she was the proprietress of the tavern.

In the tavern, many wore masks like Levi, but there were also many who boldly showed their true identity.

Rude men would tease the maids in the tavern, and the proprietress would step in and reprimand the men.

Those who dare to cross the staff of the Shining Tavern are often never heard of again.

Levi walked through the noisy crowd and came to a dome room with a unique cave behind the tavern.

This is where the black market is located; in front of the simple booths, people would sell their own goods with big wooden signs that displayed their items written in chalk.

The prices listed were subjective; the Shining Tavern is only responsible for providing a platform.

Of course, this would give birth to professions within the black market bounty hunters.

Many wandering knights would become bounty hunters to support themselves.

Levi walked around the market and stopped in front of a man who covered his whole body with armour.

A small, lonely black bottle stood on his table. Even with the lid on, the contents inside exuded a strange yet charming fragrance. This was the same fragrance that would tickle his nostrils whenever his father prepared the secret medicine when he was a child.

Ambergris.

200 gold coins, no bargain, the man in armour muttered. Levi could feel his powerful aura radiating off of him. Despite his dull appearance, his knightly aura shone as bright as a flame.

A bottle of ambergris has always been 100 gold coins Levi blurted out.

The man sneered, Funny. Run along to the official market and see if anyone accepts your offer. That damned White Horse Knight of the Royal Family has snagged all the ambergris for himself, destroying the market. 200 coins, nothing more, nothing less.

Levi gulped upon hearing this. The White Horse Knight is the shining pillar of the Emerald Royal Family, and hes the number one candidate in the Kingdom to become a Legendary Knight.

How many bottles do you have?

How many do you need? the man muttered.

Two. Two bottles. Levi now has 500 gold coins on him. He told himself that even if it was expensive, he still must buy it.

Two bottles should be enough for him to become a knight.

You aren't very strong, but you are rich. You must be the son of a noble, the man muttered.

Levi didn't reply.

Levi wordlessly took two bottles of ambergris and handed over 400 gold coins, which was equivalent to five years worth of income for his territory. He could feel his heart bleeding upon seeing the gold coins raining into the man's treasury.

Listen, kid, the man muttered softly. This is the cheapest I could give you. If I didn't need the money now, I would've sold it for 300 gold coins at the auction two days later. If you still need ambergris in the future you know where to find me.

The man disappeared into the crowd, and Levi still had more than 100 gold coins left on him. He plans to buy a blood-breathing technique and go home to see if he can practise two breathing methods at once.

After strolling around the black market, he didn't come across anyone selling it. He could only wait for the auction the day after tomorrow. This auction is known as the Shining Auction and is held at the Shining Tavern on the last day of every month.

And he knew that breathing methods were sold at auctions like these. When Levi was a child, he and his father participated in Shining Auctions in the Land of Tulips, and at that auction, an extremely rare breathing method was sold for a price of 5,000 gold coins!

Chapter 27: Geralt, the White Wolf

There was still time before the Shining Auction, so Levi found an open space to set up a stall.

There was no need to pay for the booth fee since it was accounted for in the glass of wine he drank.

The Shining Tavern is incomprehensibly rich, he thought as he placed the swords on the booth, feeling envious in his heart.

The Chamber of Commerce couldn't hold a light to the Shining Tavern. The Tavern seems to earn a hundred gold coins a day just from selling drinks.

Levi's father wanted a stake in the Shining Tavern, but even as a Great Knight, he was rejected. The Shining Tavern never seemed to accept new shareholders.

Excuse me, how much is this sword? A man who wore a white wolf mask asked.

Two gold coins and one silver coin. No bargains. Customizations and bulk purchases are accepted, and designs are required for your customization, Levi muttered.

Its a bit expensive, isnt it? the man replied as he left.

Levi wasnt in a hurry. He was very confident in the swords he made, and he thought that 2 gold coins was an affordable price.

Not long after, a stout but powerful knight stood in front of the booth. A large hammer hung from his waist, and he exuded an aura fit for a qualified knight. I heard you accepted custom designs of weapons and armour.

Levi raised his head, and his eyes widened under his mask. Another Knight? He seems stronger than the ambergris seller. He has a hammer hanging on his waist, so he must be practising a powerful breathing method.

Thats correct, Levi replied confidently. As long as you have the design, Ill be able to make it.

It seems that you are an excellent blacksmith, are you not? the Knight asked.

I guess.

Ill be taking these two swords, and Ill be looking forward to cooperating with you in the near future, the Knight smiled. The weapons and armour you forge will be sold to me first, and you cannot sell them to other lords or nobles. Im willing to pay a 20% markup of the current market price too.

He threw five gold coins on the booth, and Levi earned back the money for his drinks.

Alright. The location of the transaction is set at the Shining Tavern, Levi said, nodding.

If he were to trade outside, it would be easy to be taken advantage of.

However, at the Shining Tavern, nobody is allowed to cause trouble.

Heres to our business relationship, the Knight said, raising his glass. What shall I call you?

Geralt. Geralt, the White Wolf, Levi blurted out, remembering the name of a character from a game in his previous life.

Geralt, the Knight nodded. On the last day of every three months, we shall meet again at the Shining Tavern. Here are my designs.

By the way, the Knight muttered as he unravelled his design sketches. I wonder if the White Wolf is interested in joining a great organisation with unlimited prospects and a bright future

Absolutely not, Levi refused.

If you change your mind, I'll be here, the Knight smiled.

Levi watched as the Knight left, and he sighed in relief.

My monetary problem is solved now that Knight must be an ambitious Knight from a big territory. He must be planning something by wanting to recruit me for his party. What does that have to do with me? he wondered. My identity is obscured here, so I should be fine regardless.

Meanwhile

In a mansion in the City of Icy Winds, the Knight who had just finished his deal with Levi took off his iron helmet, revealing his scarred face and never-ending smile. He knelt down on the ground before an extremely large man with bulging muscles that breathed and exhaled white gas.

Vice President, the Knight bowed. I have found another good blacksmith, and we have begun our business cooperation.

Very good, Hog Rider. I am satisfied with your recent performance. The Lord of the Wilderness must be proud of your loyalty and hard work.

Standing up, the large man was 2.5 metres tall, and even the Hog Rider was petite before him.

I haven't been to headquarters in a while. Report to me on the conditions of equipment.

Our brotherhood has a total of 2,500 sets of armour and weapons and 1,000 mountain horses. Dozens of blacksmiths are working under us to create the equipment we need, and I am still looking for blacksmiths to recruit.

It is far from enough, the large man coughed. To subvert these greedy and hateful nobles, we need at least tens of thousands of fully armed cavalry and hundreds of formal knights to charge into battle!

I am but a step away from becoming a Great Knight, the large man said. The Brotherhood of the Wilderness would have two Great Knights by then, and we may act by then.

Congratulations, my Lord.

By the way, our deal with the Spirit of the Lamp was very good. With its help, I am practically unstoppable! However, I still need the Spirit of the Lamp to aid me in becoming a Great Knight, and I may have to trouble you on this matter. The man spoke as he produced a black jar from his arms

Chapter 28: [Frost Wolf's Breathing Method] and [Giant Bear's Breathing Method]

In the year 1006, on the last day of the Month of Vitality.

The Shining Auction will be held in the Shining Tavern as scheduled.

The proprietress of the Tavern was presiding over the auction. With her revealing attire, she became the centre of attention for the hungry eyes of men.

The auction began soon after.

Levi wore his white wolf mask and kept his head down, sitting in the last row of the auction.

With his remaining 100 gold coins, he should be able to buy at most one item at the auction. After all, those who come to the Shining Tavern are all rich Northerners.

There will be ten lots drawn in the monthly auction, which is run by the members of the Tavern.

According to Levis knowledge, one can become a Shining Tavern member by paying 100 gold coins, and the membership is valid for 5 years.

During this period of validity, members can enjoy free admission and free auction tickets.

Levi knew many of the members were rich beyond his imagination. For example, his own father, Baron Snyder, was a member himself. Its a pity that membership could not be inherited.

The first lot drawn was a Knights sword. With Levis knowledge of forging, the workmanship of the sword is sophisticated and intricate, far surpassing his own. Its simple and traditional, yet elegant in its own right.

This is the sword of a Great Knight of Vegekid a hundred years ago! It is a magical weapon crafted by the blacksmith Hagrid Amon. The starting bid is 10 gold coins, and each increasing bid must not be less than 5 gold coins!

Accompanied by the dazzling voice of the proprietress, the atmosphere of the audience was ignited.

The royal blacksmith, Hagrid? Wasnt he known as the Hammer of Flame? A knowledgeable blacksmith in the crowd exclaimed.

Levi was shocked. In the past year, he has also learnt about the history of forging within the Emerald Kingdom thanks to Milans collection of books. The fabled Hammer of Flame is most definitely a legendary blacksmith in his own right.

Essentially, blacksmiths arent divided into ranks like Knights, but people still divide them based on their fame and forging quality.

Levi can be considered a blacksmith apprentice, but with his prowess, he is now an advanced apprentice. To become a formal blacksmith, he has to build a complete set of armour.

A formal blacksmith, like Toby, Milans father, is skilled in crafting armour and weapons alike. Unfortunately, Toby was snatched away by the Wild Boar Gang, but Levi swears that hell snatch him back sooner or later.

Those who have reached the peak of forging are then recognised as Forging Masters by the nobles or Craftsmen by the Knights.

Forging Masters receive countless commissions daily, and there will be countless nobles begging them to build them a magic weapon. The status of a Forging Master is evidently very powerful.

In the end, this sword that was supposedly crafted by Hagrid, the Hammer of Flame, was bought by a rich nobleman for 100 gold coins.

No matter how good this sword was, it was not worth 100 gold coins.

Levi bit his lip. Once he becomes a Forging Master, wealth should no longer be an issue for him.

The second lot drawn was a set of armour made of the best iron found in the Rocky Mountains. It is said that a full thumbs worth of mithril has been infused into the armour. Hence, it is much more powerful but difficult to forge.

Mithril is a legendary material; it can only be produced where meteorites fall. According to Witch Gullveig, mithril is a material treasured by wizards and witches alike.

The armour was sold for 480 gold coins.

Really? That piece of garbage was sold for 480 gold coins? Levi murmured to himself. My set of armour is completely made of mithril. Its value can no longer be measured in gold coins.

Finally, the next lot drawn was a breathing technique.

The next item to be auctioned is sold in a bundle: the Frost Wolves Breathing Method and the Giant Bears Breathing Method, also known as the Stone Bears Breathing Method. Although these two breathing methods are of superficial quality, they still hold some collection value.

The proprietress tone was strangely dull as if she didnt want to spare any effort to sell these breathing methods.

Levis breath hitched. He didnt expect that his neighbours breathing methods would be auctioned off.

Perhaps their descendants have been reduced to selling their ancestral breathing method to make a living after the death of my father. However, these two breathing methods are superficial and blood-only

Other nobles and knights began to whisper in the crowd.

After half a ring, there were only scattered bids.

Finally, when Levi raised the price to 120 gold coins, nobody tried to outbid him.

And he successfully bought the two breathing methods with 120 gold coins.

He thought it was a reasonable price and hurriedly left the auction site once he got what he wanted. He changed into a new set of clothes and went to the Chamber of Commerce to buy all the other Black Snake medicines ingredients. As for the snake blood needed, he bought a basket of White Crystal Snakes, which is a unique snake found only in the chilly climates of the Northern Lands.

Levi also took his time visiting the libraries and bookstores of the City of Icy Winds. He bought everything that might be related to wizardry with a lot of money.

Night fell, and Levi disappeared from town at night. This time, he took a relatively remote mountain route. Apart from encountering some wolves, he didnt run into any bandits.

On the second day of the Month of Green Grass

The travel-worn Levi rushed back to Blackwater Valley, and Knight Fred, who was waiting in the castle, calmed down upon seeing his returning figure.

Chapter 29: The Black Snake Medicine

Master, youre back, Knight Fred said as he opened the city gate for Levi.

Nothing bad happened, right? Levi smiled as he saw Knight Fred.

No. Did it go well?

Yup.

Levi quickly returned to his room. During his trip, he had spent all of his gold coins, and overnight, he became a pauper once again.

However, he didnt come back empty-handed.

Two bottles of ambergris, two blood-only breathing methods, a long-term partnership, and miscellaneous books and scrolls

Levis trip has basically been fulfilled.

Now that everything is ready, only the secret medicine needs to be prepared.

Levi went to bed and had a soundless sleep.

The next day, the sun shone brightly over Blackwater Valley.

The preparation of medicine is not a technical job. All you need to do is mix it according to a fixed ratio and then knead it into small pills.

Levi successfully prepared two hundred pills.

If he makes any more, the effectiveness of the ambergris may be too diluted for it to be effective.

According to the formula, these two bottles of ambergris can be made into two hundred pills.

If he took one pill a day, it would be enough to last him the next six months.

Levi immediately swallowed a pill. While his food was being prepared, he couldnt wait to start practising his breathing method.

His journey has delayed his training by two days.

An hour later, Levi completed a breathing exercise.

[Black Snake Breathing Method +10]

My progression has increased by several times, he exclaimed. Too bad I can only take one pill a day.

Once he swallowed the pill, he felt as if a cold current was coursing through his veins, filling him with a sense of calm. With this blessing, he maintained a high degree of concentration throughout his training.

White smoke began to emit from his body, and he found that some impurities were being purged from it through the smoke.

Levi took advantage of this condition and started to practise his Golden Slash.

[Golden Slash Proficiency +3]

He didn't know if it was a placebo, but he felt stronger after taking the pill.

He practised the breathing method and Golden Slash several times and completed his training for today.

Then he took out the Frost Wolves and Giant Bears Breathing Method that he bought at the auction.

These breathing methods are both superficial and blood-only, so they are considered to have the lowest value of all the breathing methods.

Levi opened the inheritance scroll of the Giant Bears Breathing Method.

On the parchment, there is a pattern embedded in it, similar to his family's emblem. It was a bear that stood proudly over the land posed in several prominent boxing poses.

This is the Stone Bear family emblem.

Their breathing method focuses on strength, which is complementary to mine.

The Frost Wolves scroll was similar to the one before, embedded with the emblem of the Frost Wolf family.

And their breathing method focuses on agility. If I can learn both of these breathing methods, would I be unstoppable? he chuckled to himself.

Let's try integrating the Frost Wolves Breathing Method into my system, he said to himself. Agility is the most important thing in hand-to-hand combat, and I lack that.

His proficiency panel may seem mediocre at first, but the most powerful part of it is how easy it was to integrate extremely difficult things into it.

All Levi had to do was play his cards right.

Every single effort will be rewarded in numerical terms.

Practise for him is now a linear, continuous road, not a blind, trial-and-error experience.

Of course, breathing methods cannot be mastered in a day or two.

Although the breathing methods were superficial, it would take a while for him to grasp the concepts behind them.

He didnt want to spend all of his energy on this either; he had to begin studying the design sketches that the Knight had given him, and after three months, he had to deliver him a batch of goods.

Days passed, and Levis life was extremely fulfilling. In the castles yard, the three bear brothers grew up happily. With a huge amount of food being supplied to them, their bodies were expanding at a speed visible to the naked eye!

Soon, it was the third day of the Month of Flowers.

Levi learnt from Knight Fred that his two neighbours had sold their ancestral land in a successive manner, and the entire family moved to the Frozen City. It was said that the buyers of the land were the people running the Holy Church.

A church was to be built in the Land of the Silver Moon so that the Holy Light of the Loving Father could warm the hearts of this desolate place.

Levi cursed silently.

He always had a suspicion that the arrival of the Church would disrupt his peaceful life.

Chapter 30: Formal Blacksmith, and a Member of the Holy Church

Levi thought about it for a while if he didnt provoke the Church, then they should not do anything to him.

Its just that he was obliged to pay tithes and other taxes in the name of the Loving Father.

He couldnt avoid it either. The Church practically rules over the Emerald Kingdom.

If only I were a Great Knight, I would stay away from worldly disputes and look after myself, he sighed.

Or, perhaps, I could become a Legendary Knight and go against the laws of the Church. Who cares about paying taxes when your own strength is godlike?

Truly, Legendary Knights were like living gods.

If I cant become a wizard, Ill become a Legendary Knight

Soon, the Month of Flowers passed.

Judging from Knight Freds intel, the Church moved quickly.

As soon as his neighbours moved away, the serfs in their territory were then driven to build a church that was grander and more magnificent than Levis own castle.

At the end of the Month of Flowers, he continued practising Frost Wolfs Breathing Method, step-by-step, according to the scroll.

Is this even working? It took me half a month to learn the Black Snake one, but it has been over a month. Do I really need to be of their kin to learn this?

Levi was unsatisfied and said, Ill persist for another month. If it doesnt work, Ill move on to the Giant Bears Breathing Method, and if that doesnt work, Ill give up. Then Ill melt that magic armour into pure mithril.

With the help of his Black Snake pills, his proficiency has increased by a thousand in just a month, which is more than twice the regular practice.

With this speed, hell be able to become a Knight before all of his pills run out.

His Golden Cross Slashes proficiency has increased by more than a thousand as well.

His forging has also made a breakthrough; this month, he has been busy forging the armour pieces. It is delicate yet challenging work. It was much more difficult than forging regular swords.

Because it was his first time forging armour, he was very unskilled, so it took a month to complete the main parts of the armour.

On this day, Levi was slamming on the forging table of the castle again.

He used the cold forging method to forge the armour. The Knight had asked Levi to design an armour similar to plated armour, and it was much easier than cumbersome chainmail.

Plate armour is effective against crossbows and long swords but much heavier compared to chainmail.

Levi worked shirtless, his glistening muscles shining under the forges fire. Gradually, he finished the breastplate, which is the final part of the armour.

And soon, he can be regarded as a formal blacksmith.

[Forging Proficiency +101]

With the armours sharp lines, refined beauty, and metallic fragrance, Levi admired this masterpiece of his with satisfaction.

Not bad, not bad. Ill set the price at 25 gold coins, he grinned. Under normal circumstances, plate armour is usually sold for about 20 gold coins.

However, with the special effect attached to his forging proficiency, the quality of his forges is better than that of the ones crafted by ordinary blacksmiths. 25 gold is considered a cheap price.

Only nobles and dignified Knights would be able to afford a full set of armour like this. For ordinary Knights, they would be delighted to own even a single part.

Its just that this worlds productivity seems to be taking a step backwards rather than forward.

He realised how lucky he was in his previous life.

The comfort and convenience of modern-day technology are only missed when they are lost.

Just by forging this set of armour, I gained several hundred points of proficiency. Hence, if I craft a dozen more pieces, I should be able to advance to the fourth level.

Levi Snyder

Black Snake Breathing Method: Level 3 (5011/10000)

Golden Cross Slash: Level 3 (5427/10000), Special Effect: Vibrate (Advanced)

Beast Taming: Level 3 (Max); Special Effect: Heart of the Wild

Forging: Level 3 (2008/10000), Special Effect: High-Quality Forging

Looking at his proficiency panel, there was considerable progress in the progress bar.

He decided to test the armour by putting it on himself, and he saw Knight Fred waiting by the door.

Whats the matter, Knight Fred? Levi asked as he got dressed.

Master, the people from the Church are here, he shrugged.

How many?

Only two: a priest and a Knight.

Lets go and have a look.

Levi put on his best aristocratic robe and wore a layer of chainmail inside as protection.

Ever since he learnt of the dangers of this world, he wore chainmail everywhere, as well as an armour piece that protected his heart. It may have been uncomfortable, but at least he felt safe.

Outside the castle, a priest wearing a white robe, accompanied by a churchs Knight in silver and white armour, waited.

Master Abraham, it seems that the young Baron Snyder is rude! To keep us dignified guests waiting in this wretched place, the slender knight said with displeasure.

As a knight of the church, he is a member of the Glorious Knights. He looks down on anyone who crosses him.

The priest glanced at the knight and said flatly, Knight Shimmer, calm yourself. You dont want to be caught red-handed by the enemy, now, would you?

With the opening of the gate, Levi and Knight Fred rode out slowly on their horses. With a warm smile, Levi got off his horse and gave the traditional noble salute.

Dear Pastor Abraham, I sincerely welcome you to the Blackwater Valley.