

# **Wizard: Starting With the Knights Breathing Method**

## **#Chapter 31: Hundred Year Tax - Read Wizard: Starting With the Knights Breathing Method Chapter 31: Hundred Year Tax**

Chapter 31: Hundred Year Tax

Blackwater Valley, in the castles meeting hall

Pastor Abraham was sitting upright, and Knight Shimmer stood silently beside him.

Levi sat opposite the priest as Knight Fred stood by him. Levi was on guard, and his trepidation was easily caught by the priest.

Sure enough, he is just a boy, the pastor murmured to himself.

Baron Levi! the priest greeted him grandly. I am here to purchase Blackwater Valley.

In this era, the Church rules over everything. The priests bluntness is no surprise; annexations like these were common.

One of the easiest ways for the Church to acquire land is to target weak nobles.

Hearing this, Knight Freds complexion changed as he glanced at Levi.

Levi remained silent as he stared straight at the priest.

Two thousand gold coinstwice what I gave to the heirs of the Stone Bear and the Frost Wolves. The Church remembers your father, so it is only appropriate if I pay a greater amount.

This amount of money is enough for both Levi and Knight Fred to live comfortably for their entire lives.

A remote land like this is destined to fail, frankly speaking, the priest continued. It is wiser to let the Church oversee this land.

Pastor Abraham simply smiled as he finished. He was confident that the unknown, cowardly, prodigal son would not refuse his offer.

However, Levi had no reason to accept the offer today either. He could easily get two thousand coins with his forging. He wasnt desperate; in fact, he was content.

Besides, there is intangible value tied to Blackwater Valleyhis people, his satisfaction, and his fathers only gift that was left.

My apologies, Pastor Abraham, Levi shook his head. The Snyder family has lived here for over two hundred years. Every brick and tile in this place is coated with our familys blood, sweat, and tears. What about my people? I cant possibly abandon my people.

Knight Fred heaved a sigh of relief.

His father has already lost the Land of Tulips and the Land of Storms. He absolutely cannot lose his ancestral land.

Moreover, if Levi were to become stronger one day, he could easily reclaim the Land of Tulips and the Land of Stormsit was under his name anyway. It was justified for him to come and reclaim his lands.

If he were to sell this land to the Church, it would belong to the Church. If he wanted it back, he had to buy it from them or start a war.

Both options are unfeasible.

Oh, are you sure? Pastor Abraham asked with a smile.

Pastor Abraham tapped his foot under the desk repeatedly. He didnt expect the young baron to reject his offer.

If your purpose is to take away my familys territory, then forgive me, but I refuse. My people will refuse as well.

If he didnt have a territory to call his own, how could he function? How could he practise his breathing method? He wouldnt have a source of income, nor would he have a place to call home. Two thousand gold coins is simply an insult.

Well, we can discuss that at a later date, the priest smirked. Now, the taxes owed by your land

you have three territories under your name, all of which are required to pay taxes to the Church. After your fathers death, we gave the Land of Tulips and the Land of Storms maximum tax incentives for his sake, but we have always turned a blind eye to the Blackwater Valley

Baron Levi: According to regulations, the Church can collect taxes without a retrospective period for all territories that are under the light of the Loving Father, regardless of whether the Church has previously taxed them

In short, even though the Church has not taxed Blackwater Valley for the past two hundred years, we have the right to come and collect it, the priest smiled, his tone evident.

We'll pay the taxes, Levi smiled but sneered in his heart. No matter how great his father was, there would always be rats looking for scraps to eat.

He couldn't refuse to pay taxes either; he wasn't strong enough to do so, and rebelling against the authority of the Church was a death sentence.

The Church is composed of monasteries, churches, clergymen, and intricate networks scattered throughout the country, and they employ the Radiant Knights to defend the Church.

A powerful force composed of hundreds of qualified Knights and seven Great Knights: the invincible vanguards of the Church will crush everything that stands in the Church's way.

No matter, Levi calmed himself. I have a proficiency panel. As long as I am alive, becoming strong is a certainty.

Besides, he knew Pastor Abraham was showing him grace, no, mercy, by allowing him to pay taxes rather than let them annex his land.

Oh? Well, here is the total amount of taxes owed by Blackwater Valley. In view of your father's great contribution to us, we have exempted a huge amount of taxes owed as well as the late payment fee. Hence, all you have to do is pay the principal amount, Pastor Abraham handed over a tax bill from his robe.

Levi took the bill, and the corners of his eyes couldn't help but twitch on their own.

1000 gold coins

Chapter 32: Level 3 Frost Wolf Breathing Method

Levi huffed as he gripped the bill, slightly crumpling the parchment paper.

I need to calm down, he huffed. No matter what, laws and regulations are made to protect the interests of the powerful.

The amount posted here is a bit expensive, Levi said while smiling. I'm afraid we can only pay in instalments for now.

Then, you shall pay the interest plus the taxes incurred for the next ten years. From now on, Blackwater Valley is required to pay 150 gold coins to the Church annually, the priest said in a calculative manner as if he were already expecting this.

I agree, Levi nodded defeatedly. There's no way to refuse them, but who knows what will happen within ten years?

After signing the contract, Pastor Abraham and Knight Shimmer left Blackwater Valley.

Levi and Knight Fred stared at their disappearing figures in the distance, and Levi's heart was filled with murderous intent.

How about we plan his assassination? Knight Fred asked as he stared into the distance. With our strength, it won't be difficult getting through Knight Shimmer.

It's useless. If Abraham dies, the Church will send other pastors, or worse, the Radiant Knights. Money isn't a problem for us, but sooner or later, I will take it all back with interest, Levi spoke harshly as he turned away to continue training.

The Church the Wild Boar Gang They are mere bullies who prey on the weak. Knight Fred is nearly half a century old, and his strength is gradually declining. Levi has to endure and become stronger himself.

Anger is meaningless when you are weak.

I have a proficiency panel, so I will become stronger regardless. I can't die because of impulse reactions.

He continued practising the Black Snake Breathing Method and comprehending the Frost Wolf Breathing Method. He continued to forge iron and manage his people, and he barely had any time for himself.

1006, the Month of Warmth

The climate in Blackwater Valley was comfortable, not too hot or cold.

It has been two months since Levi acquired the Frost Wolf Breathing Method.

Just as he was about to give up, he decided to practise it one last time. Suddenly, that long-lost yet familiar feeling came creeping up on him.

He hurriedly opened his proficiency panel in his mind.

Levi Snyder

Black Snake Breathing Method: Level 3 (6467/10000)

Frost Wolf Breathing Method: Level 1 (1/1000)

Golden Cross Slash: Level 3 (7000/10000), Special Effect: Vibrate (Advanced)

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

Forging: Level 3 (4123/10000), Special Effect: High-Quality Goods

Finally!

Levi yelled and jumped up and down excitedly. Once it appears on his proficiency panel, the next steps will be much easier.

He hasn't felt this excited in such a long time. This breakthrough means that he can acquire other blood-locked breathing methods.

If he could get it on his panel, he'd be unstoppable.

When I become stronger, I must find a way to collect the strongest breathing methods. Even if I can't become a wizard, I should be able to stand on top of the world regardless!

Perhaps he could surpass a Legendary Knight and become a living god.

Just for a moment, the haze of being robbed by the Church has swept away.

Abraham, you old dog. Just you wait

Levi returned to training.

And the days passed just like this.

Soon, it was time to commence his trade. He led a team of men to transport the armour and weapons he had forged to the Shining Tavern in the City of Icy Winds, where he sold them to the unknown Knight as promised.

A total of six sets of armour and nearly a hundred swords were sold for about 300 gold coins. Unfortunately, the Knight who sold ambergris was nowhere to be found, and there was no ambergris left in the Chamber of Commerce.

In the end, he returned to the territory three hundred gold coins richer.

With a completely depleted iron source

Levi, in a pinch, remembered how to locate iron ore from his previous life.

In order to keep up with the supply of iron, many of his military men were assigned to dig mines, chop wood, burn charcoal, and smelt iron after their training. In a way, he was training them to be blacksmith apprentices.

Levi intends to make forging an important industry in the Blackwater Valley in order to ensure stability. Once Milan becomes a qualified blacksmith and his father is rescued, Levi will be able to take a breather.

The division of labour was incredibly efficient, and the output of equipment was increasing rapidly.

Of course, Levi would not treat his men badly. Blacksmith apprentices who had great performances throughout the year would be rewarded with 1 gold coin, which made them very happy.

In the Month of the Furnace, four sets of armour and fifty swords were forged in a single month.

Soon, the season of wheat harvesting came.

When this years wheat was harvested, Levi was pleasantly surprised to find that wheat production had increased by 5% after implementing his new system.

This was an unprecedented increase.

Sure enough, the best way to increase productivity is to care for and look after his people.

In addition, Levis Frost Wolf Breathing Method was also progressing very quickly. This breathing method also has its own medicine, but it is very simple to make; the main ingredient of the medicine is wolf meat.

And wolf meat is plentiful in Levis castle. In fact, he eats wolf meat every day.

With a sufficient supply of wolf meat, his Frost Wolf Breathing Method has hit Level 3 in just four months.

Of course, he didnt neglect his Black Snake Breathing Method.

Chapter 33: A Qualified Knight

Levi Snyder

Black Snake Breathing Method: Level 3 (Limit)

Frost Wolf Breathing Method: Level 3 (234/10000)

Golden Cross Slash: Level 3 (9527/10000); Special Effect: Vibrate (Advanced)

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

Forging: Level 3 (6666/10000); Special Effect: High-Quality Goods

Looking at his proficiency panel, Levi could feel a sense of accomplishment.

Consuming one Black Snake Medicine per day, he shortened his estimated training time by two-thirds of the original period, but he has hit a bottleneck.

No matter how hard he trains, he cannot reach Level 4 without condensing the seeds of life. Once he does this, he will become a qualified knight.

As for the Frost Wolf Breathing Method, it wasn't difficult to practise at all.

Levi's agility is far superior compared to before. Some time ago, he went to a relatively deep part of the mountains and found a pack of wolves to test his strength.

Even without wearing any armour, he was able to kill ten mountain wolves with relative ease.

This is far beyond the level of Quasi-Knights even Knights have trouble dealing with a dozen wolves without any armour.

Levi estimates that he could beat an ordinary Knight in combat, but he has no real opponent to verify this.

Knight Fred would subconsciously go easy on Levi, so it wasn't a true measure of his strength.

As for his Golden Cross, it is almost on the verge of hitting Level 4, and he will finally have access to the long-awaited [Ripple].

On this day, he stood on the tower, watching Knight Fred lead a team of men to the City of Icy Winds.

It was time to deliver goods to the unknown Knight in the Shining Tavern. This time, he prepared a total of twelve sets of armour and kept five sets for his strongest men. He also asked Knight Fred to buy ambergris for him while he was in the city.

Levi would go in person, but he has to condense the seeds of life, and he doesn't want to delay it any longer.

With Knight Fred's reliability, he believes that nothing wrong will happen.

I should have a total of 600 gold coins in my reserves after this, which should be enough for me to practise in peace for a while, Levi muttered to himself.

Watching Knight Fred and his men disappear into the horizon, he turned back to the castle and closed the gate.

The crucial moment is now.

After practising his breathing method for more than two years, it was time to become a truly qualified Knight.

Once he is successful, he will no longer have to shrink in fear.

A qualified Knight, although not invincible, would be enough to deal with most adversaries in this world.

In his bedroom, Levi traced over the Black Snake mural on the castle walls and sat down. He had already prepared food and water in advance and was prepared to condense the seeds of life based on Knight Freds instructions.

Condensing the seeds of life, as elaborated by Knight Fred, is the process of focusing and imbuing all of your power into your heart.

Levi breathed in deeply, feeling the power surge through his veins.

White smoke started to emit from his body, and he felt that the water content in his body was rapidly decreasing, but it wasnt the time to drink the water.

Levi endured the extreme discomfort caused by dehydration and continued to breathe. He could feel his blood solidify in his veins, and numbness washed over his limbs in waves. Levi felt that if he continued, he might die.

Absolutely not. I cant stop now.

He continued to inhale and exhale, and soon, his breathing method reached its peak.

Insurmountable power surges through his limbs and bones, his veins and capillaries, straight towards his heart.

Severe pain pierced through his left chest.

Argh

Levi knew that this was a crucial step in condensing the seeds of life.

He knew that if he was unsuccessful, death would be the outcome.

These turbulent forces will rush straight into his heart and blow a literal hole in his chest.



Levi persisted and trained his muscles to contract as if he were directing the surge in power straight into his heart.

Soon, after enduring excruciating pain that clawed at his chest, the pale-faced Levi finally breathed a sigh of relief.

Wiping the sweat from his forehead, he couldn't help but laugh.

I'm a Knight.

Night fell upon Blackwater Valley, and the castle was dim. However, Levi could perceive his heart a faint, winding, snake-like black smoke that circled his heart, distributing that black smoke through his veins.

Black Qi.

Chapter 34: Level 4 Breathing Method, Special Effect: Defence

The snake-shaped mist danced around his heart like a dragon that circled over a castle.

The black smoke was completely connected to his heart, and as it pumped blood, it also pumped this mist through his system.

From then on, the energy obtained from food will be used to nurture this seed in his heart.

And the black mist emitted by this seed will circulate throughout his system.

Levi thought that this seed was like a new organ. An organ that could be controlled by him.

A weak stream of black mist crawled through his forearm, and he could feel his muscles tensing up.

His muscles began to harden in a short period of time. He traced over his arm and found that the texture was similar to that of a car tyre.

My breathing method focuses on defence; this way, I can probably use my forearm to fend against my opponent.

Levi tried to transfer this power to his palm, but the tenseness of his forearm was transferred to his hand instead.

This made Levi ecstatic.

When he tried to move this power to his chest, he failed.

With his current state, it seems that he could only move it to limited areas.

He needs to nurture this seed in his heart. Once this seed blooms, he could become like his father, shrouding himself in a layer of black mist.

After eating and drinking, he opened his proficiency panel.

Levi Snyder

Black Snake Breathing Method: Level 4 (1/20000), Special Effect: Defence

[Defence: By covering parts of your body with Black Qi, resist a certain degree of blunt attacks and reduce the damage of weapon attacks.]

Looking at the introduction of his panel, he decided to give it a good experiment.

Only by knowing your own strength can you fight better.

Since Knight Fred was absent, Levi came to the three bears.

The three bears were happily eating fish together.

Snow, come here, Levi beckoned. He knew Snows personality was the most stable compared to his brothers.

Snow immediately ran over and pounced on Levi, intending to give him a big hug.

Now that the bears were almost three years old, they stood three metres tall. Levi was like a dwarf in front of them.

Snows weight reached an astonishing 800 kilogrammes, which was already about the same as that of a large, brown bear.

The bears are also as strong as a Quasi-Knight.

Haha! Okay, okay! Stop licking me! Levi laughed as Snow continued lapping at him sloppily.

Snow, use your claws to attack me, Levi ordered.

Snow immediately backed off and whimpered. He didnt understand why his master wanted him to attack him.

Its okay, Levi comforted. Hit me with all youve got.

Levi patted Snow to encourage him, and Grey and Fatty came to join the show as well.

Finally, Snow mustered up enough courage and was in a combat stance.

Levi was shirtless. He didnt even bother putting on a single piece of armour.

With a single nod, Snow immediately dashed forward, lifting up a single paw to slash at Levi.

Levis eyes widened as Snow approached him rapidly, and the seeds in his heart immediately sent black mist to Levis palms.

Levi immediately lifted up his palm to block Snows blow, and he was flung upside down by the impact.

Eugh!

Levi landed face-first on the ground and immediately inspected his rubbery palm. The black mist formed a protective film on his arm, and the evident scratches of a bears paw could be seen, but Levi himself was not hurt.

Nice! Hit me again!

Levi continued to spar with Snow; Grey and Fatty cheered for their brother, and Levi would laugh as he fought with his pet.

Soon, Snow was out of breath, slumped on the ground, and gasping for air.

Although Levi was a little tired, he could still fight.

The scratches on the black mist film on his palm could be repaired simply by replenishing it with extra mist. As long as his seed was not exhausted, it could be restored indefinitely.

After his experiment, he concluded that his supply of Black Qi could last for about five minutes.

Although it wasnt long, it was enough.

However, in a real combat situation, while equipped with armour, he thought that it would be useless.

Its fine. With my current strength, I am beyond the reach of ordinary Knights, Levi encouraged himself. He got dressed, bid the bears goodbye, and returned to his bedroom.

Reaching the fifth level of his Black Snake Breathing Method requires a full 20,000 proficiency points. Although a Knight is powerful, it is only the beginning of a much greater path.

The gap in power between qualified Knights and Great Knights is even greater than that between ordinary people and qualified Knights.

In the Emerald Kingdom, there were over a thousand qualified Knights, but the number of Great Knights did not exceed a hundred.

## Chapter 35: Lord of Shadows and Illusory Demon Knight

A knight is an invaluable asset to any noble force in the kingdom.

If Levi was an ordinary person with no land, he could simply become a nobles knight and pledge his allegiance to them.

Of course, Levi doesnt want to become a slave. He has had enough of being a capitalists dog in his previous life.

Its time to celebrate, Levi said to himself. Ill have the twin maids massage me tonight.

Finally, Levi had time to rest.

After all, with all of the recent events, Levi had to work overtime training endlessly, forging endlessly and dealing with menial circumstances endlessly.

Rest is a crucial aspect of work.

Although cultivating himself was important, ensuring its longevity was equally important.

In the evening, Levi soaked himself in the bathtub while the twin maids massaged his muscles thoroughly.

My Lord, your body is too hard and rough, one of them pouted.

Take a rest when you are tired, Levi said, smiling with his eyes closed. Your sister will continue, and both of you can take turns.

After Levi took his bath, he returned to his bedroom for a good nights rest.

I hope Knight Freds trip goes well

Levi still misses Knight Fred dearly.

He didnt care about the money; he valued Knight Fred more than those meagre goods.

I cant lose Knight Fred; hes the only one I have left in this world

And in his train of thought, he fell into a deep sleep.

Under the starry night, everything was silent.

A cloaked figure sneaked into Blackwater Valley like a ghost. The figure stood by the valley on the side of the castle, staring at the ancient fortress that stood proudly on the mountain.

The location of this castle is goodeasy to defend, difficult to attack. Unfortunately, it is nothing more than a decoration to me

After waiting for seven days, that damned Knight finally left

Baron Levi, your head is mine.

The figures cloak danced in the nights wind, and he wore simple leather armour that hugged his lean figure. He is known as the Illusory Demon Knight, a hired killer with no emotions. He works for an organisation known as the Voice of the Dead Bird.

This is an organisation known to carry out organisations. Despite their reputation, they are scattered all over the country.

Assassination targets can be civilians, nobles, knights As long as the price is paid, the deed will be done.

The Illusory Demon Knight is one of the killers under this organisation, and he is stationed in the area near the City of Icy Winds. He received a commission from a big client some time ago but didnt care who it was.

As long as there is money, the Illusory Demon Knight will make sure to get rid of the target.

As a Wandering Knight, he didnt have to answer to anyone but himself.

Since his appearance, he has completed many assassination missions, which include a baron, three noble disciples, a counts wife, and even two qualified Knights.

He didnt think it was difficult to assassinate Levi. After all, Levi was known as a cowardly son who was destined to live in his fathers shadow.

However, he was dedicated to his job, and he was fully armed with grappling hooks, daggers, and poisons everything that you would expect from a cold-blooded assassin.

He crept towards the castle, which was being patrolled by various soldiers.

Shrouding himself in darkness, he observed the surrounding situation and was determined to use his grappling hook to scale the wall with the fewest soldiers. Then he would climb into Levis bedroom, kill him, behead him, and collect the money.

Perfect plan, he whispered to himself confidently.

Soon, he found the wall with the weakest patrol and got around behind the soldier in a flash.

Lord of Shadows above he prayed.

The Illusory Demon Knight didnt believe in the Loving Father; he believed in the Lord of Shadows.

The Lord of Shadows is the god of murder, deceit, and darkness.

He dealt with the soldier cleanly and started to scale the wall.

He climbed over the high wall and jumped down nimbly, landing perfectly on his two feet. Patting the dust off him gracefully, he raised his head

Only to be greeted with three huge shadows that looked at him curiously.

Snow, Grey, and Fatty

He never thought that he would have to face three Northern Bears.

Damn it, you b\*tch, the assassin sneered.

The three bears were visibly confused. From afar, they could smell a strange smell approaching the castle.

Levis training for them included getting familiar with the smell of everyone working in the castle.

The assassin thought that his infiltration was flawless, but it seemed that he was discovered long before he even approached the castle.

After this, I am asking for an extra payment!