

Wizard: Starting With the Knights Breathing Method

Chapter 36: I'm That Strong?

The three bears rushed towards the stranger at the same time.

This is the order that Levi has been instilling in them: any stranger that does not come through the main door should be mauled immediately.

The assassin felt his body tense up.

Damn beast, attacking an official knight like me?

The assassins Siren Breathing Method courses through his system like a wave and focuses on speed and flexibility. It also granted him the flexibility of an octopus, allowing him to change his body shape by shrinking his bones, improving his flexibility and agility on a whim.

He willed his bones to shrink, making his body smaller and leaner, which gave him a huge increase in speed and flexibility.

Like a nimble dolphin, he shuttled between the three bears gracefully and disappeared into the darkness.

The three bears roared in the direction where the assassin disappeared, but they could no longer sense him.

This alarmed the patrolling soldiers, but the bears couldn't convey what they saw to them.

Thinking that they were hungry, the soldiers quickly prepared food for them and returned to their posts.

Meanwhile, the assassin patted his clothes and then put on a black crow mask.

This is the standard mask used for assassinations in the organisation. It obscures their identity and prevents harmful, poisonous gases from injuring them.

The Illusory Demon Knight has been in this industry for over ten years and has earned more than a thousand gold coins through assassination missions like these. He is richer than most nobles of a small land, so this money is enough for him to retire early.

However, he loved dancing on the tip of his knife, so he squandered all of the money he earned.

Killing was his passion, and every single murder was a work of art.

Using his proficient lock-picking skills, the assassin gently opened the door to Levis room and came to his bedside silently.

Levi lay on his side on the bed, sleeping under a quilt. His breathing was heavy but steady, and his face was relaxed.

The assassin drew out his dagger and dipped the blade in a vial of poison.

Dying in your sleep is a grace bestowed by the Lord of Shadows. Goodbye, Baron Levi, the assassin murmured to himself.

And he brought the dagger down on Levis heart.

However, in the next moment, a pitch-black palm grabbed his right arm, snatching away his dagger.

All the assassin could feel was that he was being grabbed by a huge force.

Levi grabbed at the assassins collar with his palm and stood up. Under the pale moonlight, the assassin could see Levi wearing two layers of chainmail and a piece of armour that hugged his heart. Levi has always slept like this; otherwise, he wouldnt be able to fall asleep.

Just what do you think youre doing?

Levi was indeed sleeping before, but after being awakened by the bears roars, he pretended to be asleep.

He knew that someone had snuck into his castle, and if they were capable of sneaking into his castle, they must be someone strong.

Sure enough, someone wanted to assassinate him!

Levi clamped his right hand, but the assassin transformed his left hand into a claw, slashing at Levis face. However, with the Frost Wolf Breathing Method, Levi was able to dodge to the side immediately.

He grabbed the assassins arm and twisted it forcefully, breaking it with a single pull.

Levi jumped off his bed and threw the assassin violently onto the hard, stone floor. The floor cracked, and he could hear all of the assassins ribs breaking.

F-fifteen? H-hes just fifteen? the assassin thought as blood spurted out of his mouth.

Hey, listen to me, Levi ordered as he ducked down, grasping the assassins neck. He planned to interrogate him after subduing him so he could know who sent him to assassinate him.

Click!

Sh*t.

While grasping the assassins neck, he accidentally let out too much force, crushing his neck and killing him instantly.

Chapter 37: Miss Silence

Although it wasnt the first time he killed someone, it was the first time he killed someone in his bedroom.

Looking at the broken corpse in his bedroom, he removed the broken mask from his head, only to reveal a broken, split face as well.

I guess I have to sleep in a different room tomorrow

I dont know who this is, Levi thought again. Im just a teenager, and I have laid low. Who in their right mind would send someone to kill me?

Ultimately, there were only two people who might have reason to kill him.

Pastor Abraham, since Levi rejected the authority of the Church by refusing to sell his territory

The Duke of Montenegro, or the two closest earls to the Duke the Earl of Silver Yarn and the Earl of Blood. If they wanted to expand their territory, they would come and kill Levi.

But, if thats the case, they would have killed me long ago, Levi wondered to himself.

He concluded that it couldnt be the Wild Boar Gang either. They wouldnt send an assassin to kill him.

I have to get rid of this person, he thought. Otherwise, Ill have trouble sleeping and eating.

Glancing at the corpse, he thought of something.

He took out a knife and cut open the assassins chest. On his heart, black mist that resembled tentacles hugged the organ.

The seeds of life this person was a qualified Knight Levi frowned. This meant whoever sent this assassin must be somebody powerful.

The tentacles around the heart started to dissipate into the air.

Sure enough, it was similar to the situation in his own heart, except that it was a snake-like mist that revolved around his heart.

Levi stripped the assassin to look for clues.

Eventually, he found a tiny booklet.

It only had a few pages, and the cover showed a figure hiding in the shadows, filling Levi with an inexplicable sense of eeriness.

[In Praise of Shadows]

The content inside was similar to religious works, and it simply introduced a god known as the Lord of Shadows.

There are many religions in this world: the [Loving Father] is worshipped by the Holy Church; [Mother Earth] is worshipped by the Church of the Earth; [Goddess of Ice and Snow] by the Church of Winter; [Storm Monarch] by the Church of Storms; [Eternal Flame] by the Church of Eternal Life; [King of Dragons] by the Dragon Church; and [Lord of the Stars] by the Church of the Stars.

These were the seven gods that are being worshipped by various countries in the world today. They were considered Righteous Gods since they were gods that influenced an entire country.

In addition to these gods, there are other gods, like the [Lord of the Wilderness] of the Brotherhood of the Wilderness; [Miss Silence] of the Silent Monastery; [God of War]

Its normal that Levi lacks knowledge of some gods.

Essentially, this organisation, known as the Voice of the Dead Bird, has very few members. Not many people believe in the Lord of Shadows, so the religion has barely spread.

In the past, Levi didnt believe in gods. However, after discovering that some myths and legends do exist, maybe it isnt as simple as he once imagined.

Flipping through the pages, he found a guide to inheriting a breathing method on the last page.

It was similar to what Levi had obtained before, and the emblem of this breathing method was a giant sea monster that resembled an octopus.

What he didn't know was that the Siren Breathing Method was the most common breathing technique used by the members of the Voice of the Dead Bird, and most importantly, it was not bound by blood.

It focuses on flexibility and agility, altering the way the assassin's body works. Various tricks or even disguises could be done.

Levi put the booklet away and recorded the breathing method. He then rummaged through the assassin's belongings, like his mask, dagger, and other assassination tools.

He tore the corpse into pieces and tossed it into the giant fireplace, watching as the corpse crackled in the raging fire. He could see a tentacle clawing its way through the flames before disappearing, and all that was left was a charred, black skeleton.

Chapter 38: Golden Slash, Level 4; Ripple

So far, all of the breathing methods that Levi knows are related to various creatures, and these creatures often become the emblems of various families.

It seems that all breathing methods are related to creatures that exist only in legends.

To promote their noble lineage, some families invent various legends to form a narrative of their breathing method.

His father once told him that the Black Snake is destined to bring light and order to a chaotic and dark world.

Fiddling with the assassin's dagger in his hand, he could see that it was about a foot long and that it was intricately crafted; the end of the dagger was curved and coiled like a snake's tail.

This dagger was dipped in poison and it seems like some rare metals have been melted into the dagger, Levi muttered as he studied the dagger. I can probably re-smelt this to make it my own dagger.

This mask resembles the plague doctor's mask, so it's probably used to prevent gas from entering my system.

My god, thank god he didn't use this, or I would be dead by now.

Levi investigated the assassin's belongings one by one and felt that these items were just becoming more and more unusual.

When Knight Fred comes back, I need to ask him about these items

Levi couldn't go back to sleep, so he spent the entire night training.

After experiencing his first assassination attempt, he became more vigilant.

He felt that it was too unsafe to sleep in such an easy-to-find bedroom. He decided to build a shelter in the castle that only he and Knight Fred knew about, stocking up on supplies and making an alarm system.

The morning came, and after Levi finished training, there was noise from the militia outside. He hurriedly went out and found a dead soldier's body.

My Lord, somebody killed Polk last night.

The militia captain looked terrified and bewildered. A soldier dying under his watch on a cold, dark night without him knowing.

Levi knew that there was a high chance it was the assassin who had killed him while sneaking in.

Cremate him. Send food and money to Polk's wife, Levi ordered.

I expect more vigilant patrols at night! Levi announced it coldly. Otherwise, don't blame me for what's to come.

He didn't tell anyone what had transpired last night. He couldn't guarantee that there weren't any spies among his subordinates.

Levi became more and more aware of the importance of strength in this world.

If he didn't become a qualified Knight, he would be dead by now.

It is precisely because of my training that I am alive today

, he thought. I need to become stronger

He plans to practise more breathing techniques to enhance his physical body, perhaps perfecting it by becoming an all-rounded warrior.

After two days of intense training, under the scorching rays of the training ground, Levi's arm shook rapidly, swaying his sword through the air and creating ripples in the air.

Then, a force many times higher than his usual Vibrate was transmitted from Frostmourn to an iron plate half a finger thick.

Click.

And Frostmourne pierced through the iron plate like a hot knife through butter.

Frostmourne itself shook with violent strength as if it couldn't contain the power within it.

[Golden Cross Slash Proficiency +4]

[Unlock a new special effect: Ripple (Beginner)]

Levi was overjoyed.

The power of Ripples I got it!

This terrifying ability is equivalent to cutting through iron.

And it only took Levi three years to master it.

I-it's all thanks to my proficiency panel, Levi stuttered, gracefully aware of how far his panel had gotten him.

Levi Snyder

Black Snake Breathing Method: Level 4 (56/20000), Special Effect: Defence

Golden Cross Slash: Level 4 (1/20000), Special Effect: Vibrate (Advanced), Ripple (Beginner)

Chapter 39: Reaper

Ripple

The second, more powerful, portion of the Golden Cross.

Knight Fred told me that once you master the power of Ripples, it is equivalent to being an excellent swordsman I can't wait to tell him!

Levi felt comfortable in his heart, and the emotion suppressed in it had been released.

Knights were divided into four categories: low-level, mid-level, high-level, and peak; there wasn't any division of categories for Great Knights. Levi estimates that he should be a mid-level Knight.

Levi wanted to test his own strength, but there was nobody to spar with.

Plus, using Ripple against anyone would be dangerous.

Forget it. Back to forging, I go.

Today, Levi regards forging as a means to cultivate his mind.

Forging is a technical job that requires patience and concentration.

Levi thinks that training and forging complement each other.

The furnace ignited, and the bellows bulged. Levi smashed the dagger obtained from the assassin against the anvil.

Clang! Clang! Clang!

Under the blast furnace, Levi poured literal sweat into the dagger.

Time passed, and a pitch-black dagger gradually took form under Levis rigorous beating.

[Forging Proficiency +2]

Compared to the previous curved shape of the dagger, the shape of Levis new dagger resembles a dagger of the Warring States in his previous life.

Levi fiddled with it and even tried to imbue Ripples with it and succeeded!

Knight Fred told him that the Golden Cross is power-generating rather than something that is tied to a sword. Even a hammer or a pole could be used to imbue the power of the Golden Cross.

He found that the dagger was more likely to withstand the great power of Ripple.

Frostmourne is just made of regular iron, so its no surprise that its less sturdy, Levi murmured to himself.

He thought that it would be great if he could obtain high-tech alloys from his previous life.

After he was done forging, he returned to the castle and began to build a secret room in the castle.

In the early morning of the next day, Knight Fred returned with his men.

Levi hurriedly leapt out of bed to greet him with the biggest grin on his face: Youre back!

Master Levi, Knight Fred smiled as he handed a bag over to Levi.

Levi opened it and saw a bottle of ambergris and a pile of gold coins.

Thank you, Fred.

Levi's worry in his heart has been relieved as well.

Did you get this from the Chamber of Commerce? Levi asked.

No, Knight Fred shook his head. After asking around, it seems like the White Horse Knight of the Royal Family requires ambergris as well. The Tuva Empire was the main producer of ambergris, and they banned the exportation of ambergris to the Emerald Kingdom after the Millennium War, so ambergris is becoming more and more scarce.

In short, we might have to go to the Tuva Empire to get ambergris in the future, Knight Fred concluded.

Levi frowned. He didn't expect that the war would affect him today.

Seems like someone is a qualified Knight now, Knight Fred teased.

I condensed the seeds of life just a few days ago, Levi smiled.

Levi didn't want to hide anything from Knight Fred. He was someone that he could trust dearly. Besides, if Knight Fred had any ulterior motives, he would be dead by now.

You're a genius, just like your father, Knight Fred said emotionally. If only he could see you now.

Levi then told Knight Fred about the assassination attempt.

Immediately, Knight Fred blamed himself, as he wasn't by Levi's side to protect him.

However, as Levi showed him the bird mask, he paused and stared at it.

That's the Crow Mask.

What is it?

According to rumours, the Crow is a divine bird that is perched on the Reapers' shoulder, which is why they use the Crow as their emblem. This organisation kills anyone, regardless if they are a civilian, noble, or even royal family, so long as the right amount of money is given.

Knight Fred got closer to Levi and looked around as if he was scared of being heard. This organisation is extremely mysterious. If you look closely at the history of the

Kingdom, their shadow looms over various major events. It is rumoured that the founder of this organisation is a Legendary Knight.

Which one?

Anonymous, the Knight of a Thousand Faces!

Chapter 40: Anonymous

Possibly the most enigmatic of the Legendary Knights, nobody knows his name, his appearance, or his origin.

He was known as the Knight of a Thousand Faces and was powerful enough to leave a deep imprint in the hearts of people.

Fred, who do you think might want to get rid of me? Levi asked.

Id say the Duke of Montenegro.

He could have killed me long ago, Levi replied.

That was during the war, right when your father died, Knight Fred explained. Getting rid of you then would cause unnecessary trouble, but getting rid of you now removes potential unnecessary trouble. However, he probably didnt expect you to become a fully qualified Knight in just a few years.

What about Pastor Abraham?

I dont think so. You wouldve been dead by now if the Church wanted to get rid of you. Plus, you already agreed to pay them, so theres no reason for him to get rid of you.

Levi nodded, thinking that his explanation made sense.

Looking at it now, it is very likely that the Duke of Montenegro sent the assassin.

After all, this group of people has occupied the Land of Tulips and the Land of Storms, so they are bound to feel paranoid after a while.

Levi may appear weak, but whos to say that he wont come to reclaim the land in, say, 30 years?

And now that it has been six years since the Holy War and the death of the previous Baron of Blackwater Valley, nobody would even care if the little Baron died.

I kept such a low profile and secluded myself from the outside world, but there are still people wanting to get rid of me, Levi sighed. Like an imaginary enemy out to get them.

There is only one thing Levi could do.

Train, train, and train harder. When he becomes strong enough to make a difference, he should crush everyone who stands in his way and trample on their fragile dignity.

Master Levi, although you are a very strong Knight, you must know that the Duke himself, the Earl of Blood, the Earl of Silver Shade, and the Seven Hussars of the North are all Knights in their own respect. Do not make any impulsive decisions, Knight Fred warned.

Dont worry; I have my own plans. For now, we will operate as usual, but we will keep half the armour forged every month for our own use. If possible, I would like to buy war horses and train our militia into cavalry, Levi elaborated.

In this era, cavalry units are practically unstoppable battalions. A qualified knight may be able to deal with ten well-trained soldiers, but they will definitely fall to a ten-man cavalry.

If Levi had a cavalry of fifty men, he would be able to attack more than two-thirds of a barons territory; if he had a cavalry of a hundred men, he could attack an Earl.

During the Millennium War, King Jade launched an anti-invasion war against the Tuva Empire, recruiting more than 20,000 men to join his cavalry.

Quantity does determine the outcome of a war.

Levi originally had no intention of expanding and developing his army, but he found that he was wrong.

Due to past events, his thinking has changed. He must develop a strong military so that he can protect himself and his people.

A good defence is a good offence; having a cavalry to defend him is priceless.

Weaponry and armour are no issue to him. What troubled him were the war horses needed by the cavalry.

As far as Levi knows, a high-quality war horse usually costs about 80 gold coins.

If he were to prepare a cavalry of 50 men, the horses themselves would cost thousands of gold coins.

Besides, these horses need to be fed daily. For a small lord of land like him, war horses are just a waste of money and resources.

However, thinking of possible problems that could arise in the future, he felt that it needed to be done, at least in the future.

In the end, he needed more money.

I agree with the concept of a cavalry, Knight Fred nodded. However, I don't think we are financially capable of supporting a cavalry, so let's take things slow.

Mm.

By the way, Knight Fred paused. There is something I must tell you.

What is it?

The Knight you're trading with? I know who he is.

Well? Tell me.

He's the Hog Rider.