

Wizard: Starting With the Knights Breathing Method

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The Hog Rider?

That's right, Knight Fred said. When Ol Toby was snatched away by the Wild Boar Gang, I realised I had investigated him before. I shouldn't be wrong; I just didn't expect him to appear in the city after joining the Brotherhood of the Wilderness.

Levi was silent. He didn't expect to be selling weaponry to his potential enemy.

After all, the Hog Rider is part of the gang that has kidnapped Toby, and Levi has always planned to get him out.

The Hog Rider didn't recognise you, did he? Levi asked.

No. We all wore our masks, and I asked our men to initiate the trade with him.

After all, Knight Fred is widely known as Swordsman Dawn. If he were to initiate the trade with the Hog Rider, he might get recognised despite his disguise. Knight Fred was smart to be cautious.

Are we still going to trade with him? Knight Fred asked hesitantly.

Levi remained silent for a moment, deep in thought.

He may be my enemy, he sighed. But he is direct when it comes to payment. I think we should continue this business relationship and pounce on him when the opportunity comes.

Do you plan on tampering with the armour, then? Knight Fred suggested, If this continues, we might be making him stronger rather than wearing him out.

He is a qualified blacksmith himself, so he'll know if I do anything. Besides, they've got bigger things to worry about, Levi smiled. The Wild Boar Gang had the Church and the Kingdom to fuss about.

Then again, Levi sighed. On our first meeting, he invited me to join a mysterious organisation. I think he planned on luring me into the Brotherhood so I could forge armour for them.

But considering the size of the Brotherhood, our selling weaponry to them is nothing but a drop in the bucket. We are not their enemies, for now. I think we should go with the flow and steal money from them. When the time comes, we will snatch Toby back and take back all our weapons!

Levi unconsciously sneered as he spat out his plan; what he lacked most was patience. With a proficiency panel, his cultivation speed was far beyond ordinary.

Given the time, hell be unstoppable.

Who cares about the Wild Boar Gang or the Duke of Montenegro when youre standing on top of the world?

Once I become a Legendary Knight, there is nothing to be afraid of.

Time is always on Levis side, after all.

Blackwater Valley, in Levis castle.

Three months after his assassination attempt, Levi finally finished building his secret bunker in the castle.

Well, to be precise, this secret shelter was not inside the castle but inside the mountains behind it. There is a secret tunnel that connects the mountain and the basement of his castle.

The shelter was not big only 20 square meters and it was roughly dug out by Levi himself. He couldnt risk having his own people know about his shelter, so he used his Golden Cross a lot while excavating the mountain.

The only one who knew Levi was busy was none other than Knight Fred, and Levis acts had him at a loss for words.

Dried meat, food, purified water, etc to Knight Fred, it looks like Levi was preparing for a doomsday scenario.

However, the narrow space of the shelter gave Levi an inexplicable sense of security, and it reminded him of hiding under the covers from spooky ghosts when he was a child.

In the shelter, Levi continued practising. He opened his eyes suddenly, and his eyes shone with a dazzling light, and his lungs pushed out a breath of steam. He stood up and stretched, showing a satisfied smile.

Im stronger than I was three months ago, Levi smiled as he ate his food. Even Arnold Schwarzenegger has nothing on me.

His skin was a light bronze, contrasting with his previous pale and sickly appearance. He grew to an astonishing 1.9 metres tall, and his arms were as thick as the thighs of many adult men. Only one could imagine the strength contained within these muscles.

Its hard to imagine that a sixteen-year-old kid had assets this huge.

He truly did feel like a man.

A man who puts in physical work and toils away, a man who excavates tunnels and builds a shelter with his own bare hands.

In the past three months, he has not slacked in his practice. His Golden Cross was put to work as he used it to excavate through the mountain and crush stones that were in his path. In just three months, the progress bar has moved by one-fifth.

As for his Black Snake Breathing Method, his proficiency has increased by 5,000. He predicts hell be able to reach Level 5 by the end of the year.

However, his supply of medicine had run out. If he wants to finish this goal, he must find a way to produce ambergris.

On the other hand, his Frost Wolf Breathing Method has shown rapid improvement.

The reason Levi had such a domineering aura was that his Frost Wolf Breathing Method had just hit Level 4.

In just half a year, he hit Level 4, and he was able to condense the seeds of life once again.

It was much less painful compared to the last time he had to condense the seeds of life. On the surface of his heart, a black, wolf-shaped mist formed and prowled alongside the snake-like mist.

Two seeds of life, Levi beamed.

Chapter 42: Speedy, like a Cheetah!

Levi was sure that there werent many people with two seeds of life.

In his excitement, he opened his proficiency panel.

Levi Snyder

Frost Wolf Breathing Method: Level 4 (Max); Special Effect: Speed

Huh? I reached the limit? Levi thought quizzically. Thats it?

He was disappointed. Now he was aware of how important a good breathing method was.

The Black Snake Breathing Method promised him a great future; the Frost Wolf Breathing Method was the end of a typical Knights road.

And he was sure there was no way to break through this limit.

[Speed: Your agility is three times that of the average human. It is also easier to dodge some attacks from your enemies.]

Reading about this ability, he found that it wasnt bad at all.

Looking at his other skills, his Black Snake Breathing Method and Golden Cross are still a long way from breaking through, so he had to continue his training.

His forging proficiency has been delayed since he was busy building himself a shelter. Otherwise, he would be a Level 4 Blacksmith by now.

This isnt something that can be helped. Levi only had 24 hours in a day.

Once I become a Level 4 Blacksmith, I will continue to sell my armour. Then, once I save 800 gold coins, I will set out for the City again, Levi planned. He was also excited to see what special effects would be created once he became a Level 4 Blacksmith.

Returning to the castle through the tunnel, Levi brought Knight Fred out to a clearing. He planned to test the effects of his new ability.

Running, attacking, reaction time Levi performed all these tests so he could have a preliminary understanding of his current strength.

Running was the first test; Levi measured a runway of about 100 metres and leaned forward on the starting line. The muscles in his legs started to swell with power, and steam permeated from the pores, making a weak hissing noise.

Boom!

Levi fired a starting gun into his heart.

His legs shot out, and his body was ejected like an arrow.

Knight Fred was slightly startled; he could see the afterimage of Levi being left behind at the starting line. The explosive speed of his master was extraordinary.

In about five seconds, he reached the finish line.

My god.

Levi was flabbergasted; he vaguely remembered that, in his previous life, the passing score for the 100-metre sprint was 14.9 seconds.

Even Usain Bolts time remained stagnant at 9.58 seconds.

In terms of sprinting, only a few animals, such as the cheetah, could reach speeds greater than those of an average human.

He was slower than a cheetah, but he predicted that he'd be able to sustain his speedy state for about ten minutes.

Even though this breathing method is of superficial quality, he panted. Its powerful.

If I'm able to find a perfect breathing method that focuses on speed, how fast will I become?

Next, he tests his attack speed and reaction time.

Fred, don't go easy on me. I want to see just how strong I've become and test my limits! Levi boasted with a confident look.

As you wish, Knight Fred smiled.

Levi withdrew Frostmourn, and Knight Fred withdrew Dawn.

In just a mere second, Knight Fred dashed towards Levi.

Knight Fred was careful not to invoke the Golden Cross since it would instantly kill Levi and opted to use his basic swordsmanship instead.

The two battled it out in the clearing, and both parties rained down attacks like a storm. In a few minutes, the two sides stepped aside and faced each other as the heavy dust cleared.

Unknowingly, Levi seemed evenly matched with Knight Fred, and he scoffed under his breath.

Fred! Dont go easy on me! In a real battle, the enemy wont!

Im not going easy on you, Knight Fred smiled wryly. Your strength is not much different from mine as an intermediate Knight.

Wordlessly, Knight Fred exuded an aura of strength and dashed forward like a hungry vulture.

A legendary bird of prey that preys on ferocious, venomous snakes.

Even if Levi tried his best, Knight Fred dealt with him with ease.

Hes good, Knight Fred smiled among the slashes. He just needs a little more experience in battle.

Finally, Knight Fred sheathed his sword and praised, Your strength has far exceeded my expectations, master. It wont be long before you surpass this old sack of bones.

Chapter 43: Level 4 Forging

Thanks, Fred. Levi smiled as Knight Fred helped him up.

On the muscles of his sturdy legs, traces of a prowling black mist swirled in the air.

This black mist wrapped around his legs, enhancing his reaction time and making his speed far exceed that of an ordinary person.

Youre one step closer to becoming a well-rounded Knight. Keep it up, Knight Fred encouraged.

Levi flexed his muscles, and he could feel the seed in his heart lying dormant in his heart.

Faintly, he could see the snake-like mist suppressing the wolf-like misteven though they are mere breathing methods, there is also the distinction of class within his heart.

Levi was surprised as he peered into his own heart.

Its time to put the Siren Breathing Method and the Giant Bear Breathing Method on the agenda, Levi muttered to himself. Being able to change my own body shape is going to be very useful.

Judging from his past experiences, these superficial breathing methods should not take very long, and the special abilities produced from them will still be very helpful to him.

Back in the castle, Levi came to the forge.

Lord Levi, this is the steel helmet I forged. Please take a look at it, Milan said, showing Levi the results of his forge.

Well, look at you! Levi praised. You're a qualified blacksmith, just like your father. Listen, I am busy with my affairs, but forging will remain important in my territory. If we exceed this year's target, I will give you a pay raise. As for your father, I have plans to rescue him at the right time.

Thank you, Lord Levi. Milan looked flustered as he scurried back to work.

Levi came to his station and started to forge sets of armour.

He wants to reach Level 4 as soon as possible.

About a week later, Levi spent a lot of time in the forge, and soon he hit the fourth level.

Forging: Level 4 (222/20000). Special Effects: High-Quality Goods, Luck of the Forge.

[Luck of the Forge: You are proficient in forging, and your efficiency is beyond the reach of ordinary people.]

Not bad, Levi thought. This way, my output will be greatly increased, and I will be able to save more money.

He was pleased to see that there was still much to be improved with forging.

This means that the depths and technicalities of forging run deep.

Levi couldn't help but think of the legendary blacksmith known as Hagrid, the Hammer of Flame.

However, he doesn't know how far he is from becoming a legendary blacksmith like him.

It's a pity he has passed away. In the kingdom, I heard that there is no longer a blacksmith of his calibre.

For the rest of the month, Levi continued to forge and practise.

With his newfound ability, his forging efficiency is twice as high as before.

Originally, his forging efficiency was already far higher than that of ordinary blacksmiths.

In short, Levi could forge six pieces of armour, while Milan could only forge one. The gap is self-evident.

Two months slipped away in a moment of time, and Levi practised and forged day after day. During this time, he successfully introduced the Siren Breathing Method into his body.

With the arrival of the budding moon, the winter snow began to melt, and the chilly air began to fade away. Amongst the permafrost, tiny, green buds began to emerge, and the gentle breath of spring descended upon the Blackwater Valley.

On this day, Levi led a small group of soldiers along a muddy trail, and an old cow pulled a cart full of weaponry and armour covered with hay.

In the past winter, they produced a total of 30 sets of armour, and Levi kept half of the best ones for his men.

He will sell the others in the City of Icy Winds and purchase some ambergris before he heads back home.

With forging becoming his cash cow, Levi forecasts that the lands annual income will be doubled with ease.

He was confident that the revenue of his territory would soon exceed 1,000 gold coins, which was an income that many barons of the North couldnt achieve.

City of Icy Winds.

In a luxurious, solemn mansion, an aristocrat donning expensive clothing enjoyed his dinner. He was poised in an elegant manner, cutting the piece of beef before him gently with his fork and knife, savouring the beef on his tongue before swallowing.

At some point in his meal, in the shadows beyond the candlelit dinner, a figure fully wrapped in black emerged.

The Illusory Demon Knight has not reported back for almost half a year, but according to our spies, Baron Levi remains alive. That means that he is either dead or abandoned the mission and cut contact with us, the shadow said.

Our client is questioning our abilities, so the Pale Shadow has entrusted you to carry out the mission that the Demon Knight failed in, the shadow continued. Our client has raised his payment, and you will be paid 300 gold coins; here is the deposit of 100 gold coins. The Pale Shadow holds high hopes for you. You must be careful in this operation and ensure success.

The aristocrat put a hand behind him, wordlessly taking the bag of 100 gold coins from the figure. He shook it lightly, and the wonderful cacophony of gold clashed loudly in the silent hall.

Where is Baron Levi? the aristocrat asked.

In the City. Our spies report that he is wearing a white wolf mask, so he should be an easy target for you.

I see. Await the good news, the aristocrat said as he waved his hand, and the shadow disappeared into the darkness.

The aristocrat got up, gingerly placed the gold coins into an iron box, and locked it up. His eyes shone with avarice as he eyed his stash of 3,000 gold coins, which were his savings over the past few decades.

Fiddling with his clothes in front of his large mirror, he picked up his sabre and blew out the candles in the room. Bernard stood silent in the darkness, whispering a prayer.

O Lord of Shadows, may this assassination be completed with ease.

Chapter 44: Five Shadows of Death

Bernard's father was once a baron in the northern lands.

When he was very young, his father became addicted to gambling and sold his baronial title. Therefore, his family had no choice but to move to the City of Icy Winds.

This made him resent his father. It was because of his father that he was unable to become a baron himself; it was because of his father that he had to live amongst the lowly commoners of the City.

He worked hard ever since he was a child and soon became a qualified Knight. He practised his ancestral breathing method to the highest point and killed his own father in cold blood.

He then felt the touch of the Lord of Shadows by accident, and he believed. With his strength as an intermediate Knight, he joined the Voice of the Dead Bird and gradually became the Lord of Shadows mouththe Silver Assassin of the Shadows.

The assassin grading system is divided into bronze, silver, gold, and darkness.

Those with the strength of a generic Knight and who have completed five successful assassinations are regarded as bronze assassins; the qualified Knights with fifteen successful assassinations are silver assassins; and a high-level, perhaps bordering on a Great Knight, with thirty successful assassinations are gold assassins.

As for the Darkness tier, there are only five known assassins with that title in the Voice of the Dead Bird, and they are known as the Five Shadows of Death. They are closely

attuned to the Lord of Shadows, and they are the arms and legs of the Lord of Shadows in this world.

Nobody knows who they are, but one thing is for sure: all of them are Great Knights.

Their identities are shrouded in mysteries and shadows, fitting for an agent of the dark.

Night came, and stars were scattered across the navy sky.

Bernard's body faded into the darkness, and he sneaked towards Levi's last known location.

Bernard was known as the Shadow Hunter in the Voice of the Dead Bird; he rejected the commodified Siren Breathing Method and instead practised the breathing method tied to his blood: The Shadow Leopard Breathing Method, known for its extreme dexterity and stealth capabilities.

In Bernard's view, the Illusory Demon Knight failed in his mission due to carelessness and underestimation of his enemy. An opponent like Baron Levi should be dealt with by a qualified Knight like himself.

After this mission, I'll be able to redeem my baronial title and retire, Bernard whispered in his heart. He had waited too long for this moment.

The Shining Tavern.

Levi bought a glass of Unknown, commemorating Anonymous, the Knight of a Thousand Faces.

The proprietress is still bored, holding her chin as she gently sips on her wine.

Soon, flocks of Knights and nobles flooded into the Tavern.

A burly Knight also walked in among the crowd, and Levi knew he was the Hog Rider.

Why did you sell me so little a while ago? the Hog Rider asked with a frown.

I was a little busy, Levi replied.

You seem stronger than before, Geralt. I can smell power from you, the Hog Rider said in a low voice.

Levi did not respond but instead asked, Where's the money?

The Hog Rider wordlessly took out the money and showed it to Levi, shaking the bag of gold coins before him.

Levi nodded and led the Hog Rider to the delivery location outside the City.

After all, it was inconvenient for him to lead his men into the city. Hence, the two of them agreed to initiate the trade outside the City but meet inside the Tavern.

With his current strength, he doesn't have to worry about being robbed by the Hog Rider.

The Hog Rider inspected the goods and instructed his men to load the goods into the carriage, saying, Your armour is improving. You must be a very talented blacksmith in the making. If you join my organisation

No need, Levi replied swiftly.

The Hog Rider saw that it was useless to invite him and left grumpily.

Go back home, Levi ordered his soldiers. I still have some things to attend to.

Levi returned to the Shining Tavern once again. When he was trading with the Hog Rider, he could feel his oppressive aura turn calm, as if the Hog Rider was acknowledging that they were on equal footing. If they were to fight, Levi was confident he could kill him.

Its unnecessary, he thought to himself. Even if the Hog Rider is his enemy, this enemy of his is his sole customer.

Levi waited in the Shining Tavern but did not find the Knight who sold ambergris. He planned to stay in the City for a few days and wait for him; if the other party did not appear, he had other ways to find ambergris.

Little did Levi know that he had been targeted by the Shadow Hunter.

Levi, bored, decides to look at the task board located within the Tavern.

His eyes darted all over the board, and soon he found a task relating to ambergris. A noble was also buying ambergris; the commission was issued three months ago, and yet nobody has completed it.

Levi's face turned visibly ugly; it is highly unlikely that anyone would want to complete that noble's mission.

He knew that ambergris was completely monopolized by that damned White Knight. The prospect of him becoming a Legendary Knight caused the market's supply of ambergris to vanish overnight.

I might have to go to the Tuva Empire if this continues, he sighs internally.

He really didnt want to go to the Tuva Empire. An unfamiliar environment always comes with unknown risks.

His eyes washed over the task board in disappointment, but his eyes caught a mission in the corner of the task board.

Chapter 45: The Black Rhino Knight, Hunting Beasts

This is a coincidence

Isnt this reward tailor-made for me?

Levi wondered if this mission was bait, but this task was released seven days ago.

Logically, given how valuable ambergris was, this task should have been taken on long ago.

However, the task was still there after seven days, which means that the person who issued the task had high requirements in archery.

Although the details of the mission are vague, Levi decided to take the risk and accept the mission.

It didnt take long for the poster of this task to find Levi.

Levi was admittedly amused when he saw the poster; it was none other than the Knight who sold him ambergris.

In the end, it seemed that this Knight was the only person who could provide him with ambergris.

Fate is a wonderful thing, and Levi couldnt help but sigh.

However, this tells Levi that this Knight has a way of obtaining ambergris.

The Knight didnt seem to recognise Levi and asked in a serious tone, Your Excellency, have you read the mission requirements? I require a skilled archer, and I take this very seriously.

The Knight eyed Levi up and down. After all, no less than ten people who claimed to be archers summoned him, but the Knight found that all these people were liars.

Why dont you test it out yourself? Levi offered calmly.

Alright then, follow me. The Knight then left the Shining Tavern, and Levi followed closely behind.

In the wilderness outside the City, the Knight found a clearing and produced three rabbits from his coat. These rabbits were still alive, and they kicked violently in his grasp.

In order to confirm your skills in archery, I need to conduct a test, the Knight said.

No problem.

The Knight nodded, and he released the rabbits from his grasp.

The three rabbits quickly scattered in three different directions.

It didnt take long for them to run 100 metres away from them.

You may begin; if you can hit two arrows, you pass my test, the Knight said, but it seemed as if he had no faith in Levi.

If shooting just one rabbit was difficult, then shooting the second one is nigh impossible; the rabbits running speed is way too fast for any ordinary Knight to handle. Once you shoot the first one, the second one has already fled the scene.

However, in the next moment, the Knight could see Levi casually shooting an arrow in the sky without even aiming. After shooting the first arrow blindly, he shot the second one effortlessly.

The rabbits were already more than a hundred metres away from the two, and under the shocked eyes of the Knight, the two rabbits were shot in the head and died instantly.

Levi didnt bother subduing the third rabbit; he didnt want to reveal too much of his own strength.

Your archery skills are superb, the Knight praised. Let me tell you about the mission.

By the way, Im Graff, a bounty hunter, the Knight introduced. May I ask for your name?

You may call me the White Wolf. Im a Free Knight.

In other words, he called himself a Wandering Knight. However, since Wandering Knights have a negative connotation, some unemployed Knights call themselves Free Knights. Back in Levis world, one would probably call them freelancers.

Graff nodded, understanding that the person before him wanted to conceal his identity. However, it was obvious that he should be a certain noble Knight and most definitely not a Free Knight.

Graff wordlessly led Levi to a mansion he bought in the City.

When Levi arrived, he found that there were already three Knights in the mansion; one of them was more than two metres tall. He was obviously practising a powerful breathing method, and by his side was an exaggeratedly tall shield.

As for the other two Knights, one of them was a rare female Knight. Women are rarely allowed to learn breathing methods, so female Knights are scarce in this world.

The female Knight wore light leather armour that wrapped around her petite yet well-built figure. With her curly blonde hair and slender yet sturdy legs, she was beautiful.

The last Knight was a middle-aged man, and he donned a rifle by his side. He cooed his beloved horse with fodder by the stable, stroking its mane.

These Knights, including Levi, were gathered at Graff's mansion for his mission.

White Wolf, let me introduce you to our three other teammates in this operation. The tall, strong man over here is the Black Rhinoceros Knight; this beautiful, elegant, yet powerful lady is the Black Widow Knight; and the one who is tending to his horse is the Blue Falcon Knight.

I summoned five qualified Knights for this operation, Graff huffed with a smile. Just to ensure that this mission is foolproof.

What is our mission, exactly? Levi asked. Up until now, Graff has not disclosed the details of the mission.

Graff shook his head, leading them to a warehouse in the mansion. Inside, there was a machine that took up quite a lot of space.

Levi's complexion visibly changed when he saw its military-grade, armour-piercing crossbow used in large-scale wars. He remembered reading about how it was capable of tearing through armour like butter to a hot knife and of piercing through city walls like nothing.

We are going to kill an Earth Dragon, Graff said.

Upon hearing this, Levi turned around and left.