

Runesmith 125

[Chapter 125 Tough fight.](#)

Roland looked at the monster that had gained an enraged status after it had been frozen. Some of its health had dropped but it was now quickly regenerating back up.

The monster started looking different than before. It switched to a deep red coloration; its horns and dorsal spine increased in size. The largest difference was the sword-like tail which was now burning up. It looked as if it was covered with magma which was also radiating from some cracks in the armor-like plates the monster was covered in.

While Lucille and Robert were stunned by the monster's second form Roland raised his rod. The runes glowed in a chilling blue light before a large ball of ice formed in front of it. This ball was then shot off while spinning around.

The monster was still slow as before but this time around when this ball of ice snow collided with it, it started to quickly melt. The Xornotaurus roared out and opened up its mouth. In it, Roland could see the flame-producing sac organ which this type of creature was known for.

'Shit...'

He quickly started running sideways, if he was a second late he would have been charred. The concentrated flamethrower-like breath collided with the spot Roland was previously in. Even the hard rocks started to melt from the high temperature.

The monster didn't stop with its magma-like projectile attack. It followed after its prey by swinging its head sideways and trying to hit Roland as he was running. His armor was lighting up in green as he switched on his agility buffing runes to make a fast getaway.

Without his runic shield in his hands, he was not confident in blocking this attack with a regular magic shield. Even though he had that runic program in his armor it wasn't specialized for it.

"D-don't worry Sir Wayland!"

While feeling a burning inferno at his back he heard a woman's voice from afar. It was Lucille shouting out, Robert was next to her with the shield raised and sword in one hand. The young ice mage started concentrating and gathering mana.

She closed her eyes and chanted as fast as she could. The blue crystal on her magical rod started pulsating with energy and slowly the spell started to take shape. It looked to be a large spire of ice, it was quite thick at the base and became thinner the further it went, culminating in quite the sharp top.

"Ice Lance!"

After completion, the girl shouted out and pointed her magical weapon at the monster in the distance. The large spear of ice flew forward, the added distance only gave it more time to gain speed. The attack headed right at the monster's side. Lucille hoped that even the monster's thick plates would not be able to resist such a heavy and fast-moving object.

Regretfully the monster would not allow this to be tested as it noticed this large human-sized icicle coming its way. It turned its body while swinging that giant sword-tail at the incoming ice lance.

It managed to slice it in two while only part of it collided with its heated up plates. Due to the loss of size and momentum the damage was minor. The monster now looked to Lucille and Robert while Roland was given a well-deserved breather.

Agni appeared at his side and started whining. It was clear that the tamed beast would not be able to last even one hit.

“Agni... go and hide...”

The ruby wolf curled up its tail as it felt without use. He was smart enough to know that he would only get in the way so it decided to bide its time for the moment that he could be useful.

While Agni was moving away Roland looked at the lava-covered ground that was melted by this creature. He did not think that his armor would offer him enough resistance against this monster’s attack. Even if he pumped all of his mana into his ice shield he would only last a few seconds before it gave out.

‘This thing is resistant to ice...’

This was one of the worst possible outcomes. Previously they enjoyed a rather easy time against the lesser monsters in this dungeon. It was enough to just lower their temperature slightly and they would just shut down.

This one on the other hand had some kind of internal heating organ. Even when they brought its temperature below 0 degrees it could just heat itself back up. The monster was also a large one and they only had one-handed swords with not much weight behind them.

Roland had brought things along as a large two-handed axe and hammer for such an occasion but it was left behind with the porters. The bag that he had with him only had his runsemithing tools along with provisions.

The spatial bag he had lacked the capacity and carrying a backpack in the dungeon was too much of a hindrance while fighting. Thus he was only left with some bombs, spell scrolls, and what he had on himself.

None of these things would probably be able to cause long-lasting damage to this monster. It was heavily armored and had quite thick legs. There was also the huge burning swordtail, which was a problem in itself. Would he be even able to resist it with his runic shield? Or would he be sliced in half with one swing?

It didn’t seem like he would have much time to reorganize his thoughts though as the monster gave out another giant scream. He expected it to fire another flaming breath or charge at Robert and Lucille. Instead of doing that it took out a wider stance while arching its back.

‘What is it doing...’

He could soon spot the tips of the backplate spikes glowing brighter than before. Roland took a step back before looking at Robert and Lucille.

“Don’t just stand there, scatter both of you!”

Lucille was surprised at Roland’s outburst while Robert furrowed his brows while looking at the monster. He seemed to understand the situation as he quickly sheathed his sword and lunged towards Lucille.

“Sir Robert? W-what are you doing?”

“Forgive me, my lady...”

The knight lifted up the noble lady with both his hands and started running. Almost at the same time, those glowing back spikes shot up into the air. They were clearly heated up and produced dark smoke.

There were four large spikes that at the apex of their trajectory exploded. This produced many smaller red hot embers that plummeted to the ground in various directions. Roland saw this and started dodging at max speed.

The moment one of these glowing chunks collided with something on the ground a small explosion occurred. They were slow-moving enough for Roland with his agility buff to react in time, on the other hand, Robert and Lucille weren’t as lucky.

Robert raised his shield while one of these projectiles collided with it. The explosion rattled his hand and tossed him along with the girl he was carrying to the side.

The Arden Knight didn’t let this be their demise though. He firmly grasped the runic shield that he was given and activated its magical effect. A large shield of ice appeared while he held it in place.

Roland could see the many explosive projectiles colliding with this shield while he was trying to evade them himself. The shield of ice was quickly faltering and only more mana could mend the holes back up.

He was in no position to help them though, from afar he tried casting a few runic spells but there were far too many of those flaming balls coming down. It looked like a small meteor shower raining down from the sky.

Robert was somehow able to defend himself and Lucille but he was slowly reaching the limit of his mana. This shield was not designed for someone like him in mind, it would quickly drain a non-mage in a matter of moments.

The monster was also there and it could see the stationary targets. It opened up its maw once more, the target this time was Robert and the melting shield of ice that he was holding.

The explosive rain was almost over but it didn’t seem that this monster would be letting up, it had clearly produced this attack to somehow tie its targets into one location. This time around it wasn’t a breath of molten lava, the charge up was not there.

Before Roland could interrupt this attack a large ball of fire traveled from the creature’s mouth.

“Watch out!”

He shouted while Robert turned the shield to intercept this ball of flames. A loud explosion resounded through the area. There was a lot of dust created by the previous attack along with this one. Roland could not see what happened to his two party members.

After raising his magic rod higher he produced many frozen arrows. From the other side, he also activated his armor and created a few arrows made from hard rock. The magical attacks flew forward and successfully interrupted the monster's second flame attack, however it also made it turn its massive head back towards Roland.

Smoke and steam were pushed out into this room raising the temperature to an uncomfortable point. Even with these frost runes turned on he was starting to feel the heat.

The monster opened up its mouth and started charging, this time it used a different tactic by firing off more concentrated flame balls. These were quite hard to evade, with the constant increase of smoke it only made things harder for Roland.

He found himself moving his hand forward and activating his shielding spells, just as one of the flame balls exploded next to him. This sent him flying into the nearby wall, his deep steel armor plates started rattling and bending out of shape before he fell back down to the ground.

Roland felt a metallic taste in his mouth as his HP decreased by a large chunk. It seemed that fighting this monster at range was impossible. It had a wide range of attacks while also did not take much damage from any spells that he could cast.

The earth's spells bounced off while the ice ones melted almost instantly. Using fire spells and wind ones didn't feel advised as well, which left a few that could cause some damage.

A T-rex-like head emerged from the smoke, its aim was his head. Roland quickly opened one of the pouches on his belt. A series of small cards were tossed out which quickly turned into balls of electricity.

The monster instead of biting through Roland's armor got electrocuted. The lightning spell's energy seemed to be able to cause some harm to it as it was able to ignore the armored plates.

Regretfully it didn't seem to be packing up enough of a punch as even when the monster was stopped in its tracks for a moment it quickly recovered. It turned around and instead of using its mouth, it utilized that giant flaming bladed tail.

Roland's armor started glowing in green as he quickly backed away. He wasn't fast enough and he could only brace himself while protecting his head with both his sword and the thick magic rod.

Even with both of these items and while also wearing deep steel gauntlets, the monster's tail shredded right through them. He was tossed back again with both of his weapons breaking. The mana stones on his gauntlets burst and the metal bent as he tumbled back while almost getting both of his hands broken.

"Gah..."

After rolling for a while he ended up almost in the middle of the room. His gauntlets had the runic components needed for him to cast spells. After the attack one of them became unusable, nothing more than scrap metal. The other one was badly damaged and the runic components were unusable. Thankfully he had his runic mending skill which he activated instantly.

The Runic mending caused his mana to drop further and give him a migraine. The gauntlet was not the only damaged runic part as his back and chest plate had been damaged as well. Missing mana stones, arms that were bleeding, and a monster with over 60% of its HP was standing before him.

He had barely enough time to stand up before the monster had charged at him again. With his injuries and his armor being mangled up he now had a tougher time in evading the attacks. The monster was becoming slower as well but it was clear that if this continued for longer that he would be the one losing.

This was a clear difference in levels. This monster was resistant to most magic that he could throw at it, even the electric spells only fazed it for a moment. There was a big difference in levels as well as size and the versatility that this monster showed didn't help either.

Roland quickly found himself going through all of his spell scrolls. Various elemental magics rained down on the monster's thick hide and he could see it losing its health points. It wasn't enough, it was clear that this monster was some kind of special evolution that might be comparable to his Runesmith Lord class's rarity.

With not much else to do, he went for his trump card. He threw the previously created runic scroll that he made from the ruby salamander's hide. It was aimed at the ground while he retreated, the moment the Xornotaurus approached the trap was activated.

Large thick vines sprung out from this spell scroll and attacked the enemy before it. The large monster was momentarily wrapped up but even now Roland could see that it wouldn't hold it in place for long.

In his spatial bag, he had a certain attachment. It looked like welded together iron pipes that could connect to his working gauntlet's top part which was closer to the vambrace. This attachment had mana stones placed on the rear sides of these deep steel pipes, runes were clearly visible on the entire structure.

He took aim, with this item on his forearm he pointed with his right hand at the roaring monster. The armor accessory that looked like a circular row of pipes started shining. The mana stones lit up along with the runic components and sparks started flying.

Roland could feel his mana reserves being drained rapidly as he tried keeping awake. This thing was something he created as a last-ditch effort as it had many drawbacks. The armor he was wearing lit up in red as all the runes reacted.

The monster started shaking around and the thick vines that were made from plant matter began to burn up. It looked at its small enemy, Roland at this moment was pointing with his right hand at it while holding the forearm with his left. His whole suit was radiating magical energy and the monster's instincts were telling him that it was in danger.

It opened up its mouth and got ready to burn its enemy to cinders but before it could breathe out, Roland's magical attack was activated. It created a bright multicolored beam of energy that flew forward and then collided with the mass of magma.

The monster's attack was drilled into by this lance-wide attack and connected with the monster's head in almost a fraction of a second. A huge explosion followed the clash of these two ranged attacks and made everything hard to see.

"D-did that do it..."

Roland's hands dropped down as he couldn't move a muscle. He had burned through almost all of his mana with that one attack and was unable to move. The magic beam clearly connected with the monster's head and pierced through it. He was even able to see it connecting with the chamber walls.

"Hsssss..."

A strange hissing sound was suddenly heard by him and the smoke cleared. The creature was revealed with quite the slack jaw. It looked like the attack connected lower than he had anticipated, leaving it very much alive. It looked like it had somehow twisted its body and neck to the side at the last moment to evade this beam. Part of its neck was damaged but its brain was still intact.

"F-fuck..."

Without a big chunk of its mouth, the monster slowly approached. It was quite injured and its HP was almost gone but it could still move. This was not something that Roland could do. His legs felt like they were stuck in concrete, he could not move a muscle, and keeping his eyes open was the most he could do.

The creature lumbered towards him at a slow pace but the large strides quickly brought it over to where Roland was standing. This looked like it was the end, one swipe with its large claws or that swordtail and it would be over.

Suddenly a howling sound could be heard and from the side like a bolt of lightning, a certain Ruby Wolf came. He lunged himself on the monster's damaged mouth and started biting. He utilized his attacking skill that injected flames into its mouth while also using his tail to pierce the monster's eye.

The angry monster started shaking its massive body around while trying to dislodge the small wolf from its head. Its small raptor-like arms came into play as they were long enough to swipe at the intruder.

A yelp was heard as Agni's body was slashed by the monster and he was forced to let go. The Ruby wolf's body tumbled to the side while the enraged monster looked to the annoying opponent.

This loss of focus was used by another person. As if he was waiting for the right moment, Robert came charging from the side and delivered a precise shield bash to the monster's side. Being already injured this much this was enough to tip the beast over.

This wasn't the end as Roland heard Lucille's voice chanting a spell. When he glanced at her he could see a massive ice spike hovering over her head. It was a lot larger than the ice spear she created before.

The spell was released, the injured monster protected itself once more by swinging its giant tail at this glacial lance. The spell connected with the beast which did quite some damage to the long sturdy tail but it was not enough. Lucille was still only a low-leveled frost mage, she just didn't have enough magical energy to deliver the finishing blow.

But this wasn't over, Roland saw an opportunity. With his hands shaking he reached into his satchel once more from which he pulled out some round orbs. This was the last remaining ammunition that he had and he would need to trust his older brother with this.

"Robert... throw it into its mouth..."

With a last resort, he threw three orbs towards his half-brother. He instantly tumbled forward and collapsed on the ground while the items landed a few meters away from Robert.

Robert was also in quite a bad condition, the previous monster attack blew away the shield with a chunk of his armor. His shoulder on the side that he held the shield had been broken along with his arm.

He was still in better shape than his younger brother. The orbs that he saw before him were something he had seen before. Remembering the explanation that Roland had given him he quickly took them into his good hand.

The monster slowly stood up and glanced down at the person that rammed into it from the side.

"Eat this, you overgrown Salamander!"

Robert chucked the bundled-up spheres at the monster that lacked a lower jaw. With good aim, the three runic items made it into its mouth. Before the monster could realize what it had swallowed it could feel its neck expanding.

With a very characteristic sound, the neck of the monster exploded. Its head was tossed up into the air and landed close to the knight that tossed the runic grenades into its mouth.

The battle was finally over, the three humans remained victorious, each one injured more than the other and still all trapped in this dungeon...

[Chapter 126 Resting before the return.](#)

The Bladed Volcanic Xornotaurus lay down on the ground, its large body missing a head that had rolled over to the side. The battle was over and Roland could hear the system giving him a message.

You have gained 82689 experience points.

For dealing the most damage to a boss-type enemy more than 25 levels above your current level, you have achieved the Goliath Slayer title.

You have leveled up.

...

Roland dropped down onto his posterior and started panting. He soon collapsed onto his back while having a hard time breathing. His eyes started to close but before he could pass out he felt something slippery touch his face.

It was Agni that had limped over from the side, his tamed beast had been knocked away and suffered some injuries after being clawed. He was bleeding and his side had a large gash.

"Good boy..."

Agni received a weak pat on the head before Roland raised himself into a sitting position. The injured wolf's legs started giving out but Roland was quick in catching his injured beast.

With shaky hands, Roland reached into his satchel. During the hectic fight, he didn't even have time to drink one of these potions, now they were needed to save Agni.

He quickly brought out one of the healing potions and started pouring it over Agni's large wound. It started sizzling and slowly closing. Thanks to their connection he could see Agni's status screen, after checking it he could see the bleeding status slowly being grayed out before disappearing.

Roland gave out a sigh of relief, his tamed beast would make it out alive while also gaining a couple of levels. He was next in line to drink some recovery potions, mana, health, and stamina potions quickly made it into his mouth as he recovered.

He was preoccupied with his party members but he could hear the system mention that he had gained multiple levels from gaining so much experience.

Robert was holding onto his broken shoulder while also collapsing onto his back. He could tell that his older brother was quite tired. Lucille at this time was face down on the ground as well, she had probably passed out from using up all of her mana during that last spell.

The experience in this world was somewhat shared and depending on who did the most damage they would receive most of it. Even though the two contributed less than him, they would also be receiving quite a lot. Robert would most likely be handsomely rewarded due to him landing the finishing blow.

Goliath Slayer

Title

While in possession of this title you deal 5% more damage to monsters that out-level you by more than 25 levels.

The title gave a flat boost to damage, he had also gained some levels after this fight. This one dead monster gave him the equivalent of fighting hundreds of those ruby salamanders. If he had to choose, he would rather fight hundreds of those smaller monsters one by one than face this thing alone again.

"Ugh...wish these potions worked faster... where is a priest when you need one."

Priests and clerics like the woman that they brought along had various buffing magics. They would allow the party members to recover their mana and stamina at a quicker pace. It would have been nice if that healer they had taken along had fallen down here with them, but luckily he didn't lose any limbs.

His right hand was in a world of hurt. He received a full hit from that monster that destroyed both his sword and rod. The pieces were still scattered around this large open cavern.

'This thing needs a rework...'

Roland looked at his right hand on it was the melted attachment that he placed on his wrist. It had somewhat fused with his gauntlet at this point and rendered it nothing more than junk.

With this he had lost both of his hand protectors and would be unable to discharge spells through them. His armor was also barely holding together, the only lucky thing about this was that his helmet had stayed on his head for the entire battle. Thus Robert could not see his face even after all of this had happened.

'I need to give them the healing potions.'

Finally, Roland moved his tired and beat-up body in motion. Robert had a whole broken shoulder after holding steady and protecting Lucille as a proper knight. He had to give it to his older brother, he had some balls.

He prioritized the woman's life over his own even though he could have easily just abandoned her. Roland wasn't sure how deep of a relationship these two had but he hoped that the girl would appreciate the gesture when she woke up.

"Are you awake?"

"B-barely..."

Robert gave Roland a weak smile while looking pale.

"Your shoulder... I'll have to..."

"I know... get it over with..."

Robert knew that the broken bone needed to be aligned before the healing potion was drunk. Roland was not a cleric but he knew first aid and would be able to push the bone into the right place.

"Argh...."

Robert gave out a grunt while pushing the fingers from his good arm into the rocky ground. After the bones were somewhat set in place, Roland poured the red healing potion on the injury. Then the rest was given for drinking.

These potions were high quality and would be even able to heal the broken bones within a few hours of being drunk. For faster healing, something like an elixir would be required or a powerful cleric spell.

"How do you feel?"

"I'm fine but Lady Lucille."

"You should think about your own health before worrying about others..."

Roland stood up and moved towards the passed-out frost mage. She had a magnificent face planted on the ground while making a T pose. This was one of those times when he missed having a smartphone to document it for future generations.

Before Robert could shout at him from the distance he flipped the girl over. She was given a mana potion, healing potion, and a stamina potion. Lucille had the least amount of wounds besides a few scratches here and there. Robert had successfully managed to protect her life at his own expense.

There didn't seem to be any monsters around for now, there was even a chest that popped up in the middle of this chamber. It was similar to the one at the boss room on the 10th level with the biggest difference being that it was made of silver.

"My Lady..."

Even before his arm could heal Robert had dragged his body over to the passed-out Lucille. The group of three and the wolf were now sitting all together and resting. Finally, after a few minutes Lucille awoke, the first thing she saw was Robert's concerned face that was quite close to her own.

"Sir Robert?"

She quickly raised her head out of panic which made her forehead collide with Robert's nose. The two started holding their faces while Roland stared at the comedic duo, a small chuckle even escaped from his mouth that he quickly hid away by moving his helmet-covered face to the side.

"What happened... Where is the monster? Is Sir Wayland alive?"

"I'm fine, thanks for your concern, Lady Lucille."

"Sir Wayland! You are well!"

"Relax, breathe in, Sir Robert, can you explain to the lady and calm her down?"

Roland stood up after resting for a bit and let the knight talk to his lady. While he explained how the monster was defeated, Roland would go over to the treasure chest.

Silver Chest [High]

It was quite the well-built chest that was somewhat a carbon copy of the bronze one he saw in the Ruby Golem boss chamber. It didn't seem to have any locks or traps on it but Roland was not willing to risk it. He would rather not get shot by some strange spells or arrows when he opened it.

He grabbed the bladed part of his broken arming sword that he finally found. With it, he slowly moved the chest lid open. Just like with the bronze chest there was nothing out of the ordinary. When looking inside he could see some items.

Crescent Axe [High]

Enchanted Str+5

Well-kept old deep-silver battle axe with a long hilt and a crescent-shaped blade.

'Deep silver huh?'

Just like deep steel, there were other alloys similar to it. Even though this one was called deep-silver it didn't mean that it was less sturdy than steel. The silver counterpart was quite similar in that regard but it had some other properties like having added damaging effects against undead creatures.

Roland did not think the added price was worth the expenditure so he continued using deep steel. Both of these metals had the same resistance to runic erosion so it didn't matter that much to him.

'This will come in handy...'

Roland held the weapon out, it was a long two-handed weapon more in line with a halberd than an actual axe. He did not have his axe-related skills leveled up that much but this was better than not having a weapon at all. The added strength would also boost his attacking power for when they entered the corridor filled with those monsters.

Besides the weapon, there were three deep-silver bars along with some silver coins. These dungeon coins could be used along with the minted kingdom coins as everything was still being counted by this world's system as the same.

Roland felt like this reward was not that great. The monster trashed his armor and destroyed his deep steel weapons. It also put a big dent in his runic shield that he lent to his half-brother, all in all, this would probably barely cover the repair costs.

There was also the problem of not being able to take the monster along with them for parts. This T-rex look-alike would probably go for some gold coins, its tail could probably be fashioned into a two-handed sword.

He lacked a large enough spatial bag to fit it in, he would regretfully have to leave the monster there but there was still one item that he could take, the mana stone.

It was quite large but also deep inside the monster's insides. This creature was over level hundred and halfway towards tier 3. It was a miracle that they were able to defeat it already.

"We should be safe for the time being..."

"Sir Wayland, what about those monsters behind that large gate? Won't they enter this room?"

"I don't think so..."

"How so?"

Asked the blue-haired lady that was in the process of getting her hair in place.

"I have a theory about this hidden dungeon..."

Roland started to explain about finding this place odd. The moment that door was opened the boss appeared but when they entered from the other side nothing happened. This didn't make sense unless they entered the boss chamber from the wrong side.

The correct path to this boss chamber was probably at another location. The path they took was a secret backdoor.

The creatures behind those gates were just the usual mobs that were protecting the boss chamber. The room was more than likely created in a way that only when the door was opened and then closed did the boss monster spawn in.

"Fascinating... but doesn't that mean..."

"Yes, if we follow that path we should be able to come out at the intended entrance, which should probably take us to the main dungeon."

Robert gave out a sigh while Lady Lucille clapped her hands together. She quickly moved her hand to the side to where her pouch was or at least where it should be.

“Huh?”

“Is something wrong Lady Lucille?”

“My items... I think my spatial pouch was destroyed during the monster attack...”

Lucille added while remembering something hitting her side. When a spatial item was damaged from the outside whatever was inside of it became lost in the void. The bag itself would become nothing more than scrap leather.

“We can’t contact Lord Percival now, they might think we are dead!”

“That’s regrettable, we won’t be able to give them our location even when we leave this place...”

This was a setback that Roland could live with. If Robert or Lucille actually reported that he pulled two nobles into a boss fight, he might get the gallows for it. At that time revealing his true heritage would be the only way to save his hide.

The two didn’t seem like they would reveal this secret if he asked them about it. His older brother had surprisingly mellowed down but that could have been the effect of the woman next to him. He might have been holding back, unwilling to show his old violent tendencies.

“I’m not sure if we can stay here for too long.”

“Why is that Sir Wayland?”

Asked Lucille and Roland started to explain to her how these boss chambers worked.

“So Sir Wayland is saying that if we stay here for too long that monster could appear again?”

“Yes, we should not be in any danger for now, but I would not stay here for more than a day... then there is that door. We might have to charge in through it and lock ourselves in with those monsters, if we retreat into this chamber its boss might appear again.”

Roland didn’t think he would be able to battle the monster with his broken armor. He might be able to set up a few traps but the only real resource he had was the deep silver he just found, a few metal ores from that hidden chamber, and the boss monsters’ remains to scribe some scrolls.

“Is that so...”

Lucille looked at the dead monster that was in the process of being sniffed by a now recovered Agni. It was clear to Roland that his pooch was interested in the sizable mana stone that was still inside that dinosaur.

“Never thought I’d see one of these.”

“You recognize this monster?”

“Yes, I’ve consulted some books to see what kind of creatures inhabit volcanic dungeons like this. I never thought to see a variant of the Volcanic Xornotaurus!”

Lucille's eyes sparkled a bit, the girl seemingly liked to read about beasts as well. Normally the only version of this monster did not possess a bladed tail. It was also not able to heat itself up as much but still possessed the iconic flame breath.

This type of monster could even evolve into a land dragon if it managed to reach tier 3. It would be still a lesser form of a dragon but still a monster that would require a whole party of tier 3 adventurers to defeat it.

"You should try to regain as much strength as you can, we will have to leave soon."

Roland said while standing up, he needed to pick up the scrap metal that was once his weapons and armor. Without his gauntlets, he could still somewhat use his feet to produce some magical effects but he would need to change his fighting style. There was also the monster's remains, just like with the salamander he might be able to make some backup scrolls to blast those monsters in the corridors.

Before he could walk away, he felt someone touch his side.

"Sir. Wayland... I'll be sure to ask my father to give you a hefty reward when we return!"

Lucille shouted while Robert was quick to give some praise.

"Yes, the Arden estate will also provide a bonus for your services. If it wasn't for you, we all would have perished long ago! Would you perhaps be interested in moving, I'm sure my father will be glad to hire such a promising craftsman and adventurer!"

"Hefty reward?... moving?"

He thought about how he would need to explain to a Viscount why he endangered the life of his daughter. Then even the worst thing of having Robert somehow bring his pops into this predicament.

"Those won't be needed..."

"But Sir Wayland, we have to give you some kind of reward..."

"A reward... if you want to give me a reward then how about..."

"Yes? Anything you want!"

Lucille's big eyes started to shine brightly as she waited for Roland to speak.

"How about we keep this little accident between us..."

"Huh?"

Both Robert and Lucille were surprised by the request but soon Roland went further into the explanation.

"I fear that instead of being rewarded I might be punished for putting a young lady's life in jeopardy..."

"Ah..."

Lucille dropped her head and started thinking, Robert as well nodded, finding that what Roland was proposing made sense.

"Yes... The Lady's father might not react kindly..."

"Father is more reasonable than that... I think..."

Lucille was a bit taken aback by Roland's reaction but after thinking for a moment she nodded as well. Soon they all reach a consensus, for Roland's sake they would keep this boss battle secret.

The party of four decided to rest a day in this boss chamber while keeping watch. Then they would attempt to break through the gate where the monster's arm appeared.

If Roland's hunch was right, the path forward would get increasingly easier the further they went but time would only tell. His armor needed repairing, the shield could be somewhat hammered back into shape.

Robert still had his sword and Lucille's magical rod was in working order as well. With the two-handed axe all of them had some kind of weapon. If he was able to create some more scrolls from the monster's remains, he felt that he would be able to clear out the strongest enemies waiting for them inside. After that, their weapons and skills would need to suffice.

'First I need to fix the shield...'

Roland nodded as he got to work, it was time to move forward and escape this trap.