

## Runesmith 189

### Chapter 189: Visiting the Church.

“Ugh... my head...”

“Are you alright?”

“Yes, I just need to rest for a bit...”

Roland was sitting on a chair while holding some cloth to his forehead. There was a clock of ice wrapped around it as he tried alleviating some of the pain. Yesterday he had tried using his new skill and today the aftereffects of its use were still with him.

After the first time in the dungeon, he didn't register any after-effects but now there was an actual debuff. It would persist for another six hours and the only way to get rid of it would be to either go to a priest or drink a high level potion.

This made it seem that this new skill that could translate spells into runes was tough to use. Even after analyzing one of the simplest spells he was out for almost an entire day. The debuff made him have a migraine and also caused his mana to run wild. If he attempted runecrafting at this very moment he felt that it would be a failure.

“Are you sure? Did you try the healing tincture?”

“Ah, yes it wasn't strong enough, I think I might need to go to the church, I need to pick something up from there anyway...”

Roland commented while standing up, it was early in the day and the shop would be open. Elodia was with him but she needed to prepare the store. The reason he needed to go to the church was not really to ease the pain or the dizziness, it was to get a class change crystal.

The only real problem was his skills that didn't quite hit the cap yet. This didn't mean that he wouldn't change his class though. The second tier 2 class mostly didn't take into consideration the other tier 2 class. Mostly titles and special requirements mattered but he would need to see the list before he made a decision.

Then there was his new eye skill that he had no hope of leveling up anytime soon. This did put him in a conundrum as he would probably not be able to max all his skills within the first 25 levels of the new class he chose.

While his leveling would start to slow down when he got closer to level 150, he would be able to attempt a class change. Tier 3 was something that he had set out to do in the shortest amount of time possible but unless he had the skills up he feared that the choice of classes would lessen in quality.

“Is that so? Have a safe journey then.”

Elodia just smiled at him after hearing that he would be making a trip to the church. After giving Roland a smooch on his aching forehead she along with Agni left for the store. The ruby wolf was able to leech some of those experience points along with his master. He too was now able to get a new class but he would need to wait for his master to recover before he chose a new form.

“Urk...”

Almost right after Elodia left the house Roland made a quick jump to the bathroom. He felt like he was back at his first year of college. The first few parties were quite hard on him then and his stomach took some time to get used to all of that alcohol.

“I really need to get something to alleviate these symptoms...”

After relieving himself of his breakfast he felt slightly better but still not at full capacity. Quickly he got his coat along with his light half-plate armor that lacked most of the hard to put-on parts. Without wanting to mope till the debuff had run out he headed towards the city.

The walk there felt longer than usual but he managed to not stick out. After about forty minutes of uneven walking, he managed to arrive at the church. Even now it felt gaudy to him, at first it started out as a small building but now it looked like some kind of cathedral.

He wasn't sure how they did it but magic was probably involved. While the people in this world lacked the proper modern tools to build high up, there were certain magical ways of producing magnificent-looking structures.

Back at his own workshop, he performed some wall enhancements but it was nothing at this scale. He only dug up square-shaped rooms and reinforced the walls, they weren't pretty but they did the job.

“Praise the Sun!”

The moment one of the nuns spotted him at the church grounds he was greeted by their trademarked greeting. He only nodded at the nun that was dressed in a red and white habit. It looked strangely similar to the clothes that nuns wore back in his world just with a different color scheme and a large sun symbol on the back.

“Do you wish to hear the word of the holy mother?”

The nun asked while for some reason zoning on him like a hawk. Roland had a bit of trouble hanging out with these religious people. Some of them would always change the subject and try to preach to him. Most of the time they were only trying to receive a donation or peddle their wares so he decided to just cut to the chase.

“Is there an available priest? I would like to have a debuff removed and also buy a class change crystal.”

“Oh my, a debuff? You have been graced by the lady's will, elder sister Kassia is receiving today!”

The girl that he was talking with was a low leveled nun below the age of twenty. There was a certain power structure in the church like everywhere in this world. They did give each other certain ranks and it was easy to figure out by the way they referred to each other.

Sister Kassia for instance had leveled up past the 100th level and would not be around the gold rank adventurer level. If a nun achieved a level over 100 and managed to get her second tier 2 class they would be referred to as ‘Elder Sister’ Then if they managed to get into a tier 3 class, they would be given the title of ‘Mother’.

It was similar with their male counterparts which would normally be only called 'Father' after attaining a tier 3 class. Though there were exceptions and sometimes some of the more elderly priests would be given this title as more of an honorary one.

"Ah... Sister Kassia..."

Roland cringed a bit after hearing that the woman that he had to share the tent with was the one on duty. Memories of her trying to shove her whole bible down his throat came rushing down his throat. While she was quite the beauty, it was mostly ruined when she opened up her mouth and started preaching the gospel.

This world was different than his other, while Roland had never been big on religion he was not so sure now. There were clearly things at work here that could not be explained with science. Everyone had access to a strange system that gave them superpowers.

Then the people at the church were getting strange blessings from their gods. Apparently, the devout believers would even hear the words of god and meet with them inside of the class change trials. If that was just an illusion created with the devout believer's mind, was up to debate.

While these people were somewhat annoying it was also true that they did good deeds. The orphanages were mostly run by them and they did give the youngsters enough time to prepare for their adult life. They did not force anyone to become a priest, at most they tried to convince them to pick their side.

Thus his opinion of the Solaria church was mostly on the positive end. Just like in any organization there would be bad apples as the priest that Elodia ran into. But he could not hate the whole organization due to a few bad incidents. Nothing was perfect, people still kept some of their desires even after putting on a habit.

"Do you need me to show you the way?"

The girl asked but he just shook his head. He had already been here to get his class change crystal when he used it to change to his current class. Then later he picked up one for Bernir when he had reached a higher level.

There were a few sections to this building, the biggest one was what everyone would see. The inside was spacious with a high ceiling. On the end was a podium where the priests or nuns would perform their sermons. They had a large pipe organ in the back that was used to play some of the tunes.

The stained glass windows in this church were quite stunning. They depicted Solaria in various ways as a beautiful woman with four fiery wings. In most depictions, she was shown with a sword and shield in her hands. While she was considered to be a motherly figure, people also revered her as a battle-hardened god of war.

This was similar for any of the other divine beings that had some sort of battle background to them. It was as if every one of the deities needed their believers to be poised for combat. While the moon and sun churches were the most prevalent, there were some others. Some ran deep in the underground, like the cult that he had encountered all these years before.

He found himself in this large hall, luckily the mass was over and the elder sister nun was accepting visitors. Kassia was not the highest-ranking person in this congregation but she was the second in

command. There were no tier 3 priests here yet, if she continued on her path then probably after some years she could attempt the class up.

**Name :**

**Kassia L 109**

**Classes:**

**T2 Sun Maiden L9**

**T2 Sun Priest L50**

**T1 Acolyte L25**

**T1 Cleric L25**

There she was in the distance, her hands were glowing with a golden light as she was healing some people. The miracles that the priest produced were very eye-catching and even standing close to them would give a person this warm tingling feeling. It was very easy to get lost in this spectacle and it was natural that many people flocked to it.

From Roland's perspective, it was clear that they were purposely showing off the healing magic to the masses. To the untrained eye, this would be something unfathomable but to him who had dabbled in runic magic, it wasn't that special.

'I wonder...'

While normally he would make nothing off it, now with a new skill in his possession he was curious. It was a skill that translated magic into runes, but what of healing miracles? From what he could tell, these healing magics were considered different from regular magic. While they did use mana as the basic resource, there was something else there.

'Would this skill allow me to copy healing miracles into runic spells?'

He had heard of divine weaponry but to his knowledge those required special preparation. Perhaps even if he could copy a healing spell he would need some special material to power it. Then there was also the issue with him feeling terrible, if he attempted to use the eye skill now, he felt like his eye might fall out of its eye socket instead.

For the time being, he decided to save this thought for later. Perhaps when he leveled the skill by examining lesser spells he would attempt it on healing miracles. For all, he knew it would put an even greater strain on him than when he activated it down in the dungeon. Thus for now he placed himself in the line that was waiting for healing.

This was one of the peculiarities with this church. It was run by an all-female cast of nuns and clerics. In some other churches, he also saw clear favoritism for people that could pay for the services but here there was a proper line. While they did require everyone to pay, he also heard that some of the sisters were offering their services for free in the off hours for the people that just didn't have any money to spare.

“Praise the sun... Oh this is a treat, isn't it Mr. Wayland?”

Finally, after waiting for about twenty minutes it was his turn. After he lowered his hood it was apparent who he was. Sister Kassia knew him the most from that one expedition but from time to time he did have some run-ins with her in the city.

“Yes it's me, I require your services, sister Kassia.”

“Oh my, if I knew that you were coming I would have prepared some tea! Why don't you wait a moment, we could have a nice conversation about our holy lady, just the two of us!”

“Um... I don't think I have the time for it and the line behind me is quite long, you probably won't be finished that fast...”

Roland had left early in the morning and it was only the start of the day. Kassia would probably need to be here for most of it, so if he actually waited it would be nightfall before he got healed. By that point, the debuff would have run already out anyway so there would be no reason for him to stay.

“Oh silly me, I just wanted to catch up on good old times! Then what can I do for you Mr. Wayland, you do look a bit pale, please give me your hand.”

He nodded while sitting down on a stool in front of her. The priest classes had some special skills through which they could figure out people's alignments. Thanks to those they would know if their skills were good enough to help.

It was a strange feeling, the moment she placed her small hand on his it felt as if he was pricked by many tiny needles. This sensation subsided rather quickly and it was time for him to get healed. Without letting go of his palm sister Kassia started performing one of her curing miracles that made his entire body glow in a golden hue.

From the onset, it was clear that this debuff wasn't that simple. Normally the curing would go by faster but his body continued to radiate divine energy for a good fifteen seconds before Kassia pulled her hand back. Her forehead was a bit moist as it was clear that she had spent a good chunk of her mana on this one cure.

“That was a peculiar alignment Mr. Wayland but you should be feeling better now.”

She gave out a huff of relief as she was clearly fatigued. The drowsy feeling that he felt had subsided almost instantly and he was back to his old self. After the treatment was over another nun with a tray came over from the side. Onto it he dropped down some coins, while there was no set price here the nun's facial expression would mostly shift until he got the correct sum.

“Praise the sun!”

The trainee nun that was there to collect the coin smiled at him brightly while he felt robbed. While the holy miracles worked faster and didn't have any side effects they did cost a lot more than curing and healing potions. If the situation wasn't dire enough, he would have probably decided to wait but he did need that class change crystal or two.

“Yes... I would also like to make a purchase, is the shrine open?”

The church store was mostly situated in a side room along with a shrine. There people could buy various blessed items. Services like imbuing weapons with holy energies were also carried out there. Churches that were stationed close to dungeons with undead creatures were making quite the coin from such services.

“The shrine is always open to our flock, remember to be quiet as this is the house of the lady.”

The younger girl nodded while he stood up, Kassia looked a bit drained so he just said his farewells and went towards the shrine. The line of people with various alignments continued to grow so she had other things to worry about.

Inside of the shrine he found another nun, this one looked much older than the rest but her level wasn't all that high. It was clear that she didn't have much talent for healing arts and without going on dungeon rungs even priests were unable to level up.

There were various accessories like necklaces, pendants, armbands, and talismans on display here. They were all imbued with divine energies in some way that was kept hidden away from the public.

A craftsman could live a nice life if they ever managed to strike a deal with a city church. They would be given massive amounts of gold but also forced to keep quiet about the ways of making divine gear.

For the time being, he just pointed to the section with the class change crystals. After his vigor had returned it was time to check his and Agni's progress. With his skills not being fully matured yet, his wolf would be first in line for an evolution. Then it was time to visit his old apartment yet again, perhaps when he left it, he would have a new class.

## **Chapter 190: Agni Evolves into...**

### **Volcanic Dire Wolf**

[ Fire/Earth/Beast ]

**An evolved variant of the common wolf monster seen in volcanic dungeons. At this point, their entire body begins to be covered by volcanic rock that is both resistant to heat and physical attacks.**

### **Ruby Dire Wolf**

[ Fire/Earth/Beast ]

**An evolved variant of the uncommon wolf monster seen in volcanic dungeons. The rubies that cover their bodies are resistant to certain magical attacks.**

### **Dire Ash Wolf**

[ Earth/Beast ]

**An evolved variant of the common canine-type wolf monster found in various dungeons. They are much larger than their lesser evolved variants.**

### **Mystical Dire Ruby Wolf**

[ Fire/Earth/Beast ]

**A rare variant of the Ruby Dire Wolf. They can be distinguished from the less rare variant by the ruby horn growing out of their forehead. This horn is used by them to channel spells and absorb ambient mana.**

‘There aren’t as many options available as before.’

Roland looked at the choices of monster evolutions for his Mystical Ruby Wolf. While there were four options that he could see, there was only one that was realistic. More time had passed this time and Agni’s skills were all leveled up. Monsters had an easier time getting their skills maxed out than people of the many races, thus Roland didn’t need to wait like the last time.

“I guess you’re becoming a Dire Wolf Agni.”

“Awoo!”

At this point in time, Roland and Agni were out on the porch. After finishing up his business at the Church it was time to help his beast friend to reach the new form. He hoped to get another new rare variant but it didn’t seem that Agni would be progressing over the Mystical variant. This wasn’t bad but after getting rare classes left and right it was strange to not get anything new this time around.

“Have you decided?”

Asked a womanly voice from afar that belonged to Elodia.

“Hah, I wonder how he will look now!”

Said Bernir that was there as well, his wife was back at her own shop so she would miss this metamorphosis.

“Yes, I think he will get a bit bigger but won’t look that much different, okay everyone just stand back, for now, I’m going to activate the evolution.”

The shop Elodia was in had a window opening towards the inside of Roland’s walled-off home. From there she would be able to see how the house wolf reached a new form. While she had seen some beast tamers working at the adventurer guild she was still quite interested in seeing how Agni turned out.

After Roland activated the evolution option in his system Agni’s body started glowing brightly. The light was contained in one spot which allowed them to see most of the change. His mane expanded and the gem on his forehead started to get longer.

“If this continues he won’t fit in the house anymore...”

The transformation was a success and now everyone was looking at the Dire Wolf version of Agni. His size increased by about twenty-five percent, the mane was covered in even more rubies and his musculature had been enhanced even further.

“AWOOOO!”

Agni howled out which caused Bernir along with Elodia to flinch. This was a level hundred monster with its second-tier 2 evolution now. Even down in the current dungeon Agni would not find many monsters that could keep up with him.

**Name :**

**Mystical Ruby Dire Wolf**

**[ L 100 ] [ Ex 0% ]**

**Type :**

**Fire/Earth/Beast**

**HP**

**3696/3696**

**MP**

**4387/4387**

**SP**

**5504/5504**

**Strength**

**125**

**Agility**

**174**

**Dexterity**

**80**

**Vitality**

**143**

**Endurance**

**155**

**Intelligence**

**143**

**Willpower**

**130**

**Charisma**

**18**

**Luck**

**15**

Roland glanced over Agni's new stats and he could see that his tamed beast wouldn't have any problems taking out gold-ranked adventurers. Then there was the elongated horn that was supposed to be able to fling spells at people. Previously he only had a smaller gem that could absorb mana, now it was supposed to be some kind of release point.

"Woah, calm down Agni... what did I tell you about licking my face?"

While he was trying to look over Agni's new status page his Dire Wolf decided to jump on him. If it was Elodia or Bernir they would certainly buckle under the weight but Roland was able to dig his feet in and take it.

"You're getting heavy even for me..."

His size had increased even more but it also didn't tell the whole truth. The rubies that were on his body increased his weight even more. His skeletal structure had also been enhanced and the chompers that he had were now even larger and sharper.

Some of the skills had evolved and changed names, for instance, the old Fiery Bite changed into Flame Bite, Ruby Tail Whip became an Enhanced Ruby Tail Whip. There were also some new skills and improvements that he spotted after the evolution finished.

## **Mystical Tier 2**

### **Trait**

**Increases MP by 15%**

### **Ruby Tail Dart**

#### **Skill**

**The ruby tail tip can be launched as a projectile.**

### **Fire Breath**

#### **Skill**

**Produces a stream of fire energy from the beast's mouth**

Agni's Mystical tier had increased which gave him even more mana to use. This would probably come in handy, all the mana-related skills like Mana Shaping, Mana Regulation were there along with something new that he brought up.

## **Destruction Magic – Fire/Earth L1**

### **Passive Skill**

**Gives the user the knowledge to cast basic destruction spells of the given element. This trait also allows the user to learn other spells from the given element. If the spell can be learned depends on the user's intelligence stat.**

Instead of a list of spells, he was given a passive skill that was similar to a trait instead. Monsters cast spells in various ways, some used incantations just like humans but for beasts like Agni that would be

impossible. Most of the time the monsters would be given various spells to choose from in the form of spell skills.

If he understood the explanation correctly, then Agni was given the knowledge to cast some basic spells, at least at first. It seemed that he would also be able to learn or mimic other fire spells if he ever saw them later on. It was also a dual element trait which meant that Agni could learn earth spells and fire spells at the same time.

“Hm...”

“Well, I have a customer so I’ll see you boys around, try not to destroy too much of the workshop.”

“Huh, what do you mean?”

Elodia shouted out from her window at Roland who was deep in thought and rubbing his chin.

“I know that look, you’re probably going to do some dangerous tests, try not to blow the whole house up.”

Roland rubbed his head while watching Elodia step away. It seemed that after being around him long enough his tendency to perform dangerous tests in his little secret laboratory was known.

“The lass is right but what do you always say? Can’t make an omelet without breaking some eggs?”

His assistant just laughed while returning to his own side of the workshop. With so much work on his hands, Bernir was also close to attaining his second tier 2 class. Luckily for him, the higher the rarity of the materials a craftsman worked, the faster they leveled up when working with them.

Thanks to all the new Durasteel that Roland had brought over along with the new smelter, Bernir was going through levels like crazy. Other young craftsmen would need to prove themselves for over ten years to be allowed the same privilege.

“If you need any help just call me but I won’t lie, working with this new smelter and forge is proving difficult even for someone as talented as me...”

“Don’t worry, I don’t think I’ll need any help just focus on your craft, and don’t forget to prioritize those golem components, I need to get that prototype ready for the auction house.”

Bernir’s level was a bit low to work on the new materials. Even though he was leveling fast he could also break the expensive equipment if he didn’t focus enough. For the time being Roland agreed to give him some space until he got used to it plus he had other things to worry about now.

“Let’s go Agni.”

While his workers were busy with their side he decided to move down into the firing range below. There together with Agni he wanted to test how well his wolf was able to perform spell casting.

“Okay, do you see that target? First, show me that new tail dart skill, can you hit that dummy from here?”

It was a little strange to just talk to his tamed beast but he knew that Agni could mostly understand him. Perhaps he wasn’t able to pick up on all the words but the intent of them was understood.

“Woof!”

Agni’s loud bark echoed through the workshop. His voice certainly got a bit deeper after the evolution. One of his dual tails rose up into the air while stretching out to about twice its length.

The red gem on the end of Agni’s tail was already quite pointy. It had changed in form after the evolution and probably to accommodate this new skill. After Agni took his aim, the ruby tip shot out of his tail at an alarming speed. It connected with the wooden dummy with a loud bang and made it through it to the other side. It then shattered into smaller pieces on the wall behind it.

“That would probably hurt a lot...”

Roland looked at the small hole in the target but it was hard to tell how much damage this projectile could do to an armored man or beast. The ruby also was only the size of a dart and had no other special qualities. But it also seemed that the ranged attack could be quickly repeated as Roland saw the ruby on the end of Agni’s tail quickly reforming itself.

“About fifteen seconds with two tails, not that bad.”

Now when facing ranged opponents Agni could pelt them with some ranged attacks that didn’t require much concentration. It would also be a good attack to interrupt any spell casters from casting large spells which made this skill somewhat useful. But Roland didn’t think it would be strong enough to finish anything off, mostly to be an annoyance to look out for.

“Okay then, let us move on, Agni I want you to try casting an attack spell at one of those targets, anyone will do, can you do that boy?”

Now came the real test that he was interested in, could his beast cast spells with that horn? From the traits explanation, it seemed that Agni was given an injection of knowledge on how to use it.

“Awoo, woof!”

After receiving the order Agni turned back to the training dummies. He moved his head down a little bit and pointed with the horn on his forehead towards his target. There he stood for a few moments without doing anything, it was as if he couldn’t do it but soon enough Roland could see a shift in the mana around that horn.

The protruding horn was quite uniform and smooth. It looked quite pointy and could probably be rammed into opponents as well. The mana started swirling around it while moving out of Agni’s body. Soon a red light formed at the focal point atop his head.

The red light started to quickly shift as it became a ball of flames. At this moment Agni raised his head up before whipping it forward to release this concentrated bolt of fire energy. The spell flew forward the same training dummy and collided with the wood it was made off.

A small explosion of flames covered the area around this target made of wood. The wood quickly burst up in flames while some splintered off after receiving the hit. The spell performed here was a simple firebolt spell which was slightly above a regular mana bolt spell.

With the added fire effect it produced a scorching inferno around the point of collision. Alas, this was somewhat a beginner grade spell and it couldn't eviscerate the dummy it hit. Even then, the wood was clearly burning up, the added flame effect was clearly successful in causing lasting damage.

Roland nodded while pointing out with his hand. The gauntlet that he was wearing started glowing blue before releasing a ball of water towards the burning target. The magical liquid quickly overpowered the flames and caused a lot of smoke and steam to form instead. But with the help of the ventilation system, this room would quickly become clear.

"Good, not bad, there was some power behind that spell but you'll have to practice Agni, the activation time was quite slow."

The firebolt spell that he produced was somewhat sluggish. It was as if Agni was a mage that had to chant the whole spell himself. But this was only the beginning of his tamed beast's spell-slinging days. The skill that gave him the knowledge to cast these attacks was only at level 1, then there were all the mana regulating skills that were also there. If Agni just continued to level them up, Roland was sure that the speed would increase. Perhaps he could even reach his own runic spell casting speed.

"Okay then Agni, show me that fire breath now..."

The testing continued for a bit longer until Roland was satisfied with his partner's performance. He relied on Agni down in the dungeon so he needed to know the extent of his new skills and his physical capabilities. Perhaps with a few more levels, he could task Agni with taking out the boss monster in that cavern to him.

After it was done he released Agni back into the wild which was to guard the shop again. With the more ferocious look that he had, it would keep the troublesome elements from starting anything.

There would be a bit of a problem with the increase in size. First, he would need to go to the guild to get him checked. Now after reaching level 100 and his second-tier 2 evolution Agni would be seen as a dangerous monster. It would be hard to take him into the city without putting a muzzle on him.

He could already see some people screaming out in fear if they ever came across Agni without a leash. It would look like some kind of monster was lost in the streets, then someone of Armand's IQ could decide to engage him in battle without hearing them out first.

'The more troublesome part is when he returns after escorting Elodia to the city, luckily he is fast enough to not be caught by any stupid adventurers.'

There had been a situation where on the way home Agni was spotted by some new adventurers. He was fast to duck into the forest and run home without causing any trouble. Now he was larger and rarer, Roland wouldn't be surprised if some poachers targeted him for the rare monster parts like the horn on his forehead.

'I'll worry about that later, I need to focus on myself now.'

Finally, Roland looked at his own status window again, his level was 125 and he was ready to attempt a class change.

**Name :**

**Roland Arden L 125**

**Classes:**

**T2 Runesmith Lord L50 [ Primary ]**

**T1 Mage L25 [ Secondary ]**

**T1 Runic Mana Scribe L 25 [ X ]**

**T1 Runic Blacksmith L 25 [ Tertiary ]**

**HP**

**5961/5961**

**MP**

**14913/14913**

**SP**

**7994/7994**

**Strength**

**158**

**Agility**

**125**

**Dexterity**

**189**

**Vitality**

**161**

**Endurance**

**173**

**Intelligence**

**227**

**Willpower**

**207**

**Charisma**

**18**

**Luck**

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Back in his room, he looked at a job change crystal that he recently bought. To others, he would be gone for seconds but he was unable to foresee just how long the next test would take. If he would take it or wait was also up to debate, first he needed to see what the new class options were.

'I guess here goes nothing...'