

## Runesmith 191

### Chapter 191: Choose your class.

"I guess everything is ready..."

Roland looked down at a crystal that was on his desk. He was now in his office that was filled with various books and notes concerning his runic research. A lot of time was spent in this room deliberating runic programming that he was slowly becoming an expert in.

"How do these things work?"

Before using this strange crystal he decided to just pick it up. A thought crept into his mind after receiving his new peculiar skill.

"Is this just a magical item like any other? Perhaps I could..."

Though the urge to test something rose he had to stop himself from activating his new identification skill. The class change crystal was probably a high-level item, if he attempted to use his newfound ability to scan it, he felt like a migraine would be the least of his troubles.

Previously he was already able to decipher regular spells and convert them into runic language. The question he had was, could he do it with any magical item? Were there limits to this skill and if he could just use it to help him understand magic even more?

After gaining this skill he was becoming convinced that all magic was more uniform. If he saw the runes just like a programming language then perhaps all other schools of magic were just software that could be made with it.

This didn't mean that all magic could be translated into runes. Perhaps there were some restrictions or outside sources of power that would be needed. In his old world, there were a plethora of programming languages all with their pros and cons.

"If I figured out how to make runic versions of this crystal, I bet the church would have my head."

A runic creation that could work like a class change crystal would probably be seen as blasphemy. Even worse if he could just engrave it on metal that could last through the class change without breaking. He would be eradicating the hold of the church that it had on the class change market.

'I should probably focus on my class change, not like that skill is usable.'

He gave out a sigh as he knew that if he attempted to use the Runic eyes on something complicated they would start bleeding. For the time being, the decision to slowly level this skill up was made by him. He would use lower level scrolls and spells to gently progress it without getting a debuff each time. Perhaps when it leveled up a couple of times it would become usable.

Thus the thoughts of his new skills usage was tossed into the back of his head. The crystal was in his hand while he was sitting back in his chair. After clenching it tightly he activated it like he already did four times before.

"Here I am again... the more it feels like my past life was just some kind of bad dream."

Roland was looking out through what appeared to be his old apartment window. He knew well that everything here was some kind of illusion and that he was only in a replica created from his old memories.

“Is the view becoming clearer?”

When he first changed his class the whole place outside was somewhat foggier. Now on the other hand he was convinced that the view on the street was becoming clearer. It was as if he could see further outside the more he progressed through the classes.

While this was an interesting thought he wasn't here to reminisce about the good old days. At this point in life, he had mostly given up on ever returning to his old world. While his real parents were still out there, it had been so long that they had probably forgotten about his existence.

“Fifteen years...”

While the pc was loading he tried to remember some of the faces of his previous family members. It didn't seem that his high intelligence stat would help him out with the old memories, most of their faces were a blur. They had become a distant memory and the new world that he was in now was his new reality.

“Hm...”

Roland was quick to use the mouse to bring him to the class change screen. There he saw quite a large number of pixelated avatars. All the old classes were there as they never went away. Even though he was a tier 2 class holder, it didn't mean that he could pick a tier 1 class if he chose to.

“No mage classes as always...”

There was one class that he was somewhat interested in, it was the Rune Mage class. Normally he should have had all the prerequisites for it but it was not there. This was something that he expected as it was not there the previous time that he attempted the tier 2 class change.

“Let's see... there they are...”

He turned to the crafting classes and instantly saw a couple of new ones, these were clearly there now because he had started working on his golemic creations. When he hovered on one of the walking pixel representations he was given one of the names.

‘Golem Craftsman.’

This was the simplest of the classes but it wasn't the only one there. It depicted a tiny pixel version of himself working on something that looked like an iron golem. Then right next to the Golem Craftsman class was a runic variant just called the Runic Golem Craftsman. It was clearly the superior version that focused on runes.

Golems came in various shapes and sizes, runes were mostly used by Dwarven craftsmen to make them work. This didn't mean that a person couldn't make one with enchantments or with the help of mages. But with the help of runes, a craftsman could fashion one themselves without having to expand the size to fit the bulky enchantments on them.

A golem-like spider drone that he created would be hard to come by when fashioned by an enchant smith. The limiting factor was also in the lack of customization that those types of golems faced.

Yet, they were somewhat easier to find as they were simpler in design and came in lesser variants. Most of the bulky humanoid monstrosities like an iron golem were created through enchant smiths while the more specific designs came from runesmiths like Roland.

“Runic Golem Craftsman seems like the better choice but there are more... Golem Designer... and Runic Golem Designer?”

When he read the name a certain title popped into his head, it was the one that he achieved when he first created a custom variant of the spider drone. Thanks to the title he was probably able to unlock the more prestigious version of the Golem Craftsman and its runic variant.

Not many craftsmen were able to design their own creations. Most of them just regurgitated old models and most of the time produced an inferior version of it. Only after understanding how to build one from scratch could they even attempt to customize.

Roland on the other hand made sure to go through everything. He didn't want to just copy others' work, he wanted to create new options for himself. His class was somewhat special thus he needed to change almost all of the schematics he was given.

If he wanted to augment himself further he needed his creations to profit from all his rune-related skills. Most of the old plans tried to limit the mana usage or cut on the materials. He on the other hand didn't need to worry about mana that much, he could create items that would make a regular person pass out from one use.

“Is there something better...”

Before making his choice though, he needed to see if there was something even more interesting. He had hoped to find another Lord-type class but even after going through all the options, there weren't any.

Roland leaned back in the gaming chair that he was sitting in. The lack of any 'Lord' type classes was something that he was expecting. The Runic variants of the classes were already rare and prestigious. Then that variant popped out of nowhere and gave him a higher stat multiplier.

After receiving this class he did some research or at least tried to do. It was still a topic that he would rather evade so he could not drop the class name directly. What he did was just look up more research material concerning special classes, ones that might even raise the stat multiplier.

There were some records of unusual classes that raised one's stat multiplier in the magic academy records. They were not mentioned by name but they did exist. They were somewhat lacking compared to his lord class which made it seem even more outstanding. There was something interesting about them that they all shared with each other. It seemed that they had specific limiting factors. It was mentioned that such classes which went above the regular tier multiplier were one-offs. A person could only gain one per tier.

This of course could have been untrue or just meant that the people with these classes didn't meet the requirements to get two of them. Was Roland different though? He didn't think he would be able to just get more prestigious classes without an end, this one was already more than he had ever expected.

'What to do then...'

There were some options, first, he could just wait and try gaining more titles, perhaps some new traits. He could try waiting it out to maximize all of his Runesmith Lord skills, the new Runic Eye of Truth included.

The problem was time, leveling up all of those skills would probably not be easy. He would be wasting years of experience points if he didn't change his class now. Some of them would be kept over but there was a limit.

"I don't think I have the freedom to wait."

Another sigh escaped from his mouth. If he could then he would probably decide to wait. The leveling process wasn't that important to him as long as he could progress his skills. But he still lacked the capabilities to protect himself or the people around him from enemies above his tier.

The times in this city of Albrook had been good to him. Years of peace and mostly progress had continued after he arrived here. This didn't mean that this would last forever, if the old foes didn't show up, new ones could be around the corner.

This world was not safe, danger lurked everywhere. While the skirmishes with the other countries didn't break out into a full-blown war, it was also something real. Being a talented craftsman and a commoner he could be easily forced to participate in it.

Peace and quiet was not something that he could see on the horizon. With the coming of the young noble, the market was now open to him but this would bring more trouble with it. For the coming battles, he needed any help that he could get.

'If this class turns out to be crap I could always go for tier 3 sooner than I originally planned.'

While Roland didn't want to cut his classes short he could always reach tier 3 when he hit level 150. This would mean that he would leave this Runic Golem Designer at level 25 which he wanted to avoid.

After receiving the special eye skill from this current class he was interested in what this class would offer. Without maximizing the new tier 2 class he would not be able to get anything similar as these types of abilities only appeared at higher levels.

Roland started moving the mouse cursor through the other classes yet again. Old and new classes littered the screen which caused the pixelated representations of them to get smaller. He almost decided on the golem-related one but then he spotted something that he had missed.

"Wait what is this one... Runic Engineer?"

The representation of this class didn't showcase the tiny person working on a golem so he somewhat ignored it. Instead, it depicted the class working on some other contraption instead. It was hard to pin down what it was but it was mechanical in nature.

“Could this one be better?”

He thought back to his Runesmith Lord class that kind of encompassed a broad range of skills. In a sense, it was somewhat a combination of the Rune mage class and the regular Runesmith class. It allowed him to easily access the inner workings of the runic operating system while also boosting his basic runecrafting skills as well.

If this Engineer class was something similar it could go beyond golemic creations. It could very well help him create other things besides golems like his generators. Perhaps it would give him more bang for his buck than just a Runic Golem Designer.

This was getting complicated now, before he made another decision he decided to hover the mouse over each and every class to see if there was something even more interesting. After spending a couple of minutes he ended up back at the two choices before him.

Roland asked himself a question, did he really want to just hyperfocus on golems? Was this the only choice that he had? If he was a person of this world he would certainly go for the golem option. It was a well-studied profession, he had gone through many books and schematics thanks to his connection with the magical academy.

The Runic Golem Designer was the safer choice but it probably didn't bring anything new to the table. He would probably just gain some skills to help him work with golems and their cores. What he could expect to get from it was skills that would let him do his job faster but he would probably be limited to golem cores as the base for all of his creations.

The golem cores had some flaws, one of the biggest was their fragility. Even when a craftsman placed the core on the inside of the golem, enough strikes from a sledgehammer from the outside could generate enough force to crack it.

What if this Engineer class gave him more options? Could he perhaps design something different than a golem core that wouldn't be as fragile? Perhaps he could alter it in a way to suit his needs, not every runic item needed a golem core to run.

“Well... I could always leave during the trial and go with the other class if it's bad...”

Thanks to having money he would be able to retake the trial even when he failed. He could also end it on purpose and come back later if the class turns out to be incompatible with his needs. Only after passing the test would the class be locked to his status screen, before that he could test them all.

After weighing the pros and cons of his current situation a decision was made. The Runic Engineer class was selected by him and the VR headset popped out as always. Roland placed it over his head and waited for the trial to start. The world around him started to change as he was transported to a new location.

The bright light that filled his vision previously slowly subsided as he found himself in some kind of open area. The first thing he noticed was the stone slabs on the ground along with the somewhat chilly environment.

It looked to be some kind of storage area, to the sides he could see various materials that he was familiar with. Metal ingots, tools like blacksmithing hammers, tongs, and even larger devices like a forge.

This was certainly not a colosseum that he remembered when he attempted the Runesmith Lord class change. It seemed that this one would be more about crafting than combat but what he was supposed to make was the big question.

'I should look around, there is always a short time before these tests start.'

Thus Roland took a step towards the shelves containing various items. The place that looked like a huge storeroom had to have some clues on what he was supposed to do here.

### **Chapter 192: A new Trial a new test.**

"This place is a lot larger than I expected..."

Roland was looking at the high ceiling of the storage facility he was walking around. After going through it he realized that it was probably the size of an airplane hangar. There were rows upon rows of shelves and racks.

On them were various items, some out in the open while others were in cardboard boxes. Everything was somewhat organized and there were even labels on the boxes along with sections dividing the various materials by type and use.

After going around the place a few times he did discover a few other interesting things. One of them was an area that was clearly meant for crafting. It was on the far end of this large storage space.

It had it all, a large smelter that had a somewhat similar design to the one that he worked with. Not far from it was a nice workbench along with a forge, it was a nice smithy that every blacksmith would be familiar with.

This wasn't all as right next to this place was some kind of office. In it he found a whiteboard with a set of markers with which he could write on it. There were also many sheets of paper of various shapes and sizes.

It looked like some kind of space where he could create schematics for items. This somewhat gave him an idea of what this test was about but there were far too many materials. He would probably be able to make a small battalion of golems with everything here as golem cores were amongst the items scattered on the shelves.

There was one peculiar thing about these items, not everything was just raw materials. Some items were out of place as he even spotted complete joints that would fit on some golemic creations. It was as if instead of making something from scratch he was supposed to assemble it from the parts scattered around this place.

"Maybe the raw materials are only there to fill some gaps?"

Roland spoke out but no one replied, after examining this section of the area he decided to go towards the other end. There he found something peculiar that made him think that it could be used for the coming trial. Various boxes made from some transparent material were lined up. After giving them a knock he realized that they were made from something similar to plexiglass from his old world. What made these strange were the handles on the front through which he could open them.

'Do I need to place something into these?'

These glass containers gave him that impression. It seemed that the test would ask him to make something and then place it inside of one of these transparent cases. They all varied in size, the smallest one was around half a meter in length and width while the largest could fit a whole car into it.

Behind these transparent containers, there were some peculiar features that he was familiar with. One of them was a timer, this one was a more modern one. It was divided into six sections that were probably for hours, minutes, and then seconds.

This reminded him of all the previous timed trials that he took. It was clear that he would have some kind of time limit to produce something and then perhaps place it in the glass object. Then below it was something more interesting, it looked like a big flat TV screen. But just like the clock, it was turned off.

The screen had no buttons nor could he see any remote control to turn it on. Then to the side of this screen, there was some kind of rectangular slit. It was quite narrow and it was not letting any light through it which made it seem that there was nothing on the other side.

'I read about some of these tests but none of them were like this one...'

Roland made sure to study up on all the possible trials that could come up. Normally when it came to crafting classes they would only need to create an item that would be graded by the system. Then when battle classes were involved they would mostly just need to defeat a set amount of enemies.

The places that these tests took place were more in line with the world outside. But for him, there was a mix of old and new technology. Even the VR headset and his old room were something that was never recorded by anyone else. This place that he was in also looked like some large company storage from a shipping company from his old world.

'I guess these tests take into account the life of the person taking the test? This only makes it more difficult to anticipate them in the future...'

His old life and his new one were beginning to mix together. The old trials seemed more in line with the new world he was in but this one did look different. But what was he supposed to do here, there was no writing on the wall and no indication of what he was supposed to build.

"...Brrrp..."

While he was looking around for more clues he heard a strange sound coming from the slit in the wall. It sounded strangely similar to an old printer that he once had and to his surprise, a white sheet of paper started to come out of that narrow opening.

He could clearly see that there were words being printed onto this white paper. This was probably a clue to what his task would be. Roland thus quickly moved over to the piece of paper to grab it before it was dropped onto the floor.

"This is... instructions for manufacturing?"

What Roland was holding was probably the item that he would be building. The words looked to have been printed with an ink printer and as he was going through them he also noticed that one of the glass containers started to change. The metallic part produced a glow while the others remained the same.

"I guess it wants me to make this and then place it into the glowing glass container?"

Roland scratched his head a bit after going through the piece of paper. The instructions were kind of vague so he wasn't sure what he should make of it.

Requirements:

\*Between 300 to 600 luminance \*Give out a warm glow \*Resistant to minor shocks

The list was quite small and also included a luminance factor in it. Thanks to Roland's broad knowledge he knew what it meant. Spells that produced light were counted in that measurement scale. He had already created runic lights and even configured them to produce a specific luminance rating.

"I see..."

There was also another change in the environment, besides the now glowing glass case the large clock on the wall started glowing. A number appeared in front that showed twelve and it was followed by more as the time started to pass.

"Twelve hours?"

From how fast it was going he was assured that he had half a day's time to complete this project. The first test for him would be to fashion some kind of lamp that could take some hits without breaking.

Twelve hours didn't seem like a lot but there were various items around these shelves that would make the process a lot faster. He would obviously not need to create everything from scratch as he just needed to find some parts and combine them.

There were also no real limits of the shape or size. At most, it needed to fit into the half-meter tall glass box but besides it he was not limited in his design. But was there something more? Did he really only need to look at these three points and fashion it accordingly?

"The lumination factor won't be hard and this warm glow, I can just use a fire-based rune though it didn't put anything specific about the heat..."

The only tip towards the glow was the warm part. He could only eyeball it, perhaps he could fail if he made it too hot or too lukewarm for the test. The main part that he was concerned about was the shock resistance. This made it seem that he would not be able to make an old-fashioned light.

Luckily he was not a regular craftsman, he imprinted runes into hard metal to make them work. Making something like a shock-resistant lamp would be quite easy. First, he would need to find the correct components, no limits to the materials were mentioned so he could probably go with anything.

This did seem like a trial test, the instructions were minor and he had a lot of time. Probably after he fashioned this runic lamp he would be shown what this trial was truly about. For now, he was unsure if it would be measured on the three bullet points or if there was something more to it.

'First, let me find a power source...'

While he would like to have used his own battery design he was unsure if that would be possible. He was only able to charge them after making the wind turbines and wiring up his entire workshop. It was a long process of development but luckily for him, he did find mana crystals that would do nicely.



They were in an aisle filled with other gem-like items. Many monster crystals of varying shapes and sizes were also there but they all capped out at tier 2. The largest one that he could see was somewhat similar to the tier 2 boss monster dinosaur that he had defeated previously.

Thanks to an old experience he knew that using a power source along with a weak runic enchantment would be a bad idea. Something like a runic lamp that only needed to produce a glow similar to a desk lamp wouldn't need that much mana to work. Luckily mana fluid was also here and he had already seen some other parts with which they could go together with.

Thus Roland began assembling the required components and then brought them all over to the crafting area. While he thought that he had a lot of time, it took him quite a lot of it to find everything that he needed. The whole place was quite new to him, even with the labels it was difficult to get everything that he wanted.

First came the power source, this would be mana fluid that was going to be inserted into a small metal cylinder. The fluid came in a canister that reminded him of ones used for fuel in his old world. He had found a small funnel to help him pour it into the cylinder that first needed to have a hole punctured into it.

"The tools here are outdated..."

He had hoped that this trial would somehow produce his runic power tools but there weren't any. It would have been easy if he had his runic drill along with his heating wands. It would have been easy to just get the fluid in and then weld it shut. Afterward, he could inscribe runes over it to make it into a working battery.

For the time being, he would have to revert to his old blacksmithing techniques. What would be the battery was hollow on the inside so he only needed to puncture a hole through it after heating it up.

The mana fluid was somewhat heat resistant so even when he was closing the opening via more melting, it wouldn't blow up into his face. It just needed the proper runes on the outside to prevent it from overheating later when the lamp was drawing power from it.

With the battery in place he now only needed to concentrate on the outer shell. The only requirement would be to make it glow, give out some heat and be resistant to minor shocks.

This could be achieved in various ways but he was limited. There was no time to make something eye-catching. The test didn't mention that the item that he made required to be artistic in nature. For that reason, he decided to make it work while ignoring its outside appearance.

Thus the somewhat ugly and rough outer shell was made. It was fashioned out of deep steel plates that he was very familiar with. He had found ones that would go nicely together, to the bottom plate he would attach the power source by melting some metal and letting it set. The required runes on the battery were already set in place before he attached it.

In the end, the whole thing ended up looking like a box. On the outside, there were visible runes that were engraved on the shiny grayish deepsteel. After years of runecrafting it was quite easy for Roland to plan out the entire runic structure without any need for a proper schematic.

Everything just clicked into place and after injecting mana the box started giving out a light of exactly 450 luminance. He decided to go for the middle spot from the description as he was hoping to get some bonus points for hitting the sweet spot.

With a lack of instructions, he decided to make the box give out light in all directions equally. Thus it could be placed on any side and it would continue glowing. The whole procedure didn't take him the whole twelve hours as he still had about five remaining. Probably if he was more familiar with the layout and had his own tools he would have done it faster.

The moment of truth came as he arrived at the glowing glass case. In his hand, he had the somewhat bulky-looking lightbox. On one of the sides, there was a small circle through which he would be able to turn it on. The test didn't mention anything about on and off switches.

'I hope this is enough...'

After turning it on he placed it into the glass case. He still had some time that he could spend on some improvements but he felt like speed also counted into the test. Perhaps he would be given more time for the next creation if he turned this one in faster.

The moment he closed the container he could see the light on the ground go out. At first, he expected it to just vanish but instead, the whole glass case started sliding down into the ground.

It was similar to the previous trial he took where the workshop slid down into the battleground to make way for the battle. Here it was a bit different as soon as the container with his item disappeared into the ground it started going back up again. There was a difference though, the square box that he placed inside was no more.

"So what now?"

He looked at the empty spot where the lamp he made was previously in. The glowing had stopped and now he was just waiting. It took a few moments but the clock that was ticking down had also stopped which meant that something was happening.

Soon the monitor that was below the timer suddenly went on. At first, it looked like static, it was as if there was no signal but with time he began to see something on the screen. It looked like a humanoid figure, it started out somewhat blurry but soon the image became sharp.

"A mannequin?"

What he saw was not a human, it was some kind of puppet. It had all the required joints that a person would find on a dummy. The face was lacking in any shapes and was devoid of eyes, a nose, and a mouth. This strange thing was just sitting in a chair while leaning forward.

Then Roland noticed it, the box that he made was placed on some other books that were on a desk. This desk was the one that this puppet was sitting in, it made it look like it was trying to read another book while using his box as the source of light.

"What is this..."

At first, Roland was not sure what to make of it but then he remembered some of the old games that he played when he was still in the old world. There were some games where you added things to the world

and then watched a simulation play out. For instance, he would create a bridge from provided parts and then see if the simulated cars could pass through it without the bridge collapsing onto itself.

This looked somewhat more intricate but it was somehow trying to simulate a person reading a book. Probably the light requirement was for this part and soon he would know why it also needed to be shock resistant. The mannequin started moving around and it elbowed the stack of books that the lightbox was on.

The box fell down to the ground along with some of the other books. The box had to take some damage from them but survived through this fall. The puppet slowly leaned back down to pick up the box as it went back to reading. From time to time he would also see it reach out towards the light, it was as if it was trying to warm its cold hands on it.

'I guess that's why it wanted it to give out a warm glow...'

Roland was baffled by the strangeness of this trial. It seemed that he would need to predict the simulated scenario that would take place on this TV screen. Along with following the instructions that were probably events happening during the simulation. After a few minutes it was completed and the image turned back to the static.

Before he could deliberate if he did well or not the screen shifted to another image. This time around he could see a table with words in it. The moment he read the first one he already knew what it was.