

## Runesmith 195

### Chapter 195: A new Trial a new test part 4.

“It has been about a week... or has it been more?”

Roland was looking at the clock in the distance while also screwing in a couple of bolts to hold a golem’s joint together. Just as he had predicted the tests were quite lengthy yet not that hard. At this time he was already on the fifth one which told him to create a golem.

The third test was another large order which consisted of mining tools for a group of ten miners. He was given a specific list of requirements that he had to adhere to. While it wasn’t all that hard the number of items plus the lack of much time added together.

After he was finished with the fourth test he was slowly wondering if he really wanted to continue with this class choice. It seemed to turn him into a factory worker that just went down through a list of commands that he needed to follow through. It did feel like he was in a simulation of a workshop and the piece of paper was a ruthless boss that didn’t care if he would be able to complete the order or not.

After the fourth test, he was close to giving up on this class. The skills that he would be receiving were still unknown to him but by what the tests were giving him he had an idea about them. Probably what he would be getting would be abilities that would aid him in manufacturing various contraptions, perhaps something to speed up the process.

In the fourth trial, he needed to outfit a party of soldiers with ranged weaponry. After innovating his workshop it was not hard to emulate his runic rifle designs. There was plenty of mana fluid to go around and the gun was easily manufactured as it didn’t really possess that many moving parts as its modern-day counterpart.

Luckily his scores were high as he had feared that perhaps going with a more traditional crossbow design would have been better. The wooden defenders didn’t seem to have troubleshooting down their foes with the rifles and he had slipped in enough replacement batteries to last them through what looked like to be a fortress defending scenario.

Then finally when he was about to reconsider this test he was given the fifth test, there he would need to design a golem. If he was getting a golem to work with then it should mean that this class also offered some benefit to making these creations. As if out of nowhere an aisle appeared with various parts that he could assemble a golem with.

Previously he had seen some basic golem cores but only after he managed to get through the fourth trial did the place alter itself. He had already had a suspicion that this place reacted to what he needed and somehow created the required components that he would need to complete the test. What he only needed to do was to assemble them correctly.

From the beginning, Roland didn’t think that this class change would be harder than the Runesmith Lord one. This was mostly due to the second tier 2 class test being geared towards people with tier 1 classes.

As someone with a somewhat broken tier 2 class already he was able to compensate in all of these trials. His large mana pool allowed him to create better and more precise runes without getting tired. The

higher stats multiplier made him work faster while also still being precise. This allowed him to finish the tests quicker and thus upgrade his workshop in the process.

This golem that he would need to make was now the fifth trial and it seemed to also be the most difficult one. He even found himself going to the office area to draw up some schematics. The note with the bullet points was stapled onto the wall and next to the whiteboard.

Requirements: \*Create a humanoid warrior golem height between 180 cm and 210 cm \*Weight up to 500 kg. \*Armaments need to include a one-handed weapon and shield

The instructions were vague as always. He predicted that his creation would probably need to face off against something. While the requirements were for him to only build a golem that was carrying a sword and shield around, this didn't mean that he couldn't innovate. The more he could cram into the golemic creation the more likely it would win against the foe it would be facing.

Thanks to how this test was set up he was able to find a plethora of parts. What he needed to do is to assemble the framework and then armor it up. The hardest part would be to alter the golem cores as they seemed to be just blank. Yet thanks to this he was starting to think that the class he was getting would be also receiving some golem core related skills.

This was mostly his aim for the new class, unless he would get something that would make his life easier it would have been better to go with the Runic Golem Designer. What he was aiming here for was a class that would not only help him with creating golems but also various other creations.

The golem core could be used for much more than just golems or at least that is what he was thinking. It was just something to store the runic software on, it would make the runes work as the runesmith programmed it in. There could be many other uses for them, he could see them working as the basis for many smart devices.

Mage towers for instance implemented something similar but more sophisticated. He couldn't really get his hands on that research as the professor denied him. His explanation was that research of the arcane arts would only muddle his current knowledge. Focusing on Runecrafting was already a huge undertaking and he somewhat agreed with the sentiment. Learning a new field of magic would just stifle his progress and perhaps in the future, he would have enough of it to continue with this path.

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After creating a schematic for a two-legged golem he got to work. This time the timer was maxed out at ninety-nine hours. The strange thing about this fact was that the clock wasn't ticking down. It looked to be stuck in limbo even after he spent a full day of working on the current design.

There could be a couple of reasons for this but he went with the most probable one. The time for this test was probably over the limit of this clock counter. As he continued to work this also became true and after adding up the hours he came to the conclusion that a week's time was given to him for this test.

'This might be the last one so I should focus otherwise I'll lose my mind...'

The place was filled with fake light, there was no day or night cycle and if the clock wasn't there he would not know how long he had already been here. It was clear that one of the things that this trial was testing was his mental fortitude.

Day by day there was another order that he needed to fulfill. Even when he was done with a trial he continued to slave away to improve the state of his temporary workshop. Without his Parallel Thinking skill, he felt that he would have not been able to finish the tests as fast.

It was as if he was not alone, as if he had a second person working with him. While one part of his mind was working on the correct rune paths in his head the other was assembling the golem's leg joints.

There was no crane to hoist this new creation up for easier access. He had to somehow assemble everything on the ground and then have his creation stand up on its own. Getting it into the largest glass case would otherwise not be possible.

First came the legs that would have the bulk of the weight in them. A humanoid golem was not as balanced as the spider drones he made. This type required a solid base as if he fell down gravity would cause additional damage.

Luckily the magic runes somewhat counteracted the weight problem of these constructs. Without it some of the larger models would just crumble under their own weight. In his old world, there was something called the Square-Cube law. In short, it stated that an increase in size would be followed by an even larger increase in weight which would in term limit the scale of possibilities by quite a bit.

In this world of swords and magic, it seemed that this law could be circumvented. Either by the use of magical materials that could withstand the increase in size or by magic. This was also part of his own studies, the runic diagrams he was given from the magical academy could be applied to golems to help them not crumble under their increased weight.

The biggest issue with circumventing this law by magic was that it required constant magic. If the golem ran out of it while moving the joints would break apart. The one that he was creating here would not be that big so it wouldn't need to be boosted by magical runes that much. Yet if it was, its movements would be enhanced along with its speed which could turn the tide in the coming battle.

So he continued with the less than optimal assembly on the ground. Luckily the golem didn't need to be too big nor bulky. Thanks to this he didn't have trouble bringing over all the required parts. The toughest part wasn't actually assembling the outer shell but mostly working on the inner workings that was the golem's operating system.

This was the only thing that the trial ground didn't provide him with. Thankfully in the past, he had gone through a plethora of golem cores. Even though he had stuck to making spider-like golems he had tinkered around with smaller humanoid ones.

The design that he went with made it somewhat look similar to his own runic armor. But instead of himself on the inside, it would be filled out by the inner skeleton. The chest area would house what some called the 'Golem's Heart' but to him naming it the 'Golem's Engine' would be more appropriate.

It was its power source without which it would be unable to function. Due to it being filled out with mana fluid or mana crystals it was required to keep it somewhat further away from the core that was susceptible to breaking. What he could do was insert as much fluid into the tank that the weight limit allowed him to do.

Luckily this wasn't his first rodeo so after assembling all the parts that he was given into a proper skeleton he was finally able to activate it. The golem came up to exactly two meters and was slightly taller than his creator. Its head was empty for the time being as he only needed it to stand up.

After working nonstop for half a week his creation's framework was ready. He followed one of the most basic designs which had been already tested by many other runesmiths before him. Now at this half-point what he was left with was a canvas onto which he could deliver the finished product.

The legs came out a bit bulkier than the rest so that his creation would have a lower center of gravity and keep it from being tipped over. Luckily at this size, he didn't have to worry about not being able to stand back up nor about the inner skeleton from snapping from too much stress.

The chest area was also a bit bulkier than the rest as it housed both the golem core that was closer to the upper area and the golem heart that was closer to the groin. The shoulders were rounded to emulate the look of a generic full plate armor. The golem would not have trouble raising its hands or performing human-like movements.

On its left hand, he attached a large round shield that was outfitted with several runes. On the inside of the shield, he had placed various mana stones to minimize the mana usage as he always did.

The note didn't say that he couldn't attach the shield directly to the golem's forearm which he did. Instead of having his creation hold the shield he used its hand to form a weapon. It looked like a stump with a gem at the end but in reality, it was just a modified spell wand that used the gem as a focus point.

For the melee weapon of choice, he went with a large mace. The golem had enough power to swing it around and he was unsure of what his creation would be fighting but he was counting on it being another golem. What better way to test if the trial taker was proficient at making golems than having it fight another one?

At the top point, it had a head that was mostly just there to house the main golem eye. The head part had two of them that were in the front and also in the back. There was not enough time to give it any more alternatives or to update the operating system to use them.

Thus the time for his creation that he fastened and welded together from all sorts of parts to be tested had come. It had a modified version of a basic runic combat program along with all the rest. Roland was not quite there yet when it came to altering the software too much so he would need the old tried design to do most of the heavy lifting.

"Hope this goes well..."

With only fifteen minutes remaining on the clock, he ordered the golem to climb into the glass cabin into which it barely fit in. Soon it slid down into the ground as all his other creations did before. The TV screen soon turned on to show him an arena that was quite similar to the one in his previous class change trial.

'Just as I thought, it's made from wood.'

Roland could see his own golem that was made from deepsteel and some other more mana conducive materials on one side. On the other, there was something that looked like a bulky wooden puppet with a shield and sword.

This is something that he expected, all the other simulations involved either stuffed toys that looked like monsters or wooden puppets. Roland wasn't sure but the wood that the golem was made of was something similar to bronzewood. There were other kinds that would fit a larger humanoid puppet like this which it probably was made off.

After the enemy became clear Roland let out a sigh of relief. He wasn't sure if this was by design but being against a golem made from wood would go in his favor due to how he customized his golem.

Wooden golem was somewhat similar to his own. This was probably due to the fact that he modeled it by a popular design. It didn't look much different than a regular runecrafting iron golem that a person could find at a proper dwarven workshop.

Soon the two golems spotted each other, each golem's eye homed in on the enemy before them while giving out a red glow. Even though these weren't large golems they were still slower than the average human warrior. This was why most people would never order one at this size as its decreased size was more manageable. Though with better schematics and materials one could create golems that are both agile as well as deadly.

By the way, these two were fighting reminded him of old toy commercials where small plastic robots punched themselves out until one lost its head. Their movements were robotic and even he that wasn't a masterful warrior could tell where the next strike would come.

At first, he was worried that his creation would soon falter. While the deepsteel was more resistant than the wood that the wooden golem was made from, it was assembled in a worse way. The wood was lighter so it could be thicker and didn't require a skeleton on the inside.

His golem on the other hand had many hollow sections that wouldn't last a prolonged pounding like this. But it wasn't limited just to its mace, it also had a shield hand with the gem at the end. At this moment it was pointing at the wooden construct.

In a matter of moments, a burning inferno surged from this magical arm. It engulfed the wooden puppet with magical flames and continued to release them while the opponent tried to shield itself. Even though the wood it was made for was quite resistant, it was not fireproof. Soon it caught on fire and started to burn up from the outside.

While the damage that it was taking was still moderate, the constant increase in heat did its work. The wooden joints soon started giving out while the golem was swinging around and it soon lost one of its arms. Now without a shield in hand, it was mostly defenseless while Roland's deepsteel golem still had its along with the mace that started delivering crippling blows.

The end result was as he expected, his golem remained standing after suffering some minor damage during the exchanges while the wooden one was down on the ground and burning up. Even to the end, his golem continued to blast it with a torrent of heated mana as if it wanted to make sure that the enemy was dead. Only after the light in its golemic eye faded did the test come to an end.

'Was that the last one or do I need to spend another week in this place...'

Even though Roland didn't feel tired or hungry having to be with his thoughts for two weeks straight was slowly getting to him. It was as if he spent a whole month in isolation while having to constantly use his parallel thinking skills to manufacture new items.

Then as he was looking at the grades he felt the whole place rumbling. It was similar to the way his other class trial ended. He could see a hidden doorway appearing right next to the TV screen that was congratulating him for his victory.

"Now is this the end or just the way to a more difficult trial..."

### **Chapter 196: No more stress.**

Final Grade

B+

Roland wasn't even that much interested in his final grade while looking at the door that appeared next to the TV screen. It looked like a regular wooden door with a regular handle, he just needed to reach out with his hand to open it yet he was considering if he really wanted it.

This would either take him to the exit, perhaps a similar area with books like on his previous trial, or to a new area with more testing. The first four tests added up to about two weeks of time spent with the last one adding another week of constant work and no rest. While for some reason his body wasn't feeling tired he was reaching a boiling point.

By the way these class change tests were structured he expected this to be the end. It was a bit easier than all the other trials that he took but this was something that he expected. Tier 2 class change quests were more difficult at tier 1 as they didn't scale as well when a person at a higher tier was taking it.

If he had to take this trial when he was at level 75 he wasn't so sure that he would have been able to pass it. At that point in time he didn't really have that much knowledge concerning golems or their cores, nor did he have the stats to help him manufacture multiple weapons at once.

With his Runesmith Lord class, he was able to quickly copy the runes from his memory. This helped him immensely during the tower defense section of the test. Without the diligent studying that he had done throughout these years, he would also be unable to pass this easily. It was more thanks to his diligent work that he was able to somehow breeze through here and not an indication that the class was useless.

Now he had a decision to make, does he walk through this door and claim his new class or would he try to fail. How would he fail this class trial after solving all the problems? From what he knew there would be some ways to not finish the trials after passing most of them.

One of them would be to just wait it out, these things did have a time limit but how long that would be he didn't know. The fastest way would be to get would be simulated death, he would need to die within the trial ground. Pain was felt in the same way as if he was in the real world so he would rather not have it go that far.

'Will that Runic Golem Designer be any better...'

He didn't get any information about what skills he would be getting from neither of the two classes he was interested in. The name was the only thing that was a hint along with the little sprite on the TV screen.

The Runic Golem Designer class was probably part of the dwarves' heritage. It would probably be impossible for him to get anything out of them. The thick-skinned crafting race never appreciated outsiders within their field of expertise. He wouldn't be surprised if they bought up all the skill books and pieces of knowledge that allowed others to go down this path.

What he could expect to find in the trial of this class would probably be golem crafting. Perhaps the trial would be similar to this one where he only needed to assemble parts and have his creation battle with other ones.

He expected it to mostly focus on just that while this Runic Engineer class was more broad in scope. Only at the fifth iteration of the test was he given golem parts to play around with yet he would require similar skills to pass both class tests. The big question was if he should specialize or broaden his horizon. Did he only want to make golems or utilize different techniques for more varied runic creations?

In the first place, the Runic Engineer Class was already focused on one field that was runes. Not like he would be spreading himself too thin and becoming a jack of all trades master of none. His main discipline would still be runes and crafting he would just be able to apply them to more, perhaps together with the Runesmith Lord class his Tier 3 options would present him with something unique.

'Are there any engineers in this world other than me?'

While Roland had gone through a second-rate college he was still an engineer with a degree. He was stuck repairing computer parts but thanks to that he was convinced that this class was somehow tailor-made for him. Probably without the skills that he gained from his first life he would be unable to get this option.

With that in mind, he took a step towards the door and placed his hand on the handle. After moving it down he pushed the door open, a bright glow greeted his face that quickly faded away to show him the inside of this room. Without doubt clouding his decision he finally took a step towards his new destination.

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"Ugh..."

Roland collapsed on the ground while holding his head. A splitting headache was taking over as the stress from the class change trial flooded into his head all at once. It was as if it was waiting for this very moment to knock some sense into him.

After passing through the door he arrived at a study. It was very similar to the one he saw during his last class change trial. There he was given books to study runic engineering that allowed him to gain new skills and traits.

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The biggest problem was that he needed to go through the books one by one and study them. This caused him to spend even more time without getting to rest his mind there. Luckily one of the passive skills that he received would help him in the future as it was stress resistance.

Stress Resistance

Passive Skill

A person with this skill can resist stressful situations more and doesn't buckle under pressure easily. The skill is boosted by the user's willpower stat.

Runic Restructuring

Active Skill

Allows the user to immediately alter a runic structure to one of his choosing that is not above the current rune's tier, the skill is dependent on the user's intelligence stat.

Creativity

Trait

A trait that allows its user to develop and express their ideas in new ways to help them innovate.

### **Resilience L1**

Passive Skill

This skill gives its user the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties, their resolve unwavering. The skill is boosted by the user's willpower stat.

After the moment of weakness, Roland managed to gather himself off the floor. The pain quickly subsided which could be thanks to his new resilience skill. He felt that his headache had become numb and while there were some aftereffects he wasn't feeling that bad.

Engineers were sometimes forced to work long hours without sleeping while constantly tinkering on their machines. Thus they needed to be resilient while also resistant to bouts of stress that could cause them to fumble.

Together with the skills that allowed him to go without sleep for days, he felt like he was turning into some kind of robotic existence that could work for days without end. Now it seemed that even if he didn't sleep his mind would not be fatigued anymore nor would he feel a need to rest. After leveling those new skills high enough he might be only limited by his body while his mind would never falter.

Then there was the strange creativity trait. It was supposed to help him come up with new ideas? The explanation was vague but creative people seemed to be able to find ways of going around problems that were previously not there. Perhaps with the help of this trait he would be able to create new runes from old ones?

The last skill was also quite interesting Runic Restructuring. It gave him the possibility to alter his runes in a more drastic way. It was a skill and would be quite instantaneous, which during a battle could save his life.



For instance, if he had a runic wand that could only produce a frost spell. During a battle with an enemy that was susceptible to fire, he could alter the runic structure during the confrontation to alter it. Probably the rune would degrade slightly in the process but if he leveled this skill up further the damage done to the runic structure could be erased.

This wasn't the only boon that was offered to him in the trial. He was given several books on runic constructs that he could read up on. With their help his manufacturing capabilities were now boosted, there were also some secrets concerning golems that he had not heard of before. With the help of this newfound knowledge, he would be able to fashion golems with improved operating systems.

'While I have gained some new knowledge and useful skills, there isn't anything, in particular, that would affect the golems or at least not yet.'

This was just the beginning, his new class was still fresh. Even though there were no new abilities aimed towards his golems there could be later when he gained a few levels. The quite painful eye skill that he received was only delivered to him at the end of his last class. Now with the resilience skill in his bag of tools, he would probably be also able to use it for a longer period of time.

After glancing over his new boost in stats and confirming that his two times multiplier was still there he decided to get a move on. His body didn't feel tired but the experience of not getting any sleep for a whole month was somewhat weighing on his mind. But with the help of his new skills, he was able to waddle outside into the living room.

There he found some leftover food on the table that he was quick to gobble up. anything that he could find was taken in to replenish some of that lost mental energy that was slowly returning to him. Even with the new resilience skill, he found himself spacing out in the chair for a few moments before finally hearing a voice calling out to him from the side.

"Are you okay?"

"Huh? Oh, it's you Elodia, yes I'm doing fine just give me a minute."

Roland waved to her while smiling weakly.

"You don't look fine, why are you so pale."

"Oh well, I just need to walk it off, I'll be fine in a minute or two, must be the side effects of the class change nothing to worry about."

He did not hide the fact that he had managed to change his class from her. Previously they even had a discussion about the possibility of him attempting it. While there was no danger of dying from such a trial some of them did weigh on the people taking them and this Runic Engineer one had been one of them.

"Why are you like this? You need to take care of yourself more, how about you go rest?"

Elodia shook her head around while getting closer. The first thing she did was place her forehead against his to check if he had a fever. Roland remained in place as the gesture was quite soothing to his tired mind. Yet while some dirty thoughts flooded his mind to use this situation he was really too tired to act on them.

“Yes, I should probably go to bed... what time is it anyway?”

After so much time had passed during that trial he was somewhat confused about the time of day. Was it the beginning of a new day or was Elodia closing the shop down for the day? He was sure but when he asked her about it she started looking more concerned. After some struggling, he was shoved into his bedroom to rest.

“Now get some rest, Agni don’t let him leave this room even if he orders you.”

“Awooo!”

Agni that had now become bigger and was a dire wolf gave out a resounding howl that caused some of the glass windows to vibrate. It seemed that he was pleased with his new guard duty as he curled up before the exit door while Elodia left to go outside. The rest was kind of a blur as Roland quickly fell asleep.

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“Ugh... why do I feel so heavy...?”

At the break of dawn, he opened up his eyes, while he felt somewhat refreshed he also felt somewhat sweaty. There was something on his chest and it was far too heavy to be his girlfriend. When he opened his eyes were greeted by crimson fur that belonged to a certain Ruby Dire Wolf.

“Agni, what are you doing? Get off me, you’re getting too big for this!”

It seemed that his tamed beast had crawled into bed with him while he had passed out. This was something that occasionally happened but with each new evolution, it became harder and harder to stomach. Now when Agni was beginning to weigh more than even he did it start to become a problem.

“Woof?”

The moment Roland raised his voice he was hit in the face with something rather hard. It was the ruby tail of his wolf that was randomly swishing about. While Agni was quite happy to hear his owner’s voice he was going through pain as his face was smacked around. For one reason or another, Agni’s posterior was resting on Roland’s chest and after a few swats of the tail was promptly removed with a forceful push.

“I said, get off me!”

The thud was heard along with Roland’s shouting. Agni landed against the wall but he quickly adjusted to fall down onto his four legs. Instead of a punishment, it seemed that he took it differently as he just jumped back onto his master while attempting to lick his face.

Roland found himself dodging the rather long pink appendage while using his parallel thinking skill. Regretfully some slobber got onto his shirt as the attack was quite abrupt. Not even he could have seen this rude awakening coming.

“Okay, run along now...”

After washing his face he released Agni outside. It was still early in the morning and it would take a few hours until Elodia arrived to open the shop. For the time being, she mostly spent her time at the orphanage while shortening her stays at his home. He did not complain though as he had other things to worry about, like the golem that he needed to produce.

'I guess I can stall it anymore, I need to make that golem.'

First impressions were important so he intended to put as much of his skill into this new golem variant as he could. But after the test, he had been through he thought that he would be easily able to come up with some nice improvements over the old models.

Though before he grabbed his blacksmithing hammer he took some time to think about a new possibility. From the corner of his eye, he saw a small black satchel. It was just your average spatial bag with the smallest enchantment possible on it.

"This will either give me the biggest headache I have ever had or will be one of the biggest discoveries..."

He grasped the satchel in his hand and slowly headed downstairs, his target being the empty room where he previously tested his rune eye skill out.