

## Runesmith 235

### Chapter 235: Going for a checkup.

“Roland, is this really necessary? I don’t feel that anything is out of place and is Agni coming too?”

“Awooo?”

“Yes, I’ve already explained, it’s better if we do it now before word reaches this place. Bernir and Dyana need to come with us too.”

“If you say so...”

Roland was now back home but this was not quite over yet. After getting a big hug from Elodia and a lot of slobber from Agni he didn’t just relax. The Cult was still fresh in his mind and the creatures that turned people into abominations could be among them. The only cure that he knew were elixirs and holy energies thus the best place for a checkup would be the church of Solaria that was in the city.

His assistant Bernir along with his wife needed to be brought over as well. He would not be able to relax if anyone around him was infected, probably from this point onward all of them would need to periodically go get checkups at the church if that was a possibility. There was no official

Announcement

yet and without things like the internet, information traveled slowly.

While nobles could use magic to get informed most of the common folk were usually left out in the dark. Everyone had their own little circle they cared about and just like him they would probably prioritize them. What the people knew about was that there was an attack in the city of Reeka but they didn’t have the details. Not many knew about the abyssal larvae that could transform people into monstrosities. If they did, they would probably all be pushing towards the churches.

“What got ye knickers in a twist, boss? Shouldn’t we have a drink first? Ye managed to get ye golden adventurer card!”

“Now is not the time, is Dyana with you?”

“I’m here, I’ve got some gauntlets for your magical touch bossman, and we also managed to finish that thing you were asking about, it was hard to do the measurements with him moving around so much though.”

“Good but that will have to wait, we need to get to the church so we’ll close the shop for today.”

“To the church?”

Both Bernir and Dyana looked at each other with confused expressions. They didn’t know what was going through Roland’s head but he had an unusual expression on his face. Luckily they didn’t argue too much or ask any unnecessary questions before nodding.

“Aye, let me turn the forge off before we go then.”

It took them a moment to make sure that no magical tools were turned on, not having his home burned down after his return would be appreciated. Elodia finished up in the shop while having to apologize to a few people that were glancing through the wares. The hired guard there would remain to keep watch for the time being while all of them headed to the city.

“Do you mind explaining why we are going to the church, does it have anything to do with the current rumors about Reeka?”

“Yes...”

Roland didn't want to directly announce that all of them could potentially have brain-eating parasites in them. So he needed to make it seem at least a bit less lethal.

“So you all know that I've taken the mission towards that city and that it was attacked by cultists, right?”

“Yes.”

Replied Elodia while the other two nodded.

“During that trip I directly encountered the people from the Abyssal Cult, they have been, how should I put this... inflicting people with an ailment that could be deadly if not checked by the church.”

“An ailment? D-do you think that it could have happened to us?”

“There is a slight possibility but you all should probably be fine... still we need to see, it can be cured so don't worry.”

All three of them started looking at each other and then quickly onto their own bodies. In their minds, they tried to remember if there were any symptoms of getting cured or poisoned. None of them could recall such an event occurring, their own statuses weren't showing anything but not like they would, and Roland was aware of this.

“Wait... was this ailment responsible for what happened in Reeka?”

“Don't think too much about it, let's just get to the church, Sister Kassia should be able to get rid of it.”

This was also an unconfirmed statement. He had seen a high-ranking member of the church destroy the parasites but she was a tier 3 class holder. Loreena was not a priest that specializes in healing magic. The abyssal larvae were quite weak, in theory, a tier 2 priest like Kassia should have been able to cleanse them but this was still only a theory.

After the little talk, his friends started walking at a quicker pace. They all knew that Roland wasn't someone that would lie to them. If he was kicking up a fuss about a strange disease then they needed to get to the church and do it fast.

“Stop!”

With a rapid pace, they finally arrived at the city gate. There the first problem arose which was a huge Dire Wolf with rubies on it. The moment the people waiting in line saw the oversized wolf they started backing away. The guards grabbed their spears and pointed them toward the dangerous beast which made Agni growl slightly.

“He is my tamed beast, there shouldn’t be a problem, here.”

Before the situation could get out of hand Roland presented the people with some papers. There Agni was stated to be his tamed monster and along with his golden adventurer card, he would theoretically have permission to bring it inside of the city.

“These documents are outdated Mr. Wayland but the card is real...”

“I know, I recently went through my ranking test, as you can see he is wearing a muzzle to update those papers I need to get him to the guild.”

Even though he didn’t update the documents he wasn’t in the wrong. Agni needed to be taken to the adventurer guild for an assessment of his stats. With the gold rank card, he would be also taken more seriously and be allowed to keep a tier 2 monster. It wasn’t forbidden for adventurers to take weapons into the city and a tamed beast was just another part of their repertoire.

“You are correct... Please have the new documents the next time you bring him here or you will pay a fine, next.”

Everything went rather smoothly. The guards had the power to keep him from entering the city but as he had a relation with the city lord they could not. He wouldn’t be surprised that they would have let him in even if he didn’t show any of those documents to them.

“Hah, it’s good to be famous!”

Dyana chuckled along with the rest of them after they managed to get through the checkpoint.

“Let’s go to the church first, I’ll sort things out with the guild later.”

Everyone nodded before going towards their destination. Roland took some time to examine Albrook, it didn’t seem that anyone was taking the infection in Reeka seriously. The news of the parasitic creatures that could be inserted through the eye socket certainly didn’t spread yet. ‘The nobles and church wouldn’t want to cause panic...’

If the people in power announced to the world about this potential plague the kingdom could come to a halt. Every person would clamor to get themselves in the church to get cleansed. This could have various ripple effects on the kingdom’s economy and even potentially invite outside nations to attack. It wouldn’t be surprising if they spread some counter rumors to keep everything hidden.

‘They will probably only mention that the cult attacked the city but now how people started turning by themselves... not many people witnessed everything like me...’

At first, he thought that the only reason the inquisitor let him go was due to his noble heritage. But there was another reason, no one would believe a group of adventurers about the parasite problem if it wasn’t confirmed by the church. Yet at that point in time, no one expected the cult to retaliate this swiftly and make a giant spectacle of everything. He and the adventurers were loose ends that could complicate things.

‘Will they try to...’

“Hey, Boss we are here.”

“Was he in his own world again?”

“Aye, that he was.”

“Hey...”

Roland frowned as Elodia along with Bernir started laughing at him. Everyone was already used to him spacing out in his own thoughts for a long time so they learned not to interrupt him. Only when they arrived at the church did they raise their voices to get him out of the trance.

“Before we go in...”

He looked towards Agni who just plopped his rump on the ground. The muzzle that he was wearing did make him look a lot less energetic, his tail which was usually a propeller was just hanging down without moving.

“I’ll stay with him.”

“Awoo...”

“Thank you Dyana.”

Agni replied with a weak howl, luckily after receiving some ear scratches from the large lady his tail started wagging once again.

“After I clear things up, we’ll probably have to get Agni in through the back door so just wait for a moment. It shouldn’t take long.”

“It’s fine, take your time.”

“Let’s go in then.”

Thus everyone besides Agni and Dyana made their way inside through the large gate-like door.

“Hm, for something called the Sun Church it’s awfully chilly in here.”

Elodia shivered slightly after going into the building with a high ceiling. The drop in temperature was noticeable to everyone but nothing too extreme. Luckily Sister Kassia wasn’t far from the entrance.

“We were lucky, think they just finished with the sermon, I could never stay awake through those, just sounds like gibberish to me.”

Bernir smiled as he saw Kassia walking down from the slightly raised platform. There was a large circular stained glass window behind it that concentrated light there during certain hours. When it wasn’t mid-day, the light would focus down from a side window while the priests performed prayers.

“Mr. Wayland, what brings you to the church, have you finally decided to devote yourself to the radiant lady? It would be a pleasure to praise the sun with you and your companions.”

Sister Kassia spotted Roland the moment he entered the church. For some reason, she was obsessed with trying to convert him to her religion. He wasn’t sure why but perhaps she was just thick-headed and unable to accept that he wasn’t interested. Luckily this would only allow him to ask about the favor.

“Sister Kassia, It’s nice to see you... I require some help but I’m not sure that this is the best place to speak about it...”

After arriving here he noticed that the church was filled out with believers. They were kneeling on the ground and praying with their hands together. They did it in a very similar fashion to the religion he was part of in his original world.

“Not the best place to speak? There is nothing that needs to remain a secret under her watchful eyes!”

“Ah yeah, I thought you would say that... What if I tell you that I know what really happened in Reeka and the problem is a lot more serious than the church wants us to believe.”

Roland was not sure if every person in the church was informed about the Abyssal Cult. It could just be something that the inquisitors were involved with while the priests were left out of the picture. People like Kassia were here to offer comfort and heal people, they were not meant to interact with the cult forces outside the church.

“What is this truth you speak of...”

“Yes, it involves the Abys...”

“Don’t speak their name here!”

Before he could continue Kassia raised her voice slightly while placing her hand over his mouth. It seemed that talking about the cult from the Abyss was not something welcomed here. With the problem it caused in Reeka he knew why.

“You must excuse me, I’ve acted out of line.”

Kassia pulled her hand away while quickly bowing. Soon she turned her face to the side where a door was.

“Please follow me.”

Roland nodded while turning towards Elodia and Bernir. The two did some nodding as well before all going towards the new location. The door led to a narrow corridor that was connected to some rooms. Some of them were open, there he saw Solarian nuns performing prayers. There was even one producing holy water, indicated by the sparkly glow coming from the bottle it was in.

“This is my bed-chamber, please come in.”

“I didn’t think I would be ever going into a nun’s bed-chamber...”

Bernir had a strange smirk on his face while going in. Before he could peek his head inside he was smacked by Elodia.

“Hey, what was that for?”

“Don’t think I didn’t see where those eyes were looking, I’m going to tell your wife everything if you don’t stop.”

“P-please anything but that!”

He could only roll his eyes at the panicked half-dwarf. His assistant liked to boast about how he was the man of the house but whenever his wife was brought up he started behaving like a puppy.

“Please don’t cause a scene, let’s just go in.”

There was no time for this so he decided to place his hand on Elodia’s shoulder. Thankfully she was quick to let this matter rest while they were inside the church. Bernir was clearly touched and a bit smug when looking at Roland that seemingly had his back in this situation. Though after one stern look from Elodia he quickly turned his face to the side.

“Would you like something to drink, we do have the best water that her radiance gifts us!”

“Hm... holy water could perhaps do the trick?”

While Kassia offered Roland a drink he contemplated the validity of holy water working on the parasites. This blessed water was one of the most praised products of the church, it could be sold in bulk and was cheap to produce.

It was nowhere near the potency of an elixir but could help out against low-level undead and demonic creatures. When ingested by such a monster it would act similarly to a poison effect just like the elixir that he fed to the abyssal monster when he was escaping from Reeka.

“Holy water? That’s not something I expected Mr. Wayland to drink...”

“No I mean... It’s better if you just sit down, this might take a while, how much do you know about the Reeka incident?”

Kassia didn’t seem well informed, she was a tier 2 class holder and a priest but not really someone in a leadership position. Even in this church, there were others on the same level and all of them would need to answer to any tier 3 priest if they met them.

“I must admit that I don’t know anything specific, but I’m sure there is a good reason for it.”

“I guess that’s one way to put it.”

Finally, after the door was closed and everyone was seated Roland started to explain everything. He glossed over most of his battles to not worry Elodia but he did mention the parasite problem. The moment he started to describe the monstrosities that people turned into if the little monsters weren’t killed he could see everyone’s faces change.

‘W-wait Boss, are you telling me that I could have one of those worms inside my head and I’ll turn into some monstrosity if I don’t get it out?’

“Well... yes but there is an easy way to get rid of them.”

“T-there is?”

Bernir started to panic but soon let out a sigh of relief after Roland mentioned that there was a cure. Elodia along with Kassia became silent but he could see them also thinking hard to figure out if they could have been infected in any way.

“These monsters can’t stand divine spells, if they are exposed to them they should easily die.”

“Should?”

Asked Elodia as she didn't like the sound of those words.

“Yes, I don't know how time affects this...”

He didn't want to worry them but he had no idea if those larvae could be killed after living in a host for a long period of time. It could have already been too late for the people that lived in Reeka. If he didn't see Loreena remove the abyssal creatures with her holy energy in the village, he would not be so sure about a cure even existing.

“So, this is why I have come here to you today Sister, I would like you to use your magic to examine my companions...”

The cat lady was shocked by the revelation, her hand covered her mouth but he could clearly tell that she was shaken. Yet without missing a beat she just nodded when Roland posed his request of healing his friends. With proper guidance from him, she would be able to focus those divine energies on the spots that the parasites resided in and hopefully remove them if they were there.

#### **Chapter 236: Checkup.**

“Stay still boy, this isn't going to take long.”

“Awoof!”

“I didn't know that he would be afraid of healing magic that much, I'll hold him down...”

Roland had to go down to one knee and keep Agni steady while Kassia performed her healing spell. Surprisingly the large dire wolf had a fright of divine magic, perhaps it was some kind of innate fear as he was still a monster. Luckily Roland was able to hold him down until the priest was done with her spell.

“I don't think he has any either, can tamed monsters also be a host to those creatures born of vile magic?”

“I'm not sure, I've only seen them take over people as hosts.”

This brought up an interesting question but not one that was important. After spending twenty minutes in the church everyone had been dosed with holy energy. This is what he expected to see as no one showed any signs of discomfort when venturing into this chapel. Roland expected some kind of reaction from the abyssal creatures even though the concentration of divine energy was low.

Sister Kassia went through everyone one by one while focusing her divine energy on their heads. There was no feeling of discomfort for anyone in their small group. Loreena from the golden order went through the same process and there the reaction was quite visible. Either the monsters would try to crawl out through an orifice or black smoke would rise from the infected person while it perished. This holy energy was extremely deadly to these tiny creatures thus they were obviously not in any danger.

“AWOOO!”

Agni jumped back while wrestling out of Roland's grip after he loosened it up slightly. He was quick to run behind Elodia while whimpering. There was no damage that he received from the healing and cleansing spells so his behavior just made everyone confused.

"Your fluffy friend doesn't seem to like me too much..."

Kassia cat ears flopped down slightly after her last patient seemed visibly shaken. Perhaps it had nothing to do with the healing spell. Maybe it was the age-long conflict between the canines and the felines that was making Agni behave like this. Now was not the time to speculate about the relations between cats and dogs, there was more work to be done.

"You have my gratitude, Sister."

"Aye, I give you my thanks as well."

"If what our bossman is saying is correct, then we owe you one."

Everyone started thanking the feline priest which made her cat ears spring back to life. Her frown turned back to a radiant smile as if it was never there to begin with.

"I just did what the lady of radiance has entrusted me with, her blessings are meant to be shared with the people!"

On one hand, Roland was grateful that the lady priest performed the treatment fast but on the other hand she was getting into preacher mode. If they waited too long she would start praising the sun and now after she did them a favor they might have to stay and pray along with her.

"Her radiance has blessed us with another..."

"Uh... Sister Kassia... I think you probably have enough work on your hands now that you know about this affliction..."

"The affliction..."

Roland managed to cut her off before she could continue babbling about Solaria. The moment he mentioned the parasites again she became quiet. In reality, she didn't have any information from the church so she would not be able to act on her own accord. They had a strict hierarchy in this church and Kassia was not the leader.

"You are correct Mr. Wayland, I need to consult the head priest! We will have to postpone our discussion about the radiant lady for later."

'It was more of a one-way discussion though...'

"Before we leave, would it be fine with you if we brought over more people later?"

"There is always a place in the church for the afflicted!"

"You have my gratitude then, If you ever need runic items you are welcome to come to my shop."



Roland knew that it wouldn't be fair to just let the woman leave like this. She had allowed them access to her healing spells without taking any payment which was somewhat uncharacteristic of a Solarian priest.

"Oh? I will be sure to take you up on that offer if I require anything but for now, I will have to excuse myself."

They had gathered outside to take care of Agni so Kassia was the only person returning to the church. While she was a high-level tier 2 priest she was not the person making the decision.

From his perspective, Kassia would probably be forced to stay silent until the top brass decided to make a proper decision. There was no way of knowing how people would react to this knowledge. This small temple that they had created here could probably not manage too many people clamoring for their services at once.

"There she goes..."

Commented Elodia while Roland just nodded and was about to turn away.

"..."

"Hey, what are you looking at?"

There he noticed Bernir's head moving at an angle as he was trying to take in the view of Kassia's behind. Dyana noticed this and delivered a smack to the back of her husband's head which made him do a nice flip to the side.

"Ey, what was dat fo?"

"You want another one?"

"Uh, sweetie please calm down..."

"Don't you sweetie me!"

"I uh... how about you two take the rest of the day off, it's already late, I'll see you tomorrow at the workshop."

Roland turned to Elodia who started chuckling and nodding. It was already the middle of the day, even if they returned there wouldn't be much time before the sun went down and the two were allowed to turn in for the day.

"No boss, help me."

"Sorry, you're on your own with this one, let's go Agni we need to get your documents renewed."

While Bernir was getting chased by his oversized wife, Roland and Elodia headed towards the adventurer guild. Finally, he could start to relax. Everyone close to him was doing fine but this wasn't quite over. Even though the ones closest to him had been examined this was not true for everyone that he knew. Elodia was still part of the orphanage and they were also others.

"When you were talking to the priest, you mentioned others, do you mean?"

“I don’t want to worry you but you have probably realized by now.”

“Lobelia and Armand...”

Elodia leaned in towards Roland while also grasping his visibly larger hand. He could see the concern in her eyes and it was justified. The probability of the kids at the orphanage of being infected was close to zero. None of them ventured out of the city much and the only place some of them visited was his own workshop.

“Those two have been taking missions outside of the city for years, we need to get them to the church fast...”

Elodia nodded while also grasping his hand harder when he mentioned both of her adoptive siblings. Armand after achieving the gold rank had been adventuring through the entire island. With Roland being in the city he had someone that she could rely on and thus he could focus on his progress.

Lobelia was part of the thieves guild, the places she visited were unknown to him but she had also made her rounds around the continent. Sometimes she would even vanish for a month or longer before appearing as if nothing had happened. Roland noticed one fight between the two sisters when the half-elf had not shown herself for a while.

“Do you think they will be at the guild or are they out of town?”

“I think Armand should be there, he came back from a trip recently, he never leaves for too long...”

“That’s true, he does seem to go back to that place a lot...”

“Hey!”

Elodia jerked her head towards Roland who mentioned Armand’s little addiction to the redlight district. It seemed that he had grown accustomed to some of the girls there. With not having to worry about the orphanage with Roland in the picture his expenditure there had only increased.

“Well... if Lobelia isn’t there, I’ll check the other guild, her two fans might know where she is.”

“Those two? They probably would...”

An image of a dog and fox fighting it out for the affection of the elven maiden popped into his head. The two would probably know if she decided to leave the city or was just having fun elsewhere.

“First let’s see if they are at the guild.”

Elodia nodded and the three of them headed toward their next destination. With Agni’s increased size he was really standing out. Roland was forced to put him on a leash that was not very appreciated. From time to time the ruby wolf would just sit down and grumble, even when he tugged on the line he would just sit there with his nose down in the dirt.

“Stop being a little baby Agni.”

Luckily with some words, Elodia was able to get him moving, if this continued Roland was ready to deliver some punishment in the form of withholding food. Finally, after some time had passed they

managed to arrive at the adventurers guild. The building did not change at all, among the adventurers, Agni would comfortably fit in as most of them had already seen a tamed monster.

“The tamer stables are in the back, wait for me there.”

“Sure.”

With Elodia here he would not really need to go in there himself. After giving her the old documents he started moving to the area behind the guild. There he would find some other facilities like the training area that he had his bout with Armand all those years before.

‘There were people shouting and cheering just like now... wait?’

After moving closer to the back of the guild he started hearing various shouts. People were cheering and some even ran past him towards the training area. He couldn’t really see what the noise was about but this was not something that rare. Perhaps there was someone advancing to their silver rank and taking a test or someone was in a sanctioned match between adventurers.

The guild was filled with various people that liked to let their fists do the talking. When a dispute arose between two parties they could always clear it up in a fair match. The reason for allowing a brutal competition where their health was on the line was as always money. People could bet on who would win and win quite a high amount of coins.

‘The loser will be disgraced and the winner takes all the glory?’

Roland found something in this sentiment. Perhaps if he knew about this tradition sooner he would have taken on the party of adventurers that hurt Bernir there. It would be a good show of his might but luckily for him the guild master wanted to do business with him at that time and he got off scot-free.

“Awoo?”

“Is something wrong Agni?”

“Woof!”

The ruby wolf pointed with his nose towards the direction of the training area where all the noise was coming from. There was something there that Agni wanted and Roland kind of had an idea what.

‘Did he recognize someone’s smell? Maybe it’s Lobelia or the idiot?’

He had just arrived at this location and even if he went towards the training ground it wasn’t that far away from here. Elodia would probably need at least fifteen minutes to get everything sorted out even with the many guild members she knew. That left him with nothing much to do for that time, perhaps checking out what the commotion was about wasn’t such a bad idea.

“Okay, let’s go then.”

“Awoo!”

“You think that she can win?”

"I don't know, her axe was damaged and that other adventurer looks strong... why can't that idiot keep her mouth shut?"

"A'd say tis in favour o' th' lad, they gauntlets be unusual, it must be dwarven craftsmanship!"

It didn't take long for him to get there and before he could examine the situation he started hearing familiar voices. Three of his new adventurer friends were gathered right at the entrance and talking. He didn't need to look to figure out that Grisalde was involved in this event as even the bystanders were vocal about it.

"I'll put one large silver on the giant woman, just look at those muscles!"

"Hah, you're an idiot look at that weapon she has, it'll be a miracle if it doesn't break, Armand got this in the bag."

'So that idiot was really involved...'

After hearing that Grisalde and Armand were involved he wanted to facepalm. Finally, he looked towards the training area and there he saw Elodia's brother smirking. Opposite to him was the barbarian woman that he met during his journey and she looked mad. The two were both gold rank adventurers but Armand fell behind in levels, this he probably made up with the runic gauntlets that he was using.

'Why are those two there, didn't they just arrive? Is this some new world record for finding trouble?'

Much time didn't pass between him going to the workshop and back to the city. The caravan had to stop before being allowed through the gate, this added to about two hours before this incident had to happen. Roland was quick to take his friends to the church and to get here. This meant that Armand and the barbarian woman started fighting not long after they visited the guild.

"Hey, it's Wayland... but what's that thing with him?"

"Is that a Ruby Wolf... but it's much bigger!"

Both Senna and Orson finally spotted Roland that was sticking out like a sore thumb with Agni next to him. The large ruby wolf noticed the group of three and thanks to his sense of smell could tell that his master had interacted with them for a while.

"What is going on here, what is Grisalde doing?"

Roland quickly moved toward the three to ask the question. It didn't make sense to him that such a situation could have arisen within this short span of time.

"Do you want the long or the short version?"

"Short."

Roland quickly replied while Senna pointed at Armand and started explaining.

"In all honesty, that musclebound idiot started it, when we were in the guild he walked up to the other musclebound idiot, I think he was trying to woo her?"

"Wait, he was trying to woo her?"

“Hah, that was my reaction too, does he even have eyes?”

“Uh... so I reckon that this courting process didn't go too well?”

“I think that's still debatable, the two idiots made a bet... if the guy wins she has to spend the night with him but if he loses she gets ten small gold coins?”

“Why would she...”

Senna shrugged while Roland started wondering where such a ridiculous bet came from. Ten small gold coins were a large sum of money and probably the reason why Griscalde decided to take Armand up on the offer. The barbarian woman probably wanted to pay off her debt to Senna with this one last gamble but her chances of winning weren't that great.

“Don't ask me, maybe she was playing hard to get? That guy is an idiot but he does have a handsome face.”

Senna rubbed her chin while looking at Armand's handsome features. Even now he was getting cheered on by a group of ladies from the side. This of course was only fueling his big ego that he didn't seem to have been able to get rid of even after suffering many defeats. The times he had been beaten up by Roland faded into obscurity while the recent victories and ranking up took over his mind.

‘We don't have time for this...’

Normally there were rules with these kinds of bets, people from the outside could not get involved or they could be held responsible by the adventurers that just loved making bets. Luckily for him, he had a high enough position in this adventurer society that he could risk it.

“There you are, I've been looking for you, what happened to getting Agni registered?”

Before being able to move towards the two idiots that were staring at each other he heard Elodia's voice behind him.

“Good that you are here, can you help me with that.”

“That?”

Elodia followed Roland's finger and instantly frowned when she saw her younger brother puffing out his chest. Then even more as she noticed another familiar person further behind him, this person was holding on to a lot of cash and gathering various bets. Even Roland was noticed by the entourage she was with.

‘At least all of them are here, now we can...’

Yet before he could move in he heard a loud banging sound that indicated the start of the fight. The large group of adventurers swarmed towards the fence to quickly block off the path as the fight had started...