

## Runesmith 85

### [Chapter 85 Going down to the 10th floor.](#)

“Haha, did a group of mole rats have their way with you?”

“Screw off!”

A large burly man with no hair was laughing at Armand the instructor that just faced off against Roland. The Pugilist was in a sorry state, he was holding his hands that were slowly healing after some of his fingers were broken.

This wasn't the actual cause of him looking pale though. The skill that he activated took quite a bit out of him. It wasn't something that could be used for a prolonged amount of time, it was mostly there for a short burst of power to finish off an enemy.

“He didn't win! It was all because of that armor, if he didn't have it on I'd crush him with one hit!”

The older man walked over closer, he was really tall, not something that a human could achieve. There was a total lack of hair on his head and his body looked like it was carved out from stone. This man was clearly from the goliath race which was quite the rarity in this warm climate. This race of smaller giants preferred mountain regions and more secluded areas.

“Is that so? I wouldn't be so sure about that, it felt like he was holding something back...”

“What?”

Armand looked quite pissed, his fingers were still numb and the potion would need some time to heal his bones. Things like cuts could be mended faster but when getting down to the bone the quality of the potion had to increase for it to work faster.

“Why are you even here, don't you have a guild to run or something?”

“Can't a kind old man check up on one of his best prospects? One that lost so beautiful, wait till the others hear about it at the pub. Maybe now you can start taking things more seriously.”

A wooden chair flew towards the large old man. It connected with the wall next to him which caused him to laugh more before walking out of the room.

“You shouldn't tease him so much, Guild Master.”

“He'll be fine, he needs to be taken down a peg. Good that we have some promising young warriors coming in! What do you think? You watched the entire fight right, Solana?”

The man that was called the guild master asked the elven receptionist that was responsible for Roland's test. Both of them walked through one of the guild's corridors after Armand had to be brought in for some healing.

“That youth...how should I put it... normally someone of his level shouldn't be able to use runic armor like that...”

“You noticed it too?”

“Yes sir, the mana that the armor was emitting was staggering. I’m not sure how he did it but even a high level tier 2 mage would have problems using that many runes and mana stones at once.”

The old man rubbed his chin that was covered by a short beard.

“Must be some special class, those weren’t the movements of a scrawny mage. Well, keep an eye on him and report anything unusual.”

“Should I update his card or?”

The old man turned to the smaller elf and shook his head.

“No... have him get us some monsters that live below the 10th level. Otherwise, he might also grow a big head like our little Armand. Let’s see how he handles unjust setbacks.”

The elven lady nodded while the two parted ways, the man that was the guild master had quite the grin on his face as he left. She returned to inform Roland of the second mission that he needed to fulfill. Solana couldn’t see how well he took that decision but she could have sworn that she heard a grunt behind that visor.

The moment the armored man left the guild went abuzz. The people that bet on a tie were laughing out crazily as they made quite the coin. Most of them were cursing though as not many believed that Armand could lose in any way or that this fight would take this long to finish. Through this Roland had made some hidden enemies along with increasing his fame.

“Didn’t the receptionist call that person Wayland? Do we have someone like that living in the city?”

Some people that were interested in the crimson armored man’s identity were quick to gather information. It was always good to know who you were dealing with and this was clearly a strong individual.

“Please everyone quiet down!”

The second receptionist that looked like a business woman with glasses shouted out. The whole fight was causing too much of a commotion and no work was being done. Soon everyone straightened out and everything returned to normal.

While this was happening Roland was walking towards the dungeon. Killing tier 2 monsters would be quite easy to him at this point. This was something he was able to do even before reaching this class.

He couldn’t really cheat this quest, bringing over mana stones was one thing but monster parts was another. They would know if he did it himself by the creature’s freshness. It would probably be better to just bring over the whole body as proof instead of disassembling it. He didn’t want them to look for some other loopholes.

While walking towards the dungeon Roland thought back to how the fight went. After working on himself for a year by battling monsters alone he was slowly developing as a fighter. With the help of his gear, he was now somewhat able to contend with higher tier opponents.

‘Though, if that guy took me seriously from the start he would have probably won...’

He wasn't foolish enough to believe that he would have come out on top in a proper fight. Even though he didn't have his shield or sword the other guy was the same. It was lucky that that martial artist was easy to anger and was constantly on the attack. If he took some time to assess the situation the outcome could have been different.

'But I also didn't use any attack spells... one good attack could have decided the battle.'

This was also why he wasn't willing to demonstrate his full capabilities during the test. Anyone that would try to battle him now would expect the sudden speed and strength boosts. They wouldn't expect a flamethrower coming from his hand though. He had managed to squeeze in a few attacking spells here and there but also onto his shield or sword to not strain his armor too much.

'I should probably increase my pace...'

He looked at the road ahead, there weren't many people around as most of the adventurers would be already at the dungeon. There wasn't a set time for people to be there but most went there in the morning and came back before sundown. It was similar to a full time job, but you had the flexibility of taking a break whenever you pleased.

Roland left his larger spatial bag that could actually hold his bike in it back at home. Though he would probably look strange riding it around with his armor on so it was fine to just walk there this time around.

With a small jolt of his energy, the crimson armor's runes started flashing in green. His agility stat was boosted instantly and he felt light on his feet. So he ran, his speed was higher than a pro sprinter from his old world would be capable of and this was only a steady jog towards his destination.

It was a strange sight to see a man at about 190 cm of height in a full set of armor just running. His strides were large and it looked like instead of sprinting he was jumping small distances forward. This was the type of enchantment that lowered the user's mana by a set number without burning through it. Thanks to this he would only need to keep watch over his stamina.

The way he constructed this armor allowed him to switch between these buffing spells. Thanks to this his mana wouldn't go below a certain point. These buffing spells only activated the corresponding mana stones that increased his stats while taking a small number of magic points to activate.

Most of the time he had it running where all the stats were equally distributed. With an emphasis on physical stats as his willpower and intelligence were already high enough.

He put on the breaks before arriving at the usual dungeon entrance. People gave him some glances here and there due to the new armor. There was some danger in wearing such costly looking gear, mostly from the thief guild types.

This establishment was slowly creeping into this new city along with others as it expanded. He wasn't hit hard yet, only some small-time burglary attempts by lower level thieves. It was unknown to him if they would ever try to rob him blind. There was that one time in Edelgard so he was prepared. He didn't feel like he would lose to normal thieves now even without traps.

While on the inside he pulled out his shield and sword. The enchantment was switched to a more all-around stat boost. After spending close to a month playing around in this forge and procuring new

materials he felt like going wild. His first opponent was a little flaming skeleton that went down with one quick slice of the sword.

There wasn't really anything left for him to do on these upper levels. Nothing up here could survive even one slice from his sword. Roland even decided to check out his favorite grinding spot with the Troglodytes. He wouldn't be tossing any magical grenades or wide area spells into their tiny room. Instead, he used the old-fashioned way by walking into the large wide-open room where they would descend.

This time around there were no other adventurers here so he had free reign. The passages slammed shut and the ugly lizard monsters started crawling out. This reminded him about the trial area where the monsters came at him in the arena. These lizardmen looking monsters were a lot weaker at most at the levels of the imps that he faced during his class change.

They charged at him with their claws and teeth but found themselves unable to hit their target. Each time a clawed hand descended to slice him apart he stepped out of the way. What followed after was a quick slice through the neck which decapitated the creature in one quick move. His sword was also made from deep steel and shining in a blue light.

The sword that he used also had some advanced runes on it. The default was the strengthening rune along with a sharpness rune. One would help him cleave through his enemies while the other would allow a minimum amount of damage to occur. From what he could tell, the strengthening rune worked in increasing the blade's density and structural integrity while the spell was activated.

Roland went with this as he didn't think that an elemental spell of any kind would be that worthwhile. Even if these creatures were mostly fire-based it didn't mean that they wouldn't be also resistant to other magical elements. Putting a non-elemental enchantment on it was more than enough.

He ran out of materials for now but he was also planning to create a multi-functional spell staff later on. In the future, he might put everything into his armor but external casting weapons still had their uses. They also would lower the deterioration factor of his armor if he saved up the charges for tougher enemies.

"Was that the last one?"

After looking around he could only see dead lizards without heads. It took him almost no time to take care of them even in an open field battle. He was clearly far stronger than he was before but it would be unwise of him if this fact made him arrogant.

It was a common thing amongst adventurers and people in this world. The boost from a tier 1 to tier 2 class was quite large. Some people allowed something like this to cloud their judgment. Thinking that they could take on monsters far stronger than they were actually capable of. This was also why Roland was slowly measuring his strength against enemies that he previously faced off.

"Should I try fighting the boss alone?"

While going through the monster's remains and removing their mana stones he started thinking. On the 10th level, there was the chamber with the boss inside. The monster would respawn after getting killed

after two days. After being defeated anyone could venture through the room it was in and go into the next dungeon area.

The monster that appeared was also random. Most of the time it was a tier 2 evolved form of one of the many monsters that could be found in the upper levels. Sometimes it would be some kind of rare variant that could prove deadly for anyone that wasn't prepared.

Due to this, it was always risky to venture in alone, the door would close behind anyone venturing inside. The only way out would be to defeat the monster inside, running away was not an option.

Though there was no way out it didn't mean that it was a hard foe to battle. Everyone already knew what to expect inside so it was rare for any casualties to occur. Though there was always a risk of a rare variant appearing. Some monsters were harder to kill than others while still being at the same level.

His target wasn't really the boss monster this time around as he needed to get to the area below the 10th level. The boss of that level was also considered stronger than a regular tier 2 monster so it would be better to just evade it for now.

He descended further below from the 7th level. The monster bodies without the mana stones were left alone as he continued. Enemies that were further down didn't pose a threat to him at this point. Before ranking up to his new class, he had already ventured all the way to the boss chambers, so he knew the way.

'The boss room is around the corner, someone should have cleared it out by now...'

Roland was walking down the stairs from the 9th level now, the area below it was a lot smaller than the maze above. There weren't that many monsters on it and the boss room was its focal point.

When he arrived he noticed the lack of these close to level 50 enemies. It was clear that some kind of party had just gone through here. There were even some monster remains and blood splatter on the walls.

The monster that was guarding this level was something worthwhile to farm. It was actually quite hard to be able to take it on by yourself before other adventurer parties got to it. Sometimes people would camp out in front of the room in hopes of getting the kill. With this fights between adventurers broke out, even resulting in deaths from time to time.

This was the reality of this work, it was a rat race for resources. The boss monster would drop a better mana stone than a regular tier 2 beast. There would also be a small treasure chest with free items that appeared as a bonus. This was what people were mostly aiming for as sometimes deep steel or deep iron weapons with enchantments appeared.

"Closed huh?"

He arrived at the large gate that was the entrance to the boss chambers. This brought a bit of a smile to Roland's face as for some reason every big monster was apparently locked away behind some kind of large gate.

"Must have gone in recently, the monster remains here are still fresh."

There were a few large monster bodies cut up in the corner. There was a set of monsters that always guarded this room even when the boss didn't respawn yet. Without having anything to do he decided to sit down on a nearby rock. He needed to wait till the people inside were done with their run, only then would he be free to venture past this chamber.

So he waited but something was off, ten minutes passed then another ten. This wasn't an amount of time that would be required to clear out that room.

"What is taking them so long... was it really some kind of rare variant?"

He moved closer to the closed gate and tried to listen in but there was no sound coming through. When he tried to pull on the large chain that was attached to the gate it didn't budge even with his increased strength.

"If it's taking them this long... they might die..."

This wasn't normal, a battle with a monster in there shouldn't take more than ten to twenty minutes. The chamber wasn't that large and there wasn't really any place to run away so there was something off about this. While thinking he activated his improved sight along with his debugging skill. While going around the side he noticed something, there was some kind of enchantment on the side.

"Could be a way inside, a trap, or a shortcut to the levels below..."

He didn't consider himself much of a hero but he wouldn't just let people die in front of him if he could do something about it. Though he also needed to consider his safety first, it might have not been that wise to go inside. After a moment of contemplation, he remembered the time where his old party members saved him from certain doom. If it weren't for them risking their lives, he would probably not be there.

"I think I watched too many superhero movies... There might be something good inside though..."

Roland gave out a sigh before going over the runic component on the wall. With some time he got through it and a small human-sized opening appeared. There was a narrow tunnel leading inside and it looked like it was going towards the boss chamber. He placed his kite shield in front of his body and moved forward into the unknown. This wasn't the first secret room that he ventured into so this wasn't his first rodeo.

## [Chapter 86 Golem](#)

Roland looked back to the door that shut behind him. His eyes glowed in a purple light as he scanned the surroundings. There didn't seem to be any runes on this side of the passage, it looked like there was no way of going back.

He grimaced under his helmet before turning around and moving forward. The shield that Roland made had a boss in the center that was protruding slightly. A boss or a umbo was a round, convex or conical piece of material at the center of a shield. This shield had all of the mana stones on the inside as to not let them be crushed during combat.

The shield was held out toward the empty corridor while he looked around. Thanks to his skills he was able to detect magical traps but that didn't help against the normal ones. Roland moved forward slowly,

he had no idea of knowing if he would even come out in the boss's chamber or if it was the way to an entirely new location. It could be a hidden treasure trove or another secret passage to a lower or an upper level.

There was also the possibility of this passageway being swarmed with monsters. He was slightly regretting his decision but there was also the adventurer part in him that told him to move forward. This was a new part of him that had been slowly awakening through the constant monster battles, now he was even starting to enjoy this adrenaline rush.

This wasn't the first time that he ventured into a secret chamber either, so this wasn't all that new. Most of the time there wasn't really anything dangerous in these rooms. The most important point was to go in slowly and assess the situation with a clear mind.

After treading forward some more he came up to a wall. This one was also locked behind a runic lock. At first, he was surprised that other adventurers weren't able to discover these hidden chambers. But the only reason he was able to do this is due to his debugging skill and rune affinity. A regular mage wouldn't be able to do anything and other Runesmiths didn't really venture down into dungeons.

'That should do it...'

With some fiddling, the passage was opened and the wall started to shift. A big slab of rock started sliding up to reveal some light, when he looked inside he discovered a larger chamber.

The first thing that he could feel was the increase in temperature. The boss chamber was surrounded by lava from all sides. This was something that he already knew as he had bought up all the information from the guild that he could.

When someone entered this room they would be greeted by a narrow bridge going toward a large platform in the middle. The adventurers needed to move to this platform and then the bridge behind them would shift back into the lava. Only then would the boss of this place appear. After the monster was dead another bridge going forward would show itself. The path to go back would also open up and now other people could travel through this room.

Where Roland came out, he found himself above this chamber. He was walking forward but with the lack of light, it was a bit confusing. He didn't notice that he was going upwards slightly and now the boss room was almost right below him.

'Damn... are they all dead?'

He could see some dead bodies, crushed into paste and some caved in heads. There was quite the large monster moving slowly in the middle of it. He recognized the type that it was instantly and this would be quite the troublesome foe. After glancing at it with his analyze skill he had some more information.

It was a rare variant of a Golem that appeared in the lower levels. Normally it would be a golem made from stone and magma called the 'Volcanic Golem'. That one was already hard to kill due to being made from molten rock.

Sharp bladed weapons were almost useless against heavy monsters like this. A massive amount of strength and energy would be required from a person to slice through something like this with a blade. The easier tactic would be to apply heavy hammers or maces to crack the rock bit by bit.

“Fuck...”

Roland said while looking at his brand new deep steel sword. Even though it had some protective enchantments it didn't really possess the weight to do much damage to this thing. This Ruby Golem wasn't fully made from rubies, it was similar to a Volcanic Golem that was made from hard volcanic rock.

There was even fire and magma coming out from some cracks in that rocky hide along from its small head that was similar to a human skull. Besides that there were rubies plastered all over its body, these rubies formed spikes. Those spikes were on its tree trunk sized arms and legs. They were used to puncture through its opponents in various ways.

Before moving forward Roland decided to abandon his blade, what he would use for now was his old mace that went through some reforging. It wasn't really on the level of his blade but it would have to do for now. The rune that increased its weight during a fight was something that he needed for this bout.

He could see that not everyone was dead yet. The monster was also somewhat damaged as it didn't just decimate the adventurer party. What the monster was moving towards was a person that was wearing a large backpack. He looked familiar but also didn't look like he was an actual adventurer. It was probably someone hired to carry the monster remains and distribute healing potions during the battles.

'No good... he is going to die...'

The Ruby Golem was in the middle of rising up one of its giant arms. Where the hand was supposed to be was a spike made from ruby crystals. It was clearly winding up to deliver a killing blow against its defenseless enemy. If he didn't act the person down there would surely be dead.

To save up on some runic charges he went towards one of his backup items. Thanks to maxing out his basic rune condensation skill and now it even leveling up further, he was finally able to scribe card-sized runes. Roland had some side pouches strapped to his belt for that reason.

After pulling out one he held it between his thumb and index finger. The card-sized scroll glowed in blue light before changing colors to brown. An arrow made of densely packed rock shot out almost instantly. It whizzed through the air and collided with that raised ruby hand. The collision caused a small explosion to occur while also causing some of the rubies to shatter.

This was enough for the monster to turn its hulking body around. At this moment Roland was still standing above the boss stage. He wouldn't just give away his high ground advantage. There were multiple attack scrolls that he possessed so he decided to use this safe spot to pelt the Ruby Golem with his spells.

The ruby parts that the golem was composed of started cracking slightly but they were quite hard to damage. Rubies were one of the hardest gemstones not being much below diamonds on the hardness scale. There were harder minerals in this world but that didn't make this any easier.

For a moment Roland thought that he would be able to just take care of this boss from afar. He had the advantage of being above the monster's reach but this didn't last for long. After a moment he heard a strange sound behind him. He quickly turned around to see a darkish red glow. Hot magma started flooding into this small corridor of his, the only way out was jumping down to the platform below.

There was also quite a large chunk of spiked rubies flying his way from the other side. Somehow the golem had thrown its entire fist that was composed of rubies at him. The collision caused a resounding boom to flow through the room. The whole place shook around while Roland landed on his own two feet. He had made quite the landing as spider web-like cracks formed in the spot that he descended into.

Now he was able to see the monster from closer up. It was quite big, at least five meters tall and wide as a small house. It was missing its right hand but somehow the creature was regenerating itself. He could see the rubies manifesting themselves and slowly growing to form new sharp spikes.

Before the monster could get near him, he activated more of his attacking scroll spells. Various colorful magical arrows and bolts collided with the giant monster that was pushed back slightly. After the smoke had cleared he could see some cracks and fissures here and there but it didn't look like it would be going down this easily.

'The golems always have a core inside their body...I need to destroy it...'

Golems were one of the toughest monsters to go against. Their bodies were resistant to both physical and magical attacks. They had one weakness though, they were similar to slimes in that regard as they also possessed a monster core. If destroyed or even shifted from its original spot the monster would cease its functions.

Most of these golems had partially exposed cores which allowed for a somewhat bearable fight. The fight mostly consisted of slowly aiming for the exposed core till it gave out. This golem was a bit different due to being a rare variant and Roland had an idea why.

'The core must be behind that mass of rubies...'

He could see that this thing posed quite the amount of red crystals on its back. These were quite concentrated which implied that the important part was back there. The biggest problem there would be smashing his way in.

With his mace in his hand and shield in the other, he moved forward. His armor glowed in a green light as he activated his agility focused mana stone structure. With the increased speed, he was able to easily evade the attack that this lumbering giant executed.

While the golems were very resistant to most forms of attack they had one critical weakness, their speed. They were like slow tanks that could barely react to their enemies. This was also why the wide swings were quite easy to evade.

The green glow shifted to red in a moment as the mace descended to one of the monster's knee joints. With the increased strength and the impact rune, a devastating blow was delivered. He was even surprised at the amount of damage he was able to deliver. He didn't come off scot-free as just as the attack caused the knee to crumble his hand was in a world of hurt.

Clearly, the increase of strength, speed, and force wasn't something his body was used to. This combined with hitting a hard resistant target caused his hand to almost break. He had no quick heal spells of any kind so there was no way of healing his arm if it broke. Potions wouldn't work fast enough to be used during battle so this caused him to back away.

He was left with a numb hand with which he had trouble clutching his mace and his hand began to shake. The only good thing about this situation was that the golem's leg had given out and the monster dropped to the ground. It was still there though and somehow the ruby crystals were pushing themselves into the shattered rock pieces. It looked that if he didn't use this moment to his advantage the monster would heal itself.

The biggest problem here was the weapon he was using. The amount of force was too much for a one-handed mace, the proper weapon that would give him an advantage would require two hands to disperse the shock.

"H-hey... you can use this!"

Before he could think about another strategy he heard a voice from the side. It was the person with the large backpack calling out to him. He wanted to ask what that person wanted but he soon realized the reason.

In this young man's hands, he could spot a large war hammer that looked more like a sledgehammer. It was just the weapon type that he needed to take care of a slow-moving monster like this.

Roland wasn't sure how but the young man had somehow managed to circle around him while carrying this hammer himself. It looked like he could barely lift it but he was somehow managing.

The golem was still on the ground and waiting for its leg to heal so there wasn't much time to think. He looked at his mace that was also slightly damaged after he delivered a full swing. The man was now close so he decided to take him up on the offer, the mana stones embedded in his armor started glowing in red and he grasped the new weapon with one hand.

Roland could see a look of surprise on the young man's face. He was able to lift this heavy weapon with just one hand thanks to his now increased stats. He quickly turned around and moved closer to the golem. The monster was in the process of standing up after patching up its knee joint. Before that could happen though a heavy object collided with it once more.

The heavy hammer that he was using had a simple strengthening enchantment on it that wouldn't last long. It was heavy enough for the blow to cause a similar amount of damage that his previous mace strike did. Thanks to this now being a larger two-handed weapon the force wasn't as concentrated on his one hand. He still felt some of the impact rattling his bones but it was far more bearable than before.

With the second hit, the rubies that were holding it together started to crack and shatter. Roland had to quickly jump back as the monster swung one of its huge arms at him. It was quite a slow reaction so he had ample amounts of time to activate his speed boost and to circle to the creature's back. This time around with another windup he delivered a smack to its posterior.

The large ruby crystals that were protruding out of there started to break. He kept circling around the monster's back while hitting it, with the broken leg the monster could only somewhat crawl around. Soon something round that was of a different coloring became exposed, this was the creature's core.

With one more smack, he could feel his hands going numb once more. The hammer that he was holding was also starting to get bent out of shape. He had to grit his teeth while delivering the blows, if he let

this thing time to recover it would be over. Then finally with one last hard smack, the monster's golem core started cracking.

Before he could cheer at his hard thought victory he heard the youth's voice from the back again.

"W-wait, if you damage the core like that, the golem is going to blow!"

Roland glanced at the damaged core and the golem. Thanks to his mana sense he could see a small rise in the magical concentration in the air. He quickly threw the hammer to the side and sprinted back to the man that he rescued.

His shield was placed on the ground during the time he was picking up the hammer. Now it was in these youths' hands and he needed it back.

"Give me that and take cover behind me."

He grasped his shield with one hand and crouched down. While he activated the protective magic he had the other person curl up behind him to save up on space. With no other structures around them, he would need to defend them both with his shield.

Soon the monster started showing cracks that were pulsating with fiery energy. In no time the whole golem burst up in flames along with an explosion. Sharp rocks and gemstones started flying everywhere while causing widespread destruction.

Roland's shield could produce various mana barriers. He had inscribed it similar to his armor where he could select between the correct elemental shield for each occasion. This time he would go with a fire-rock shield combo, just right to protect him from this hail of molten rock.

Even with the magic at full swing, he could feel the explosion pushing him back slightly. This was followed by a large number of rocks of various sizes hitting his shield. This barrage continued for a moment until the whole boss chamber looked like a war zone.

"That should be it..."

The light from the runes on his shield started to dim as he stood up. What was left from the monster was a large pile of rocks. Most of its remains had exploded and flew into the river of magma below. This meant that there wouldn't be many rubies that he would be able to salvage from this. These monster gemstones weren't that costly as well compared to the natural gemstone.

The battle was over and he was victorious. The party of adventurers that had arrived here in hopes of riches was now no more. The only survivor was the youth that was used to carry around the adventurer's luggage.

After glancing at him again he recalled bumping into this person back in the store and then again while walking into the city today. The party had probably gone here while he was performing the guild advancement test. They were truly unlucky to run into a one in a thousand rare variant of a golem.

'Should I go to the guild and report this?'

He thought to himself while looking at the blast zone that left everything destroyed.

He glanced at the scared youth that was coughing from all the volcanic dust. The area started rumbling and the bridges connecting to the exits started to appear as they signaled the defeat of the boss monster.