

## Solar Ascension

### #Chapter 21: Do Solar Tech Have Life? - Read Solar Ascension Chapter 21: Do Solar Tech Have Life?

*Chapter 21: Do Solar Tech Have Life?*

Fixing Solar tech 101, know what you were doing, which was the exact opposite of most candidates here.

Some had been lucky enough to have tutors that prepared them for this test from childhood, especially those from noble families.

The rest?

They didn't even know where to start or even what tool to use, much to the disappointment of Examiner Ilyra.

But she didn't let it show, after all, this wasn't the first time the candidates had proven useless when it came to solar tech crafting.

She even made the test easier this time, to get more students in her department this year, usually they'd be required to create a solar tech from just a blueprint, but she guessed it just wasn't meant to be.

With a small sigh, her bored expression returned as she continued scanning the room, her eyes falling on one disappointment after the other before she suddenly paused.

There were quite a few standouts that seemed to have little to no issues with fixing their solar tech.

One of them was a girl with silver braids and glasses, she looked completely absorbed in what she was doing as she continued tinkering with the sniper and soon enough, results started showing.

She had changed the melted barrel, fixed the tech in the scope and was currently making sure the barrel was actually capable of discharging solar energy within blowing up in the user's face.

Ilyra looked down at the list on the table and quickly spotted her name, Linda...with no last name?

Was that due to the fact that they were only lower class, working on the grid in Aurion. Still, that explains her knowledge in fixing Solar Tech.

But just before the examiner's eyes could move away, she spotted another name on the list, just below Linda's.

Nox.

Unlike everyone here, he was from the slums, otherwise known as Zone 9. He seemed to have been granted special admission to this test by ascended Astra herself which was strange.

"That crazy woman rarely interacts with other people, what did she see in the kid?" Illyra muttered quietly.

Lifting her head, she spotted the kid's table just next to Linda's. His face looked extremely serious as he was completely focused on the solar tech...techs, in his hand.

Strangely enough, unlike most of the other candidates that seemed to know exactly what to do, Nox was only using a few of the tools.

Tools that were supposed to be the restricting factor keeping them from fixing their various Solar Techs in just under thirty minutes.

And he was just using a few of them.

Was the test too easy? Was he deliberately making it harder for himself, just for the fun of it?

Well the answers to both those questions were simple...No.

Rather than deliberately choosing not to use most of the other tools, it was just that he genuinely had no idea what to do with them.

Back in the slums, he only had three tools to fix his scavenged tech, a screwdriver, soldering iron and solder, lots and lots of solder.

And luckily, he had been provided those tools and more. What other candidates called crude tools turned out to be exactly what he needed.

He was completely absorbed in fixing the tech before him, so much that he didn't realize that the examiner had her eyes on him.

The solar tech before himself was a gauntlet...well, a pair of gauntlets. They were completely battle worn and most of its parts were out of place.

It seemed that whoever used it, over did it and messed up the SE transport channels before probably deciding that this was nothing but junk and tossing it to the Academy's scrap pile.

Even in their broken state, they looked beautiful. It was the kind of craftsmanship Nox rarely, if ever, saw from the tech he scavenged back in the slums.

He grabbed the old-school tools laid out on his desk, the soldering iron, a torque driver, and a compact flux stabilizer that looked more like a flashlight than a proper engineering device, before he immediately got to work.

He didn't start like the others, who carefully followed the textbook order, no, he went directly to 'feeling' the gauntlets, letting his instincts guide him and the moment he 'felt' what was wrong with it, he proceeded.

There was a simple reason why Nox was able to fix Solar Tech even though he hadn't read a single book about it in his life.

He had the ability to 'feel' the tech.

He didn't know how or when, but he just remembered that he suddenly could feel them.

Nox could feel what was wrong, almost as if sensing the 'emotions' of the tech, but at the same time, that wasn't quite it.

Anyway, right now, he felt like the gauntlet was choked up or maybe, suffocating? That meant one of two things, either the channels to move SE were clogged, or they were tangled.

And he soon found his answer when he ran his fingers across the inner wrist plate and felt it.

There was some kind of crack in it, though, with all the dirt and grime on it, he wasn't completely sure, so he proceeded to clean it first.

The examiner raised her brow as she looked at Nox fixing the tech. His methods were... unusual to say the least. He seemed to be guided by instincts rather than knowledge which got her even more curious.

Without realizing, she slowly walked towards his desk and the kid didn't even notice when she was standing right next to him.

"Candidate Nox," Ilyra said, making her presence know to him. "Explain what you're doing."

For the first time today, her voice wasn't filled with boredom, instead, it held so much curiosity.

He froze, a bit surprised for a second, before he shrugged without looking up. "Fixing her."

"Her'?"

He finally glanced up at her. "The gauntlet," he explained, "she's got a crack in her main channel, so she's choking her own energy flow. I'm realigning the pathways by hand so the SE doesn't fight itself when it cycles."

Illyra arched a brow. "You're doing that without recalibration software?"

"Didn't know I was supposed to use one," he said casually, returning to his work. "Besides, I think she likes it this way."

There was a moment of silence between the two. The other candidates had only one thought in their heads, 'this kid is crazy.'

I mean, which sane person would think that their solar tech has feelings, it was a piece of machine, made from metals, pipes and energy from the sun.... literally.

"Do you think Solar Tech has life in them?" The examiner asked as she looked closely at Nox.

*Chapter 22: Hoarding Junk*

Did solar tech have life?

That was a question asked by people with delusions or that are insane. After all, it had been proven time and time again that they were just machines used to fight the Eclipsed, nothing more.

So why was Illyra asking this?

Simple, she was curious. The kid was the only other person she had heard a human pronoun to a solar tech, just like her teacher had.

He was an insane genius, but genius nonetheless, he believed that solar tech had some form of life or at least emotions and she wanted to see if the kid believed the same.

Normally, she wasn't supposed to come close to any participant of the ongoing test, but this kid had gotten her curious enough to break that rule.

Besides, the headmistress would excuse her actions just this once, right?

"No," Nox answered, looking directly at her, "Solar Tech don't have life."

"I see," she muttered, prepared to get back to where she previously was, a bit disappointed.

"But," Nox continued, causing her to stop, "I do believe they hold fragments of emotions."

"Emotions?" Illyra's curiosity was reignited as she turned back to the kid.

"Hmm," He nodded, "I don't know how to explain it, but ," he picked up the gauntlet gently and showed it to her, "I can feel how happy she is, now that the pathways have been rearranged but at the same time, I can't really say she's alive because of those emotions."

Well, it was confirmed, the kid really was crazy. Or that's what the other candidates thought anyway.

Even Linda had a frown on her face as he rested her gloved hand on the rifle on her table.

For as long as she could remember, she had been tinkering with solar tech, whether that be helping her parents at the grid or fixing broken solar tech, but not once had she felt the 'emotions' from any of the tech.

Was Nox really telling the truth?

She couldn't tell, since he looked so assured of what he was saying. Though most of the students just took that as his delusions and went back to fixing their tech.

"Is that so?" Illyra muttered, "how interesting."

Without another word, she turned back and walked towards her desk as she reminded, "this exam ends in twenty minutes."

Nox looked at her walking back to the front before he focused on the gauntlets again, he had fixed the issue, all that remained was making sure it didn't randomly happen again.

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Just like that, twenty minutes quickly passed.

Some candidates were long done before the twenty minutes even ended, while the larger number didn't even know what they were doing, so they just gave up.

While some had proud looks on their faces, others just looked relieved to be done.

"Time's up, step away from your stations." The examiner said, causing a few groans to rise from some of the candidates, but still, they obediently put their tools down and moved a bit away from the table.

The same drones that had previously delivered the broken solar tech returned. This time, they placed small circular platform-like objects on the tables of each candidate.

"Place your various restored solar tech on the platform and take it off when you hear a beep," Illyra explained and the candidates immediately followed the instructions.

Nox placed the gauntlets on the platform as instructed, the object let out a small beep as it started scanning them.

A moment later, it let out a beep again reminding him to take the gauntlets off. The moment they were done, the drone returned, picking it from his table and flying towards a box on Illyra's table.

"Good," she said as the last object was in the box, her bored expression was back, "that's it for test 2, you can keep the solar tech on your table as souvenir or throw them away, I don't care."

With that, she walked out of the lab, the drones following behind her with the box.

That last sentence lit a spark of excitement in the room. Even a broken Solar Tech weapon was worth a small fortune, and for students who weren't guaranteed admission yet, that was no small reward.

Well, for those that came from unimpressive backgrounds anyway, since most of their families could afford a lot more than this junk of an excuse for a solar tech.

Some even started walking out, leaving the tech behind... And that ignited Nox's old habits.

Without an ounce of shame, he walked to the various empty desks, picked the solar techs, most of which the candidates hadn't even tried fixing, before walking back to his table with a wide grin on his face.

"Hehehe," he chuckled as the other candidates looked at him weirdly before they also exited the lab.

It had already been established that he was insane and his current actions added to that chuckle just solidified that thought.

Maybe they should try to stay as far away as possible from him.

Nox didn't realize how they were looking at him, not would he have cared if he did, they might think he was just hoarding junk...

Which he was.

But all he saw was a pile of credits just laying there. Maybe more than enough to find a way to escape that crazy woman if he happened to fail the Academy's test.

"You're really going to take all that?" Linda's voice came from behind causing him to turn to her.

Her rifle was nowhere to be seen causing him to look back at her table. It wasn't there either...

Noticing what he was looking for, she chuckled before pointing at her watch and saying, "unlike the others, I'm not rich enough to leave behind a perfectly functional solar tech."

"I see, " he muttered in disappointment, hers would've gotten at least a few thousand creds, plus it didn't need fixing either...after all, she had already done all the work.

With a tap of his watch, he activated the inventory function and a light came from it, scanning the pile.

One second they were on the table, the next, they were completely gone. It was a neat feature that allowed students to store as much stuff as possible.

A ding from Nox's watch told him that the inventory was full before another came, reminding him of the next test.

**[Name: Nox]**

**Location: Virtual room.**

**Section: Combat**

**Countdown: 00:59:58**

"Alright then," Nox muttered, "let's see how hard this one will be."

*Chapter 23: Supplies*

Nox followed the directions provided by the floor towards the supplies bay.

According to the instructions from the watch, he was supposed to collect his equipments for the next test from the supply bay.

Beside him was Devon with hands in his pocket as he casually walking forward.

Walking behind them... or rather, being physically detained behind them... was Cass.

Well, attempting to walk behind them.

Instead, he was currently surrounded by a group of girls who had swooped in the moment the the reached this hallway.

Three of them were blocking his path, asking questions at rapid-fire speed.

"Is it true your family head is one of the few Transcendent rank knights?"

"Are you really from Nimbus Heights?"

"I heard you solved a fifth-tier resonance equation when you were ten!"

Cass was just standing there, completely sleep-deprived from spending so much energy on the tests, and deeply overwhelmed.

"...I didn't solve it, I just simplified it."

"KYAAA, so humble!" one of them squealed.

He turned to Devon and Nox for help, but the two just outright ignored him and walked forward faster.

The bastard brought this upon himself by being too handsome and coming from a high class noble family, so he should deal with it himself.

"He'll live," Nox said as they continued forward. "He... uh... looks like he's enjoying himself."

Behind them, Cass was visibly not enjoying himself, this was his first experience with fan girls and he was getting completely overwhelmed.

"Um, c-can you all please let me through? I don't.... I really don't..... I'm not...please stop asking questions."

"Cassian, do you have a girlfriend?"

"Cassian, what's your ideal type?"

"Cassian, can you give me your number?"

Cass looked like his soul would soon escape his body, this wasn't his forte... He very much preferred time sleeping and with his books than this much interaction.

Luckily, an angel descended and save him the fan girls, much to their annoyance.

Forcing herself through the gathering of girls, Linda grabbed his hand and pulled him towards Nox and Devon.

The reaction of the girls was surprise at first, before they frowned as the unknown girl pulled the precious Cassian out of their clutches.

They had annoyed looks on their faces before one of them suddenly asked, "I-is that his girlfriend?"

Linda froze mid step.. That's right, in her attempt to help, she might just've started a rumor.

She could try and clear it up right now, but that would only cause the girls to flock him again.

So she just tightened her grip on his wrist and continued walking forward. Cass, on the other hand, was a bit confused at the stranger suddenly holding his arm.

Well, that is until he remembered that she was the same girl that had joined them during lunch earlier, though he couldn't be too sure since he was completely focused on the test questions.

Devon was the first to speak up the moment they were close enough,

"You shoulda seen yo' face," he said, bursting into laughter. "Bruh, you looked like yo' whole soul boutta pack its bags and walk outta your body."

"Yeah," Cass muttered, "I'm not used to dealing with that much people."

Nox shrugged, not even bothering to stop, "doesn't matter, you're free now."

He nodded... then before pausing.

"...You two didn't help me at all."

"Nope," Nox said bluntly.

"Not even a lil' bit," Devon added with a smile.

"...."

Cass's eyes twitched, he thought they hadn't noticed earlier when he pleaded for their help but turns out, they really did.

They just chose to ignore.

Before Cass could say anything in response, their watches let out a ding causing them to look at the screen.

**[Supplies Bay approaching – 00:00:37] [Equipment Pickup Required: Combat Trial]**

"Aight, gear time." Devon said.

Ahead of them was a set of sliding doors. Above it, the words **[SUPPLIES BAY – CANDIDATE ACCESS]** could be seen.

Candidates walked in and out, some excited, others pale at the thought of the Combat Trial that awaited them in less than an hour.

Linda finally let go of Cass's wrist, choosing to walk beside them instead.

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The quartet walked into the the supply bay and truthfully, instead of a bay, it looked more like a locker room with..well, lockers.

Each had a number on it and Nox watched as candidates walked towards them and unlock it with a similar card handed to him by Luna.

Nox's watch vibrated again.

**[Locker 117 → Assigned]**

**[Tap your ID card to unlock]**

He spotted his locker on the left row, sandwiched between Devon's (118) and Linda's (116).

Slowly, he walked towards it and scanned his card on a scanner that was fixed on the door.

With a click, the door opened, revealing the equipments he was granted.

His first thought, when he heard supply bay, was that they'd get to select their own Solar tech, but it turns out that academy was the one that assigned them to each candidate.

Inside his locker was a pair of boots, a combat uniform...most likely, the Academy's and a pair of daggers.

**[Please collect your equipments and make way to the virtual room]**

**[Remaining time: 00:19:58]**

Nox looked at the equipments before letting out a sigh, the daggers would basically be useless in his hands since he had no prior combat training or experience.

He just calmly picked them up and walked to the changing area, trying not to think too much about how the Academy expected an untrained kid from the slums to fight tier-2 Eclipsed with two knives and a uniform.

Devon peeked into his own locker.

"Yo, I got gauntlets, sweet."

Cass opened his locker before quietly muttering, "...Why did they give me a staff and glasses?"

Nox didn't get Devon's reply to Cass's questions as he looked at the daggers again, they looked pretty neat, at least they were cleaner than the ones he usually fixes.

They also had channels for SE which he didn't know how useful for him it'd be since, unlike all the other candidates, Astra didn't allow a helion core be planted in him.

Why? He had zero idea, but she claimed he might be able to use SE without one, which, until now, hasn't happened yet.

He flipped one over, testing the balance.

It wasn't bad.

Just... completely useless to him.

With a sigh, he shoved them into their sheaths and stepped into the changing area.

"Let's just get this test over with."

#### *Chapter 24: A New Candidate*

"Welcome Candidates," the voice immediately caused the chattering candidates to quiet down.

Nox with the other three were currently in a room full of white. The walls, floor and even ceiling was covered with white panels with nothing else in sight.

Well, except other candidates in their combat uniforms similar to the one Nox currently had on and an elevated platform which the man who previously spoke was standing, but even that was completely white.

Some of the candidates already had their Solar tech on or in their hands, while others seem to have them stored in their watches for now.

Ahead of them was a man who, calling huge would be an understatement. The man was built like some kind of bear, easily standing at seven feet with a build so large he could probably cover half of the candidates here behind him.

Even his uniform was having a hard time holding on, with the buttons threatening to let go any second.

"This," he continued, his voice sounded like something rumbling, "will be your Combat Evaluation."

The candidates quietly listened lest they risked pulling his attention towards them.

"No instructors will supervise you directly," the examiner continued. "Your vitals will be monitored, but intervention will only occur in cases of lethal danger."

In other words, if you were not dying, then they wouldn't be saved by any instructor. Sounds fun.

"In a few minutes, this room will transform into your testing ground and each if you will be transported to a different location," he paused, scanning every student that stood before him, "where you will face simulated Eclipsed ranging from tier 1 to 2."

This caused murmurs to rise among the candidates....well, some of them.

Most had been training since childhood to handle these creatures, all they lacked was a Helion Core and now that they got it, this would be a walk in the park for them.

Others though, not so much.

Some of them hadn't even faced an Eclipsed before so how were they expected to fight one?

"Yo Cass," Devon turned to him, "think you'll be fine?"

"Yeah," Cass nodded, before lazily replying "all I have to do is analyze their weaknesses, besides, even if I fail this one, I'm sure I'll make it into the Academy's Scholar division... that's all I'm interested in anyway."

"How 'bout you Nox?" He then turned to Nox, "think you can handle an Eclipsed or two by yourself?"

Instead of an answer, Nox summoned the gauntlets from his watch and then looked at them, "I'll survive."

"SILENCE," the examiner's voice seemed to shake the entire room as he pulled the attention of the candidates back to him.

"You all will be graded by points," he continued when not a single other voice could be heard except his, "points which you will gain from defeating the primals."

With his words, their watches let out a ding, drawing the attention of the candidates towards it.

### **[Tier 1 Eclipsed: 20 Points**

### **Tier 2 Eclipsed: 50 Points]**

"Your total score," he went on, "will determine whether you pass or fail."

"With your watches, you can request to be extracted from the test," the examiner said, "but understand this clearly, If you call for extraction, your test ends instantly, there'll be no reattempts."

Well that wasn't surprising, but it was better than waiting until you were faced with grave danger before being helped.

"Any questions?" The examiner said as he quietly observed.

At first, no one dared ask anything...well, until a hand shakily rose from the crowd and the examiner's eyes immediately locked on it.

The other candidates immediately moved out of the way, revealing a scrawny looking boy with shaggy brown hair and eyes.

He seemed completely unremarkable and honestly, as if he was sick. He had bags under his eyes, a telling sign that he hadn't slept for a while now.

"Yes?" The examiner asked looking at the kid.

"A-are we allowed to team up?" The boy asked, "I-I mean, if we encounter other candidates?"

The other candidates seemed to have expected this question since he looked like someone who had no chance of passing this test alone.

Hell, with the way he looked, they wondered why he was even taking this test.

He could've just performed well in the previous two tests and pray he passed them instead of partaking in this one and trying to leech off someone.

"There's no rule against teaming up," the examiner said, "but the point is give to the one who defeats the Eclipsed."

"I see," the kid muttered to himself and went silent, the other candidates staying away from him since they didn't intend to be the ones being leeched on....no matter how pitiful the kid looked.

"Any other questions?" The examiner asked and this time, no answer came so he slammed both palms together.

It sounded like the rumbling of thunder, but soon enough, Nox noticed that the white walls were shifting in response to his clap, and soon enough golden light started filling the room.

"With that," the examiner said, "your combat exams begins."

Without even giving them the chance to react, the candidates were also covered by the same golden light and teleported away just before the room could completely transform into a forest.

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In the same virtual room, high up and held up by one of the walls was a sky box, one that the candidates hadn't noticed even though it wasn't hidden.

The examiner was teleported into the skybox only to realize that all his technicians were stiffly working.

The reason.

Well, there was two...no three.

One was Ascended Astra Dawn, the second was the headmistress and the third was a girl with emotionless gray eyes and short black hair.

Her face didn't hold the least bit of emotion as she looked at the forest form and the candidates appear in different locations.

"Ascended Dawn, Headmistress," the man called out respectfully, forcing his massive frame into something resembling a disciplined posture, "what brings you here?"

"The blind bat wants the kid to join the exam," Astra was the one who responded causing the entire room to break out in cold sweats.

She was the only one crazy enough to speak to a Transcendent rank like that. The headmistress on the other hand just chuckled and turned to the hulking man before saying with a smile, "if it's not too much trouble."

Of course it was, the test had already started and all the Eclipsed were accounted for based on the overall strengths of the candidates, adding one more was just introducing a variable...

But was he going to tell her that?

No way.

Instead, what came out was, "it's not."

"Great then—" before the headmistress could complete her words, the girl commented.

"I want to start close to him," her voice, like her face, lacked the least bit of emotion.

Her finger was pointing to the screen showing a candidate with black hair and golden eyes, causing Astra to frown as she asked,

"Nox?"

#### *Chapter 25: Solar Energy Activated*

The sky above was clear and completely peaceful, allowing the rays of the sun to gently fall on the leaves of the forest below.

Which was a major contrast to what was happening below the trees.

"Why the hell did I trust that crazy woman?" Nox said as he abruptly changed directions just in time of whatever was chasing him to crash into one of the trees.

When the test started, he found himself alone in a relatively dense part of the forest with no other candidates around, so he summoned the gauntlet from his inventory and put it on, since the test said nothing about not bringing an extra solar tech.

His plan was simple, learn how to control his SE, activate the gauntlets and boots, before trying to face any Eclipsed.

According to Astra, if he was able to absorb it without a core, then he should be able to control it without one.

Well, that plan was thrown out the window when a low growl was heard behind him.

Stiffly, he turned around only to be faced with a seven feet tall Eclipsed, it was looking directly at him...well, looking wasn't exactly the word, since it had no eyes, but Nox knew that the creature knew exactly where he was.

But that wasn't the most surprising part, because soon, his watch let out a ding as it scanned the creature.

### **[Eclipsed Encountered**

**Rank: Tier 1**

**Points:20]**

"The hell," Nox let out, "in what world does that look like a tier one?"

Well, his thoughts were justified since, as stated before, tier one Eclipsed didn't grow past the size of a house cat, so how the hell did this qualify as one?

The answer to his question never came as he was forced to barrel roll out of the way as the Eclipsed lunged at him.

The creature's claws wiped a tree cleanly off, sending barks flying, it turned to its target, expecting it to retaliate, but instead Nox was now a distance away from it.

There was no way in hell he was going to stand and fight that thing without SE. The Solar tech he had in hand were merely decorations without SE.

Plus he wasn't combat trained to face that thing, he was just slightly agile and maybe a bit acrobatic but that was it.

And that's exactly how he ended up running and dodging for his life, but despite all the running, he didn't feel the least bit tired, which meant subconsciously, he was using SE.

Unfortunately for him, the slightest focus on his SE flow was all the Eclipsed needed.

Before Nox could react, one of the creature's limbs slammed into him sending him flying towards one of the trees.

His back slammed into the tree and the impact caused the tree to rattle before he fell to the ground.

"F—fuck...." He let out as the pain hit him, he felt that a bone or two were definitely out of place.

The Eclipsed wasn't about to allow him to recover as it lunged again, its claws aiming to turn him to kebab.

Nox threw himself sideways, barely avoiding the attack as he felt the claws rip a piece of his combat uniform and in turn creating a cut on his skin.

The claw slammed into the ground, raising a cloud of dust, but he had long moved out of the way.

"I guess running won't work," he muttered as he stood back up, spitting a mouthful of blood.

That much was obvious, the creature was a lot faster than him, so running from it would be futile.

So it's either he somehow used his solar energy or he just gave up on the test, and there was no way he was giving up on this test.

Besides the fact that Astra promised to keep him as a lab rat if he failed, becoming a Solar Knight has always been his dream, so there was no way he was going to give up this chance.

So that left him with the former as an option, figure out how to actively use his SE.

The adrenaline in his system was at an all time high as the creature turned to him.

"Come at me, then."

Those.... We're not the right selection of words for someone who had no way of fighting back.

The Eclipsed hurled itself at him but thanks to the adrenaline...or so he thought, Nox was able to move out of the way just in time.

This continued for a while longer, with him dodging and the creature slamming into tree after tree.

This went on until Nox suddenly felt something moving within him, it almost felt like a tingling sensation flowing all the way towards his hands and feet.

He looked down at his gauntleted hands before looking back at the Eclipsed who, at this point was tired of this pest's incessant dodging, it was now slowly circling him, looking for an opening and it soon found it, the prey was distracted.

So it lunged again ready to turn him into Eclipsed snack.

Nox, still distracted by the feeling, muttered, "please work."

He finally raised his head, only to be faced with a wide open maw aimed directly at his head.

Time seemed to slow to a stop, literally, and Nox could see in clear detail, the creature's entire mouth.

If he had a mirror, he would've noticed that his golden eyes were now producing a glow, not the subtle one from before, but a fully noticeable one.

"This....is Solar Energy?" He muttered as he experienced the energy coursing through his body.

He tried taking a step away from the creature and the next thing he knew, he was several meters away.

Time resumed its normal flow and the Eclipsed crashed into his previous position. It stood back up, confused as it spotted its prey so far from it.

One moment it was sure that the prey would comfortably be in its belly, the next, it had suddenly disappeared and was now meters away.

"Holy hell," Nox let out as he looked around, "d-did I just teleport?"

One moment he was trying to take a step away from the creature, the next, everything was blurry and he was now here.

"T-this is fucking incredible," he said as he looked down at the gauntlets.

The SE pathways were now glowing, indicating that Solar Energy was now flowing through them.

He then turned to the creature before him and raised his fist before saying, "alright then, come at me."