

looking around at the size of the Phantom Azoth, “the smaller the size of mine, the more potent it becomes, at the cost of being able to escape easily, but a monster like you would never even think of escaping”. Nebuchadnezzar points his staff, but a meteor spawns above him and crashes down on him, and after he destroys it, he bursts into flames, Lander never broke eye contact with Richer, “who are you supposed to be? Don’t interfere with family affairs”.

Richer rubs his chin, “meteors, fire, controlling the ground, this has to be a memory, but what could you have possibly seen that looked like this?”. Lander clenches his already broken hands until they bleed, “think long and hard Richer...”. The man’s eyes grow wide, and then fill with sorrow, “boy...is this really how you saw me...you are remembering it completely wrong. When I attacked your estate, it was nothing like this”. Lander scoffs at Richer, “I would remember how you killed my family. Just as I remember how I killed your family in here”. Richer’s face remains unchanged. “What?! You don’t believe me?!” Lander barks. “No, I believe you, it just...makes sense I guess...” Richer trails off.

Nebuchadnezzar steps out of the fires, with only his clothes slightly singed, “what’s your problem? I thought you’d love the chance to kill a Wodsnell”. Richer sighs, “it’s just...no...you’re right” Richer sprints towards Lander, jumping and dodging all of his fire attacks, then punches him in the gut, so hard his fist sinks into his body, and sends him flying backwards. Lander jumps back to his feet, “you think I’m not worthy of using that stone?! Is that it?! Well I’ll prove you wrong! My hatred of you is much stronger than your stone!”. Tornadoes of fire spawn all around Richer, while meteors crash from above, and the ground below opens into a huge trench. “You want to see the power of the Philosopher’s Stone?!” Richer growls while his stone glows brightly. Instead of falling into the trench, Richer hovers above it. Lander has to squint to notice that the air around Richer is embracing him from behind, and the air forms the outline of a woman, which carries him to solid ground. He then feels his feet slip and his body shake side to side. Lander looks for the source of the force but sees none. “The Philosopher’s Stone works at 100%, so it is really hard to hold back with it” Richer explains, causing Lander to notice the entire area is actually covered in thousands of wind formed women, holding back different attacks, pushing him, and moving Richer closer. Richer’s hands become covered in fire, that flows off his hands like waves. Lander raises his arms to defend, but Richer uses teleportation magic with his wind creations as points and appears behind Lander. He punches Lander’s back, the fire expands to cover not only the entire building, but the entire city in that same direction until it hits the barrier at the edge.

Richer stands back feeling what he has just done. Whenever he kills a Wodsnell he always feels prideful, happy, or even at peace, but this time, he feels hollow. This hollow feeling does not vanish whenever Lander emerges from the flames still living. His clothes are singed, but his body remains undamaged. Richer quickly deduces how he survived when he points out the ash surrounding him, “you can’t burn flames into ashes. Your Phantom Azoth does not create fire and meteors, it simply just turns anything in it to dust, with those being more concentrated areas of dust conversation”. Lander chuckles, “aren’t you going to ask if you’re correct?”. “I am always right, I have no need to ask” Richer proudly announces.

There is no logical explanation for what the two men do next. Both of them raise their arms and summon the same exact number of meteorites and send them at each other’s meteors instead of each other. Both of them already knew what the result would be, that though Richer’s have stronger magic and would do more damage, Lander’s render his to ash. They pass through the ashy remains of Richer’s attack and land around him. Richer knew this would be the result and did it anyways, while Lander knew this would happen, he could have used this opportunity to attack Richer directly. Even though they were synchronized in the start, they now have separate reactions. Lander, smug and confident,