

# Chapter XXI: The End of the Plague

*The answer lies right through the portal...*

**Everyone:** AAAHHHH!!!!

*ZWISHH!!*

**Everyone:** AAAHHHHhhhhh... what the?

**Null:** Welcome.

**Everyone:** Null?

**Null:** Not anymore.

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**Notch:** Null what the heck is going on?

**Null:** I changed the past.

**Light Steve:** You... what?

**Null:** I went back in time and changed everything I've done, now nobody in the world even knows what happened, and all the Shadow Infected are cured.

**Notch:** You actually cleaned up everything?

**Null:** God may have... evaded rational consciousness intentionally, so he could communicate permission for me to access the Time Rune.

**Notch:** You what?

**God Existence:** Good things never came to those who asked for it.

**Steve:** ...Since you're aware now, what the heck is asparagus bread?

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**Rainbow Steve:** So, but wait, how are you a human now?

**Null:** Well the Time Rune was very VERY explicit. Basically I went back to 2007, and I got mental help, I never made another stupid decision. Well I mean that's kind of a lie, hah see I just made another one!

**Alex:** What exactly did you-

**Null:** I got mental help immediately after I stole that ring! I did serve a few weeks, though. I saved my friend from that car crash, and now we work together. I exposed that gang of cyber pillagers and was offered a reward of a half-million dollars; that's what my friend and I do now, we expose online criminals. Yes, I did treat myself as you can see, but all the rest has gone back to the community. I also prevented a few vehicle accidents here and there, and... discovered America.

**Steve:** Wow. You really had to go to prison?

**Null:** I know, it wasn't all bad, my cellmate Dave could say the alphabet backward in 2 seconds.

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**Notch:** So you really... changed?

**Null:** When you intend to conquer the Universe, but can get outsmarted by a cleaning device, your mind alters a little.

**Light Steve:** So no-

**Null:** No Null Hypothesis, no Last Zero. Just a wonderful chance to live amongst my unintroduced friends, especially now that they think better of me.

**God Existence:** What of Bloodlust.

**Null:** Gone. I have no clue how, but I was cured.

**God Existence:** You don't rehabilitate from Bloodlust. It's a permanent hardship!

**Null:** Maybe my soul divided.

**Alex:** Huh?

**Null:** No I didn't mean to say that. I meant Dreadlord, he worships Bloodlust and guides it into souls with high ambition, like mine. He can also convince it to leave a soul, he's like a smoking physician but in Minecraft.

**Notch:** A what?

**Null:** Right. Now, you're wondering what's coming next.

**Notch:** Yes. Who is Dreadlord? Where is he? Who else has the Bloodlust?

**Steve:** Is "Potion of Speed" a practical source?

**Null:** Dreadlord is a very cultivated creature dedicating himself to profit a higher power. He lives in the mid-northern region of the Far Lands. As far as my knowledge goes only one other creature has the Bloodlust aside from Herobrine. And Potion of Speed, I tell you I think I'm twelve and a half feet tall from time to time.

**Notch:** The mid-northern Far Lands?

**Null:** Yep, if you start from the Temple's stairway, it's only 84 kilometers West. Then 31,784 kilometers North.

**Boss Steve:** And what was that thing you said about 1 other person.

**Background man:** Yo J-L-T!

**Null:** Umm.

**Alex:** That's your name?

**Null:** That's my... Internet name.

**Steve:** So all of the Internetese people call you that?

**Null (JLT):** ...I gotta go, that's my friend Todd. Todd Beamer.

**Todd Beamer:** C'mon man let's roll.

**JLT:** Gotta go, something's holding up the skipper.

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**Boss Steve:** ...What do you think JLT stands for?

**Notch:** This is crazy, Null literally changed! But, how does a shadow ghost that has the Bloodlust just... change their mind??

**Light Steve:** Remember how I talked about those unstable foundational units of special objects? Well, I remember reading in Holy water of the Sorcerer's Throne; Shadow ghosts are concrete objects hosting a victimized abstract soul. If the soul was to escape, the soul would be rather mortified.

**Rainbow Steve:** What about the shadow?

**Light Steve:** Well the distinctive identity would be branched out between both of them, the capacity is not halved, it's reciprocated.

**Alex:** Are you sure you're saying that right?

**Light Steve:** The identity and knowledge of Null are possessed by... JLT, and the Shadow ghost!

**Null:** Hey guys, did you call me?

**Everyone else:** Null??

**Null:** In the flesh, I'm a hermit crab, with no crab! Yet I have a mind.

**God Existence:** What is... who?

**Null:** You were always great with words.

**Notch:** Is um, Bloodlust home?

**Null:** Bloodlust disperses in the split of a soul's-

**God Existence:** -Ignorance. Killer.

**Null:** Bloodlust is NOT home, because Bloodlust would keep this to itself.

*He handed them the Time Rune.*

**Steve:** Oh my gosh! M! S! L! Now T! We have half of them!

**Null:** So, you guys looking to charter a- a walk?

**Notch:** Hmph, yes we are.

**Null:** I will say, even as an alternate being, I have no sense of Bloodlust anymore. I feel like a robot, a strong, intelligent... mortal person.

**Notch:** Null there is nothing lousy about being mortal.

**Null:** You aren't.

**Notch:** Yeah good point.

**God Existence:** I see loss. Loss of 3, no 5. Null is faulted.

**Null:** I'm not going to kill anyone!

**God Existence:** \*Dying throat noises\*

*He fell to the ground, turning to dust particles in the process.*

**Notch:** What the Nether?!?

**Null:** I swear I only yelled!

**Rainbow Steve:** Yeah it- I don't think it was you. I think it was his Nothowerstitire.

**Null:** His bad clothes killed him.

**Boss Steve:** "Noth-o-wersti-tire"!

**Null:** I didn't say his attire was bad!

**Alex:** ...You didn't, did you?

*The dust particles began to revolve.*

**Steve:** Oh no. He was secretly an Earth mother!

**Light Steve:** Yes because they always would summon awfully stifling dust devils.

**Notch:** Hold on, it's forming some sort of emblem.

*Was that a Rune?*

**Null:** That's a Rune!

**Notch:** 3 in one day. Finally a blessed Monday.

**Boss Steve:** It looks like “E”!

**Steve:** Or maybe “D”, “D” we haven’t seen it yet.

*I*

**Alex:** It’s “I”?!?

**Light Steve:** I thought I am supposed to be “I”!

**Boss Steve:** How is he “I”?

**Steve:** “I” is Illumination, right?

**Notch:** Yes! But why is he “I”?!

**Rainbow Steve:** Let’s stop asking each other “Why is he “I”?” It’s a bit ambiguous.

**Notch:** He’s right, yeah. Alright, but still, how exactly?

**Boss Steve:** Maybe because he always had a light bulb above his head.

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**Steve:** Maybe because he was always immensely auspicious and optimistic... because those qualities are synonyms of “bright”.

**Light Steve:** Those qualities come from the soul, the Rune is a counterpart to the brain.

**Null:** Unless...

**Light Steve:** Ah, famous last word of a wise orange groundhog.

**Null:** What did he tell you when you first met him EVER?

**Notch:** The very first time, he told Herobrine and I back in 2010 that he was the God of all Existence, he said he was the reason matter and energy could function.

**Rainbow Steve:** We are his post-generation, and he told us the same thing.

**Null:** What year?

**Boss Steve:** 2010.

**Alex:** We kind of didn’t know about him until about a year ago, but yes, he did tell us the same.

**Null:** And...?

**Light Steve:** He said the same... in 2010.

**Null:** Now, Alex and Steve you don't count, no offense. You two are only half immortal. But he told 5 immortals all in the same year.

**Steve:** That's all he's got? I told 29 friends about how only one of my ear lobes is attached all in just 2 hours.

**Null:** That is horrific yet remarkable, but the reason that's peculiar, Markus Persson told 5 developers about halfway through the programming process of Minecraft about the "Easter Egg Event". All 5 of them got to add a special Easter egg into the game for players to find, but they actually teamed up and secretly programmed an A.I. entity into the game. And it was supposed to dethrone and overpower Notch AND Herobrine, but Notch found it ambitious and contradictory, so he reprogrammed it with encouraging and intelligent attributes. Then, when the game was published, it was kind of lost. It was like bigfoot, only point zero zero one percent of Minecrafters had a "real" sighting.

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**Light Steve:** You didn't have a girlfriend until you were 24.

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**Null:** That's... yes. Stay out of my pathetic social identity, please.

**Light Steve:** I didn't even have to go into there.

**Null:** Well, the point is, it's technically a coincidence. But God is the Easter Egg!

**Notch:** Okay, but that is completely useless information regarding the reason why he is actually the God of Illumination.

**Null:** Well for once, the pinhead has the biggest brain of us all.

**Boss Steve:** Really?

**Null:** No I was talking about Steve.

**Steve:** Yes! Wait a minute, is this supposed to be an insult or a compliment?

**Null:** You said “optimistic and intelligent”, to make a joke about why he’s “bright”. That’s what Notch programmed. The 5 other developers programmed an entity that is a critical element to the game. The game was turned into a dimension by the highest of all powers, debatably, and the same set of Runes exist in every dimension, but will diminish if an outside Rune is brought in that dimension, then reform once the outsider leaves.

**Alex:** You are saying WAY too much!

**Null:** God managed to fit into Minecraft as a Rune! He! Is! Illumination!

**Light Steve:** Then how come he never used that power?

**Rainbow Steve:** The two of us are his power expulsion.

**Steve:** Everybody shut it! This is too much! Point is, we thought one thing, it was actually another thing, we now have more than half the competition, we know there’s a Bread lord, we know there’s another Bloodlust case, we know we have to trek to the Far Lands, we know we need to find “D”, “E”, and “R”, we know Herobrine is going after Null, and we know that “Potion of Speed” is a VERY reliable source.

**Notch:** Herobrine’s doing what?

**Null:** Wait what is he doing?

**Steve:** Remember? He freaked out when Null found the Space Rune, and then he said that he had to go after him.

**Null:** Well if he’s hunting for me, he’s looking in the wrong place, and obviously the wrong time.

**Notch:** \*Angry Sigh\* He betrayed us... me... again.

**Alex:** Okay hold on hold on we don’t know that.

**Light Steve:** Yeah Notch, I’m not feeling any danger vibes.

**Notch:** Okay, maybe so. MAYBE, he is innocent.

**Steve:** So we know what to do, now let's get this ridiculous crap show on the road, or the water, or the air, and if things get really hectic; space.

**Boss Steve:** We can't.

**Rainbow Steve:** Yeah.

**Steve:** Come ON! We almost made it back.

**Null:** Let's have this conversation on my boat shall we?

**Boss Steve:** We can't leave the- you have a boat?

**Null:** I did when I came back to the future.

**Rainbow Steve:** His energy radius in the ground is what is keeping us from atomizing. We're his post generation, he's our source of life.

**Boss Steve:** We knew that his Nothowerstitire would happen soon. So here're some things that we didn't have time to mention. Start with Number one, then number 2, then 3-

**Steve:** -negative 97?

**Notch:** Wait so you-

**Rainbow Steve:** Stop. Read number 15.

**Steve:** God's hint: "The eyes of a rational man see all that is visible, the eyes of an irrational man see all that is meant to be invisible". ...That's extremely motivational, and enough to make a grown man cry, but what's the point?

**Boss Steve:** Winter will be over.

*They disintegrated into dust particles as God had.*

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**Steve:** GO GO GO!! NO MORE EVENTS!!!

*Back in Minecraft...*

**Notch:** Look Steve, “Potion of Speed” is not something you just try. You. Will. Die.

**Steve:** So that definitely rolls out “Potion of Weakness”.

**Null:** I call that garbage “Murder Medicine”.

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**Alex:** Who’s standing there?

**Notch:** Got me.

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**Herobrine:** Good evening.

**Notch:** Herobrine?

**Herobrine:** Null?

**Null:** You were looking in the wrong place buddy.

**Herobrine:** That explains why you don’t have any mail.

*Steve’s eyes expand.*

**Null:** Doesn’t matter, I have limited social confidence.

**Light Steve:** We do have good news.

**Herobrine:** I heard, you found the Life Rune, that makes 4.

**Alex:** 5 actually, we got the Illumination Rune!

**Herobrine:** 5 huh? How did you get Illumination?

**Notch:** God’s gone.

**Herobrine:** What?

**Notch:** He had his life conclusion, it’s called Nothowerstitire.

**Herobrine:** ...Is that a thrift store?

**Notch:** Might be.

**Herobrine:** Did Null tell you about Dreadlord?

**Null:** “He” certainly did.

**Notch:** So Dreadlord doesn’t have the Bloodlust defection himself?

**Null:** No. He’s the mad scientist who guides Bloodlust into victims.

**Herobrine:** That’s right, and if Null told you, he’s almost 32,000 kilometers due North.

**Steve:** Alright everyone, I think we’ve talked over enough, I say we have dinner, pack up a wagonload of resources, and get to trekking up North early in the morning to end the reign of Sergeant Psychopath.

**Light Steve:** That sounds delightful.

*The next morning...*

**Notch:** We got everything?

**Null:** I got the blocks.

**Alex:** I have enough food to feed us for 3 years!

**Steve:** I have reinforced armor and weapons for fighting.

**Herobrine:** And I have the potions we will need to get around in the Far Lands.

**Steve:** And of course Light Steve had to go back to rehabilitate Shade and “rebuild balance”.

**Notch:** He did, which is fine.

**Null:** I think we’re ready!

**Notch:** Alright! Well guys, we’re about to plunge into an insane quest, if we can knock the Bloodlust out of anybody else with the Time Rune, or perhaps with 25,000 kilowatt-hours, then we will. We will directly escort Dreadlord to the gates of the Infernal Oppression, and we will send this Bloody Spirit itself back to wherever vast nightmareland it came from. Are you ready?

**Alex and Steve:** Yep.

**Herobrine and Null:** Uh huh.

**Notch:** Let’s get going.

*Minecraft having a 32,000-kilometer radius on one axis, and the Temple at the very center, it was a long way. Even flat, it was far larger than Earth, it would take many months to travel all the way to the Far Lands, but where there was evil, they would go tremendous distances to eradicate it! Dreadlord was due North, and they were prepared for an evil genius, only they couldn't imagine what else would come with it, the Far Lands had things more outlandish than trees made of diamonds and gold, floating islands, or buildings made entirely of water! No no, Dreadlord was easy, sure he was a Bloodlust worshipper, but when you're the wizard of flaws, you could only be the ambitious and bloodthirsty...*

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**Voice:** Titan of Destruction, Check! Genius of Control, Check! And the last member...

Philosopher of Defiance!

29,487 (gross) words! Super POG!