

This is an excerpt from a side quest called Nemnok the Devourer in *Pillars of Eternity II: Deadfire*. The player is tasked with finding a young boy, Kaali, who has been taken by the cult of Nemnok. After exploring a difficult and intimidating dungeon, the player finds Kaali conducting a demonic summoning ritual.

This is among the silliest quests I've written, but the final outcome with Nemnok subverted expectations and gave many players a good laugh.

Kaali: "What's this? Who trespasses on our devotions?!" The acolyte's voice echoes across the hall. A resounding chant from the worshippers continues uninterrupted.

Cultists: "Nemnok... Nemnok..."

Kaali: "You've taken your last step in the master's sanctum, outlander! Nemnok will suck the marrow from your soul!" A delighted call rises from the congregation as they redouble their chant.

Player: "Is that you, Kaali? Your father wants you to come home."

Kaali: "M-my... my father is a disbeliever! I have risen above him!" Kaali balls his fists at his sides and turns to look away.

Kaali: "Nemnok is the all-devourer, the one who swallows gods and vomits forth their skulls! The one true power of Eora! Let me show you! See for yourself!"

Spreading his arms wide, Kaali begins an incantation under his breath. Many of the supplicants mirror the gesture. The beating of drums increases in tempo. Then Kaali takes a long dagger from his robe.

He draws the blade across his palm and hisses through clenched teeth. Leaning over the mouth of the pit, Kaali lets his blood drip down. A hot breeze gusts from somewhere far below.

Cultists: "Nemnok... Nemnok..."

Kaali: "Nemnok, you are the gaping maw, the lidless eye, the shadow between stars! You are the red curtain, the secret in amber, the light of the adra!" He squeezes his hand into a fist, forcing more blood to drip from his wound as he feeds the void of the pit.

Cultists: "Nemnok! Nemnok!"

Player: [Chant] "Nemnok! Nemnok!"

Kaali: "Yes! Now you begin to see!" Overjoyed, Kaali raises the dagger and draws another deep line down his palm. He throws his head back and roars with laughter. "Beloved Nemnok, come forth and let all nonbelievers wither before your killing stare!" Kaali holds out his arms. The air from the pit roars like an approaching inferno. "Yes! Yes, Nemnok comes!"

A massive demon wearing a golden amulet emerges from the glowing pit in the center of the sanctum

The chant of the acolytes rises to a fever pitch as the enormous form rises from the pit and flaps its leathery wings. A pair of eyes like cut gems narrow to study you.

Nemnok the Devourer: **speaking in a low, demonic tone** "WHAT HAVE YOU BROUGHT ME, SUPPLICANT?"

Kaali: "Sacrifices, mighty Nemnok! Behold!" Kaali gestures to your party. The worshippers around the circle raise their hands and cheer.

Player: "I didn't come to fight, Nemnok. Let's talk."

Kaali: "Ha! The mighty one has no need for idle chatter."

Nemnok the Devourer: "DO NOT WASTE YOUR BREATH, ACOLYTE. I SENSE THIS ONE SERVES ANOTHER MASTER." Nemnok waves Kaali aside and glares at you with hateful intensity as worshippers take up their chant anew.

Cultists: "Nemnok! Nemnok!"

Nemnok the Devourer: "I AM THE ONLY MASTER UNDER THIS MOUNTAIN, CHILD. IF YOU WILL NOT SERVE, YOUR BLOOD WILL FILL THE INKWELLS OF MY LOYAL SCRIBES." Nemnok's toothy grin broadens, eliciting a cry of joy from the worshippers.

Player: "You look like a giant imp to me."

Nemnok the Devourer: "AH... YOU HAVE SEEN MORE OF THE WORLD THAN I GUESSED. BUT I AM MORE THAN YOUR STUDIOUS EYE COULD PERCEIVE. EVERY SCROLL AND GRIMOIRE MY SERVANTS COLLECT SWELLS MY POWER, CHILD." Nemnok spreads open his arms. The supplicants mirror the gesture. "AND WITH MY POWER, I WILL RAIN A TERROR LONG OVERDUE ON ALL WHO RESIST ME."

Player: [Attack] "I've had my fill of power-hungry gods."

Nemnok the Devourer: "YOU ARE HONORED TO DIE BY MY HAND. ACCEPT THIS BLESSING." Nemnok points a long claw and screeches as he swoops in to attack. The acolytes take up a spirited cheer.

The player fights Nemnok and his acolytes in the ritual sanctum

When Nemnok is defeated, he transforms into a tiny, insignificant imp

As the dust of battle clears, all that remains is a shattered amulet and a tiny, injured imp. The chanting of the acolytes ends with a gasp.

Nemnok the Petite: **speaking in a high-pitched whine** "NO! NO, NO NO! NEMNOK'S AMULET, NEMNOK'S WONDEROUS JEWEL!" Scrambling, Nemnok picks up the two halves of the now oversized medallion and tries to fit them together. The metal pieces fall apart the instant Nemnok lets them go. "ARGH! BROKEN FOREVER! EH... NO! YOU NO KILL NEMNOK, EH?! KIND NEMNOK?" The imp cowers back and raises his claws, shuffling closer to the edge of the pit.

Player: "You're... adorable."

Nemnok the Petite: "CURSE YOU, GROUNDSTINK! MOST MIGHTIEST OF ALL IS NEMNOK, EH! AMULET MADE NEMNOK SMART... SMART ENOUGH TO READ MAGIC BOOKS! ALL GONE..." Nemnok clutches his head and lets out a prolonged howl.

Nemnok the Petite: "NASTY ARKEMYR NEVER TAUGHT IMPS TO READ... HOUSE FULL OF BOOKS, EH!"
Nemnok kicks a stone, sending it clattering into the pit. "NEMNOK STOLE HIS PRETTY JEWEL... LEARNED TO READ. GREW STRONG! GREW BIG! EH! NEMNOK SAID... SOME DAY, HE FLY BACK AND FREE THE OTHERS... GIVE THEM BOOKS, TOO." Sighing, Nemnok looks off to the distance.

Player: "Now I feel bad. Would you like to join me in my travels?"

Blinking up at you, Nemnok cocks his head.

Nemnok the Petite: "NEMNOK WAS GOD. NEMNOK HAD RICHES, ACOLYTES, POWER... NOW MUST BE PET?" The tiny imp grimaces at the thought.

Player: "You want riches, huh? There's some money in my pack if you ever feel like cozying up to it."

Edging closer, Nemnok inspects your belongings and wrinkles its nose. Offering the tiniest of shrugs, Nemnok opens the flap to your travel supplies, climbs inside, and rests its head on a small mound of copper coins. Moments later you hear a gentle snoring.

The player can equip Nemnok as a pet. While he gives the party is a good combat bonus, he also barks insults at them every few seconds

"Tiny blue man! Bow to Nemnok!"

"Eh! Ishiza! You bow to Nemnok! Do it now!"

"Nemnok hopes your boat sinks."

"You think you captain? Nemnok better captain."

"Hey! Hey! You worst captain!"

"Priest lady! Nemnok needs healing!"