

53. Such a Twisted Cut

The chapter begins with Jasnah reflecting on a letter that hints at hidden truths about ancient Veden history, specifically focusing on the tumultuous reign of King NanKhet. The historical account, penned by Natata Ved, details NanKhet's brief rule, marked by relentless assassination attempts from family members and rivals. Despite her dramatization, the story underscores how internal family conflicts and treacherous power struggles threaten stability within royal lines. Jasnah's fascination with these tales reveals her concern about the internal dangers that threaten leadership, especially in a time of crisis, and prompts her to consider how such internal threats could undermine her own family's stability.

Jasnah then shifts her focus to the current state of her environment in Urithiru, where scholars and scouts are exploring the underground tunnels and caverns. These tunnels, discovered after a prolonged search, offer a vital alternative escape route and supply line, reducing dependence on the Oathgates. The scene emphasizes the strategic importance of these tunnels and highlights Navani's efforts to turn the basement into a research hub. Jasnah's observations reflect her desire to leverage knowledge and technology in the face of looming threats, demonstrating her belief that intelligence and innovation are crucial tools for survival and defense.

The narrative then delves into Jasnah's interactions with the scholarly and political figures present in the room, revealing her keen insight into the political landscape and her skepticism of those who claim to predict the future through mystical means. Her strategic monitoring of conversations, combined with her cautious communication via spanreeds, underscores her role as a calculated leader who values information and discretion. Her concern about her relatives' internal conflicts and her determination to protect her family from internal discord reveal her understanding that stability within her lineage is vital for the broader survival of her people.

Finally, Jasnah's focus on secure communication and her efforts to connect with trusted contacts underscore her reliance on intelligence networks and strategic alliances. Her careful management of information, including her use of intermediaries to maintain confidentiality, demonstrates her pragmatic approach to gathering and safeguarding critical intelligence. The chapter concludes with her awareness of the importance of trust and secrecy in her efforts to navigate the complex political and military landscape, emphasizing her resolve to use knowledge and strategic planning to ensure her family's and her kingdom's future amidst chaos.



Summaryer