

16. Wrapped Three Times

In this chapter, Dalinar Kholin examines a legendary and mysterious weapon known as the Blade of the Assassin in White, claimed to be forged during the shadowdays by divine intervention. The blade appears ordinary at first glance—elegant, small, and curved—yet it bears unusual characteristics, notably the absence of a gemstone typically used to bond men to Shardblades. Dalinar's inspection, illuminated by Stormlight, reveals that the blade is distinct because it was crafted directly from Honor's soul, making it a unique artifact that does not scream when touched, unlike conventional blades bonded through oaths and spren. This indicates a different form of oath and connection, rooted in Honor's divine essence.

The Stormfather explains the significance of this blade, emphasizing that it is a mark of a different kind of oath—one directly linked to Honor's own soul rather than the spren-based bonds of regular Shardblades. The conversation touches on the nature of oaths and their importance, as well as the contrast between Honor's blade and the other weapons associated with the dead spren. Dalinar reflects on the implications of Honor's death, considering that if Honor's essence still exists in this form, perhaps Odium's power can also be challenged or broken. The Stormfather suggests that Odium, being a force rather than a person, cannot break his own rules, which offers a faint hope for eventual victory.

Dalinar also discusses the strategic potential of the Honorblade and his visions of a future confrontation with Odium, who is depicted as a relentless, ageless force driven by unyielding rage. The Stormfather advises that Odium is unlikely to agree to a direct contest unless presented with the right opportunity—specifically, a champion chosen by Dalinar. This approach might persuade Odium to accept a challenge, as it would give him a chance to fight without risking a direct assault that could leave scars or weaknesses. The concept of time emerges as a crucial element, as the Stormfather

reveals that patience and timing are vital to overcoming such an ancient and powerful adversary.

The chapter concludes with Dalinar securing the Honorblade in a hidden location within the tower, carefully concealing it from others. He reflects on the weapon's immense power and the importance of using it wisely, contemplating its potential beyond mere weaponry—perhaps as a means to achieve Windrunning and other extraordinary feats. The Stormfather humorously suggests that he cannot see all things, but hints at the blade's significance and the risks involved. As Dalinar prepares to leave, he considers the strategic advantages it offers, including swift travel via Oathgates. The chapter underscores the delicate balance of power, patience, and divine influence in Dalinar's ongoing quest to confront Odium and protect Roshar.