

40. Questions, Peeks, and Inferences

The chapter begins by highlighting the complex political and mystical landscape on Roshar, emphasizing the presence of secretive groups involved in the resurgence of ancient threats. It introduces Uli Da as a problematic figure and discusses the broader implications of her actions, setting a tone of intrigue and suspicion. The narrative explores the existence of two major institutions—the Sons of Honor and the Skybreakers—that are linked to the potential return of the Voidbringers and Desolations. These groups have different motivations: while the Sons of Honor seek the Desolations to revive the Knights Radiant and restore power, the Skybreakers, led by Nalan'Elin, remain loyal to their oaths and are wary of the return of chaos.

The chapter delves into the historical and ideological differences between these groups, revealing their secret agendas. The Sons of Honor, under Gavilar's influence, are believed to have worked towards rekindling Desolations, potentially leading to chaos and chaos that could serve their ends. Conversely, the Skybreakers have maintained their oaths through the ages and are suspicious of any activity that might hasten the return of the Voidbringers. Nale, a Herald, is particularly cautious and believes that any breach of oaths, such as speaking the Words of other Radiant orders, could accelerate destructive forces. These groups' covert operations, including Nale's dispatching of agents like Helaran, are central to understanding the ongoing conflict and hidden alliances.

The narrative shifts to focus on Shallan's internal reflections and her discovery of a dangerous letter. She contemplates the implications of the information it contains, questioning the involvement of her family and the possible connections to Gavilar's death. Pattern, the spren, warns her about the lies within the letter, emphasizing the danger of exposing such secrets. Shallan recognizes that the letter hints at a Surgebinder within Amaram's army and suspects that powerful forces are

manipulating events from behind the scenes. Her cautious approach to the information underscores the peril of uncovering truths that could threaten her life and the fragile peace on Roshar.

The chapter concludes with scenes of Veil, who is undercover and engaging with soldiers amidst the chaos. Her interactions reveal the tense atmosphere among the troops and hint at underlying dissatisfaction and unrest. Veil's observations about Shallan's erratic behavior and her own struggles provide insight into the personal toll of the ongoing conflicts. The soldiers' conversations about their promises, medals, and the sense of purpose they seek reflect the broader theme of loyalty and disillusionment. Overall, the chapter weaves together political intrigue, secret societies, and personal struggles, illustrating the complex web of deception, loyalty, and hidden agendas shaping the fate of Roshar.