

## 107. The First Step

The chapter begins with a reflection on the obscure history of Ba-Ado-Mishram, suggesting that she either returned to Damnation or was destroyed during the events of Aharietiam. This historical ambiguity sets a tone of mystery and loss surrounding ancient entities and their significance. Dalinar, the protagonist, awakens to a surprisingly peaceful morning, cared for meticulously by Navani, indicating a moment of relative stability in his turbulent life. His routine of grooming and dressing reveals a ritualistic aspect of his character, emphasizing his desire to maintain a sense of order amid chaos. Memories of his brother Gavilar and the funeral surface, hinting at unresolved grief and the weight of past traumas that continue to influence his present.

Dalinar's internal thoughts reveal a complex mixture of memory, doubt, and hope. He questions the origins of recent visions and dreams, particularly one involving Nohadon, contemplating whether these are mere illusions or hold deeper significance. His connection to the Stormfather remains vital, providing reassurance and a sense of companionship in moments of doubt. Dalinar's reflections on the first step—taking that initial move toward change—highlight the chapter's central theme: the importance of beginning, even when the path ahead is unclear. His struggles with the Thrill and the temptation of past excesses underscore the ongoing battle within himself, emphasizing that recovery is fragile and incomplete.

The narrative shifts to a political scene, where Dalinar encounters Taravangian, the aging king, in a moment of unexpected camaraderie. Their conversation reveals the ongoing political tensions and strategic considerations, such as the deployment of troops and questions about the fate of key figures like Adolin, Elhokar, and the Radiants. Taravangian's physical decline contrasts with his sharp mind, and Dalinar's concern for his friend's health adds a layer of personal connection to the broader political landscape. The mention of a possible storm-related sign and hope reflects the

chapter's recurring motif of faith amid uncertainty, emphasizing that hope remains a vital force.

Finally, the chapter culminates in a strategic meeting within the Tower's "Gallery of Maps," where military plans and political alliances are discussed. Dalinar's leadership is challenged subtly by political rivals like Ialai and Ruthar, whose silences and opposition hint at underlying tensions. The detailed descriptions of the setting and characters underscore the gravity of the situation—preparing for upcoming conflicts and navigating political intrigue. Throughout, the chapter underscores the importance of resilience, memory, and hope in the face of adversity, illustrating that the first step toward change is often the most difficult but also the most essential.

