42. Consequences

The chapter opens with a commanding dialogue from Cephandrius, warning against presumption in approaching them, setting a tone of tension and authority. Dalinar finds himself immersed in a recurring vision, witnessing a brutal battle where he skillfully uses a bow to defend a young ruler, Yanagawn of Azir. This vision provides Dalinar with visceral insights into the chaos and violence of ancient conflicts, emphasizing the importance of understanding the stakes involved in these prophetic experiences. The vivid imagery of battle, the sensory details, and Dalinar's measured actions highlight his attempt to grasp the significance of these visions beyond mere images, seeking deeper meaning and clarity.

As the vision unfolds, Dalinar observes the aftermath of the fight, noting the emotional and physical toll on those involved. Yanagawn, despite his youth and apparent inexperience, is portrayed as a figure of leadership, rallying others and asserting victory against the Voidbringers. Dalinar reflects on the historical and spiritual implications of this scene, recognizing the recurring themes of war, sacrifice, and divine intervention. The vision underscores the ongoing struggle between good and evil, illustrating how even victorious moments are fraught with horror and loss, reinforcing the importance of understanding the true consequences of these battles.

The narrative then shifts to a pivotal moment where a figure claiming to be Jezerezeh'Elin, the Herald of Kings, declares victory over the Voidbringers, attributing the triumph to the collective effort of humanity. Dalinar recognizes this figure as the Herald of Kings, a significant and revered entity, but notices something unsettling—the Herald's dark eyes and the faint sense of unfamiliarity. Yanagawn's reaction to the vision reveals a mixture of awe and suspicion, hinting at the complex relationship between divine figures and mortal kings. Dalinar's role as an observer and guide becomes clearer as he attempts to interpret the meaning of these divine revelations

for Yanagawn.

In the final section, Dalinar confronts Yanagawn with the reality that these visions are not random but are instigated by his own actions and mental state. Dalinar's explanation about suffering visions during storms and his belief in their prophetic nature aims to legitimize his experiences, despite rumors of madness. Together, they examine the aftermath of the battle, with Yanagawn visibly shaken by the sight of the dead and the chaos of war. The chapter ends with a sobering reflection on the cost of victory and the ongoing spiritual and moral questions that these visions evoke, emphasizing the importance of understanding the true consequences of divine and mortal actions in their world.