

73. Telling Which Stories

The chapter begins with a tense reflection on the fragility of the tower's defenses, highlighting the underlying fear of failing to protect against the Unmade. This concern sets a tone of vulnerability and urgency, emphasizing the constant threat faced by the characters. The dialogue introduces a mix of soldiers sharing stories and banter, revealing their camaraderie and contrasting perspectives on their roles and the world around them. The narrative provides insight into their personal experiences, fears, and the informal hierarchy among soldiers, illustrating the human side of their military duties amidst looming danger.

Kaladin's integration into the Wall Guard is depicted as somewhat superficial compared to his history with Bridge Four, yet he finds camaraderie with the squad. Their banter is lively, with teasing about highborns like Adolin and the social divisions that define their society. Kaladin observes these distinctions with a mixture of curiosity and skepticism, recognizing the stark contrast between the soldiers' worldview and his own. The dialogue underscores the rigid social stratification in their culture, where lighteyes and middlers occupy vastly different social spheres, often viewed with suspicion or disdain.

The narrative explores the social dynamics and prejudices ingrained in Alethi society, particularly through the perspectives of the squad members. The soldiers' dismissive attitude toward highborns like Adolin reveals their ingrained class biases and their perception of leadership and privilege. Kaladin's attempt to see the good in everyone reflects his more compassionate outlook, but he is quickly made aware of the societal divides that influence how people are judged and treated. This contrast highlights the larger societal issues that underpin the soldiers' daily lives and interactions, illustrating the pervasive nature of stratification and prejudice.

As the patrol continues through the city streets, the chapter shifts focus to the visible inequalities and tensions between the soldiers and the refugees. The guards' role as protectors is contrasted with the hostility they encounter from those they serve to defend. The refugees' desperation and suspicion stem from their perception of the soldiers' privileges, such as access to food and safety, which they lack. This dynamic underscores the broader themes of inequality, survival, and societal division, emphasizing the complex reality faced by those on both sides of the barricades in a city under siege.



Summaryer