

117. Champion with Nine Shadows

The chapter opens with a cautionary tone, emphasizing the danger posed by the "otherworlders," traitors who appear charming but harbor bloodlust and destructive intent. These entities, called Voidbringers, are linked to a new god that embodies emptiness and emotional void, symbolizing a profound threat to the world. This ominous warning from the Eila Steele sets the tone for a conflict rooted in deception and treachery, highlighting the importance of vigilance against seemingly benign foes who conceal their true nature and threaten to bring chaos and destruction.

Dalinar is depicted standing amidst the ruins of a city under siege, with tension palpable in the stagnant air and the hesitation of Amaram's army outside the breach. The soldiers, driven by their bloodlust, display a fierce desire for combat, yet their disorganized ranks and disregard for wealth strewn across the battlefield suggest a chaos-driven mentality. Dalinar perceives their lust for battle as a reflection of the destructive storm looming nearby, emphasizing the chaos and violence that define this confrontation, and his solitary stance underscores his role as a leader facing overwhelming odds.

The narrative shifts to a more personal level as Dalinar interacts with Lift, a young, unconventional soldier who embodies humility and resourcefulness. Lift, untrained and unarmed with a weapon, offers to assist Dalinar by stealing a valuable ruby from a fleeing Fused—a formidable enemy capable of moving with extraordinary power. Their dialogue reveals Dalinar's reliance on unconventional allies and methods, highlighting Lift's innocence and confidence in her abilities. This interaction underscores themes of trust, adaptability, and the importance of unconventional tactics in the face of seemingly insurmountable challenges.

The chapter concludes with a tense, action-packed scene involving Dalinar's confrontation with Odium and his Fused followers. Odium's strategic commands and

the presence of powerful spren and visions heighten the stakes, revealing a complex web of plans to control or destroy critical artifacts like the Oathgate. Meanwhile, Adolin and Shallan are engaged in their own perilous fight against Fused, blending illusions, combat, and wit. The narrative emphasizes the chaos of battle, the importance of mental acuity, and the relentless struggle to safeguard vital resources against enemies who are both cunning and deadly.

