

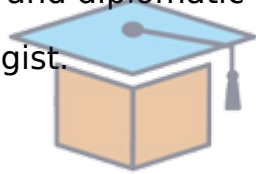
66. Strategist

The chapter opens with a reflective scene set eleven years prior, where Dalinar Kholin observes a strategic training exercise with his son Adolin. Through a demonstration of a retractable ledge, Dalinar emphasizes the importance of defensive architecture in warfare, highlighting how such structures could be used against formidable opponents like Shardbearers. The scene underscores Dalinar's tactical mindset and his interest in fortifications, revealing his foresight in military strategy and his desire to prepare for future conflicts. It also portrays a moment of bonding between Dalinar and Adolin, illustrating Dalinar's role as a mentor and protector.

As the scene shifts to a later period, Dalinar's focus broadens from battlefield tactics to political diplomacy. He reflects on recent military successes, including the reclaiming of territory from the Vedens and the securing of trade treaties. Dalinar recognizes that the true victory extends beyond land conquest; it lies in gaining legitimacy and political recognition for Gavilar's rule. This diplomatic achievement, acknowledged by the Vedens, helps prevent a larger war and consolidates Dalinar's strategic influence. His satisfaction with these accomplishments reveals his understanding of warfare as both a physical and political endeavor.

The chapter then explores Dalinar's personal life and ongoing responsibilities. His interactions with his family, particularly his son Adolin, demonstrate his efforts to balance martial training with political duties. Dalinar contemplates the importance of formal education for Adolin, who is soon to leave for specialized training in Kholinar. The scene emphasizes Dalinar's dedication to shaping his son into a capable leader, as well as his own desire to avoid the frivolous life of Kholinar's social scene. This personal dimension adds depth to Dalinar's character, showing his commitment to duty and family amidst the demands of leadership.

In the concluding segment, Dalinar receives and begins to process a message from the king via spanreed, signaling ongoing military and political developments. His wife Evi's presence highlights the domestic side of his life, and her observations about the cold climate reflect the harsh environment they inhabit. Dalinar's strategic considerations become more apparent as he plans potential military routes, contemplating an amphibious assault and the need for ships. The chapter ends with the formal sealing of a treaty, illustrating Dalinar's continuous efforts to secure peace and stability through both military might and diplomatic negotiations, emphasizing his role as a consummate strategist.



Summaryer