

104. Strength

The chapter begins with a reflection on Ashertmarn, one of the Unmade, emphasizing his influence on human decadence rather than prophecy or combat. His gift to humanity is a desire for indulgence, which historically contributed to the collapse of dynasties such as Bayala. This sets a tone of underlying chaos and the presence of powerful, mindless forces that shape the world's history. The narrative then shifts focus to Navani Kholin, who is navigating the turbulent political landscape of Urithiru amid her husband's decline. Her experience in maintaining stability is highlighted, as she balances her duties with the delicate political alliances and the precarious state of her kingdom.

Navani's leadership is portrayed against the backdrop of Gavilar's strange behavior and the growing uncertainty within the kingdom. Jasnah's writings reflect the complexity of her family's situation, revealing her scholarly mind and the broad scope of her interests. As Gavilar's mental state deteriorates, Navani works with a loyal group, including the Bridge Four Windrunners, to keep the kingdom intact. Her role is increasingly critical, as her authority begins to extend beyond mere governance to encompass broader political and strategic decisions necessary to face impending crises.

The chapter then details a tense council meeting where Navani consults with the highprince and brightladies, emphasizing the fragile state of leadership and infrastructure. They discuss the challenges of maintaining the tower's facilities, dwindling resources, and labor shortages, which threaten the stability of their society. The political tension is palpable, with concerns over the delayed proclamation of Dalinar as highking and the potential for rebellion or external threats. Navani's efforts to conceal sensitive information underscore the fragile balance of power and the importance of strategic silence in times of crisis.

In the final section, Navani reflects on her husband's true intentions, which are rooted in unity rather than domination. Despite the chaos and internal conflicts, her conviction is that Dalinar's goal is to forge a stronger, united world. The chapter concludes with a sense of cautious hope, acknowledging the immense challenges ahead but reaffirming her belief in her husband's leadership and the collective effort needed to preserve stability. The narrative underscores themes of resilience, political intrigue, and the complex interplay of power, love, and duty in a world teetering on the edge of chaos.

