

103. Hypocrite

The chapter opens with a reflection on the cultural phenomenon of Death Rattles, which some traditions attribute to divine influence, but the narrator suggests they may be linked to the effects of Moelach, the Unmade, manifesting regionally across Roshar. This perspective introduces a theme of interpreting phenomena through a mystical lens, hinting at deeper, unseen forces at play in the world. The narrator's contention challenges traditional beliefs and sets a tone of questioning accepted explanations, emphasizing the complex relationship between myth, prophecy, and reality in the story's universe.

Dalinar awakens in an unfamiliar room, disoriented and recalling recent tumultuous events, including his excommunication from the Vorin church and his struggles with grief, frustration, and alcohol. His physical state reflects inner turmoil, and his memories hint at a period of intense suffering and self-medication. The scene underscores his vulnerability and the emotional toll of his recent experiences, establishing a backdrop of internal conflict that influences his perceptions and decisions. The environment's details, such as the sunlight and the mural, hint at a place of significance—possibly a vision or a memory—integrating his spiritual and psychological struggles.

As Dalinar explores the room, he recognizes its connection to a vision involving Nohadon, the legendary figure who authored **The Way of Kings**. The vision's surreal nature reveals Dalinar's ongoing struggle to interpret divine messages, as he questions why the Stormfather's warnings are manifesting in unpredictable ways. Encountering Nohadon in a youthful and aged state, Dalinar witnesses a scene that blurs the line between past and present, suggesting a deeper connection between his visions and the historical figure's life. This interaction raises questions about fate, divine guidance, and Dalinar's role in the unfolding destiny of Roshar.

The scene shifts to a vivid depiction of a bustling ancient city, contrasting sharply with Dalinar's previous perceptions of history as dull and weathered. Nohadon, now portrayed as lively and energetic, takes Dalinar on a journey through the city, emphasizing themes of vitality, movement, and the importance of experiencing life's simple joys. Dalinar observes the vibrant clothing, architecture, and customs, recognizing elements of his own past and the significance of understanding history not just as static relics, but as living, breathing parts of the world. The chapter concludes with Nohadon's confident independence, reinforcing the idea that true strength lies in resilience and embracing life despite hardships.



Summary