

## 7. A Watcher at the Rim

The chapter opens with a reflection on survival and resilience, referencing the preface of *\*Oathbringer\** and emphasizing that experiencing something worse than death can be a profound and harrowing ordeal. This sets a tone of inner struggle and growth, highlighting the emotional and psychological toll faced by the protagonist, Kaladin. The narrative then shifts to a tense confrontation in Roshone's manor, where Kaladin's actions escalate from a physical altercation to a display of authority. Despite the chaos, Kaladin demonstrates restraint and a desire to act morally, recognizing the importance of maintaining his integrity even when provoked, which underscores his evolving sense of responsibility and self-awareness.

Kaladin's leadership qualities come to the forefront as he attempts to de-escalate the situation with the guards and Roshone. His commanding presence and sharp wit help him regain control, ordering the soldiers to stand down and questioning what happened to the parshmen. His interactions reveal a deeper understanding of the political and social tensions at play, while also exposing his internal conflict about violence and justice. Kaladin's ability to balance assertiveness with restraint illustrates his growth from a former slave to a leader trying to uphold moral principles amidst chaos and hostility.

The chapter also explores the mysterious nature of the parshmen and their recent transformations following a strange storm. Kaladin investigates the scene, discovering that the parshmen appeared more monstrous and formidable, resembling Voidbringers. Despite their increased size and aggression, they did not attack, which raises questions about their motives and the larger threat they pose. The guards' reports of the storm's destruction and the parshmen's behavior hint at a new and more dangerous phase of the conflict, compelling Kaladin to consider the strategic implications for the ongoing war and his own role within it.

Finally, Kaladin's focus shifts to gathering intelligence on the Voidbringers' movements and potential threats. He recognizes the importance of maps and detailed information to understand their plans and predict their next moves. His concern about the kingdom's food supply and the refugees underscores the broader human stakes involved in the conflict. As he prepares to report to Elhokar, Kaladin's determination to uncover the enemy's intentions and to find a way to protect his people demonstrates his commitment to leadership and the pursuit of justice, even amid uncertainty and danger.

