

30. Mother of Lies

The chapter opens with a reflection on vulnerability and the willingness to expose oneself to danger, exemplified by Shallan's readiness to confront a malevolent entity. Her openness allows the spren Re-Shephir to sense her presence, revealing its own confused fascination with humanity. The creature is depicted as an ancient, chaotic being born from a shattered soul, created to sow destruction and confusion. Its nature is instinctual and alien, driven by curiosity and a compulsive attraction to violence, with no capacity for love or attachment. This sets the tone for the intense, dangerous confrontation that follows, highlighting the complex relationship between humans and spren.

As Shallan engages with Re-Shephir, she perceives its terror and desperation, understanding that it is a creature long imprisoned and terrified of being trapped again. The spren's history is marked by its origins as a fragment of a greater, terrible entity, and its current state is one of fear of recurrence. It had been subdued by a Lightweaver—Shallan—who recognized its true nature, which makes it fear her as a formidable and understanding foe. This revelation adds depth to her role as a Lightweaver, emphasizing her unique ability to connect with and manipulate these ancient, chaotic spirits.

During the confrontation, Shallan taps into her darker, more ferocious instincts, drawing strength from her past trauma and anger. She pushes herself physically and mentally into Re-Shephir's essence, battling not only the creature but also her own fears and secrets. Her attack is fueled by a mixture of hatred for her perceived weakness and a desire to break free from the constraints of her previous self. The act of confronting Re-Shephir becomes a symbolic struggle for her identity and power, with her determination wavering as she faces the creature's primal, terrified response.

In the aftermath, the creature's scream of pain and fear signals its retreat, and the scene shifts to the physical aftermath of the battle. Shallan, weakened and exhausted, is helped by Adolin and others, while her mind races with the implications of what transpired. She recognizes that the entity fled into a deeper part of the mountain, but chooses not to pursue it, wary of further danger. The chapter concludes with a focus on the mysterious pillar of gemstones in the room, symbolizing wealth and power, and hinting at the ongoing significance of this confrontation within the larger narrative. The chapter underscores themes of fear, identity, and the complex interplay between chaos and control.



Summaryer