

113. The Thing Men Do Best

The chapter opens with a reflection on the mysterious nature of the Unmade, particularly questioning if Dai-Gonarth is truly the ninth and whether their actions could have led to the destruction of Aimia. This sets a tone of uncertainty and investigation into ancient forces and their influence on current events. The narrative then shifts to Dalinar, who is depicted standing alone, contemplating the distant land of Shinovar and grappling with the distrust among the monarchs. His internal conflict revolves around his perceived deception and the complex political dynamics that threaten to undermine his authority and the fragile coalition forming around him.

Dalinar's introspection deepens as he considers the origins of the humans on Roshar, pondering whether they came from Shinovar and the implications of their migration. His conversations with the Stormfather reveal a growing awareness of the ancient fears that led to the Radiants abandoning their vows during the Recreance. Dalinar is haunted by the possibility that these vows were forsaken out of fear of destroying the world again, a realization that challenges his understanding of morality and duty. Despite this, he remains resolute, vowing not to let history repeat itself and to uphold the Radiants' oaths, even as doubts and fears surface within him.

Meanwhile, the chapter depicts a scene of practical military and political action as Dalinar intercepts his bridgemen, who plan to return to Urithiru to share their discoveries about the ancient Radiants. Their concern about the ongoing invasion and their desire to fight for a just cause reflect the broader struggle for survival and righteousness amid chaos. Dalinar's internal fears about the safety of his allies, including Elhokar and Adolin, intensify as he contemplates the possibility that none of them may return. This underscores the personal cost of leadership and the burden of responsibility during times of war and uncertainty.

In the concluding sections, political tensions escalate as Dalinar interacts with various factions and leaders, including Vizier Noura, who warns him about the dangers of manipulation and the risky nature of the Oathgate. The chapter emphasizes the pervasive atmosphere of mistrust and the moral ambiguity faced by those in power. Dalinar's commitment to truth and unity is challenged by the reality of deception and the dangerous powers at play. The chapter ends with a sense of foreboding, as alliances are tested and the true nature of the threat facing Roshar becomes increasingly clear, highlighting the complex interplay of politics, ancient secrets, and the struggle for survival.



Summaryer