

109. Neshua Kadal

The chapter begins with a reflection on the mythic figure Re-Shephir, the Midnight Mother, who is believed to have been destroyed at Aharietiam, highlighting the ongoing theme of loss and the remnants of ancient power. Dalinar and Navani explore the mysterious structure of Urithiru, focusing on a vein of red crystal embedded within the walls that suggests the tower might be alive or at least connected to some form of ancient, possibly sentient, power. Their investigation into the tower's strange features hints at deeper, unresolved mysteries about its origins and purpose, emphasizing the importance of understanding the tower's true nature to harness its potential or awaken it.

The narrative then shifts to Dalinar's scientific and theological inquiries, where he and Navani discuss the significance of various gemstones used in Soulcasting and other magical processes. Navani explains that garnets, which are associated with blood and the liquefaction of water-soluble substances, are not currently used in Soulcasters. Their conversation reveals a broader quest for knowledge about the ancient technologies and the underlying principles of the magic systems, suggesting that unlocking these secrets could be pivotal in their ongoing conflict and in understanding the tower's full capabilities. This scientific curiosity underscores the chapter's theme of discovery amid uncertainty.

As the story progresses, Dalinar prepares for an imminent storm and war, receiving urgent messages about enemy movements and potential invasions. The strategic importance of the upcoming stormwall and the impending naval buildup by the enemy underscore the urgency of their military preparations. Dalinar's internal conflict about whether to proceed with a dangerous plan reflects his awareness of the stakes involved. His reliance on both ancient wisdom and modern technology, such as his arm device, illustrates his multifaceted approach to leadership in the face of chaos,

emphasizing the delicate balance between knowledge, intuition, and action in wartime.

The chapter concludes with Dalinar's visions and his confrontation with the enemy's greater power. He witnesses a scene with Nohadon, which symbolizes wisdom and leadership, but also faces the overwhelming force of Odium, the malevolent god. The Stormfather's inability to fully assist Dalinar signifies the limits of divine aid and the enormity of the threat. Dalinar's decision to confront this danger head-on, despite uncertainty and danger, highlights the central theme of courage and the relentless pursuit of understanding and defeating the enemy. The scene underscores the gravity of the war and the importance of strategic foresight, even when clarity is elusive.



Summary