

4. Oaths

The chapter "Oaths" opens with a reflective tone, quoting Dalinar's preface from **Oathbringer** that hints at his perceived heresy and the weight of his beliefs. It sets a somber mood, emphasizing themes of faith, doubt, and the burden of leadership. The narrative then shifts to a pivotal moment: Dalinar's awareness of an unnatural, ominous storm—the reappearance of the Everstorm—signaling impending chaos. His connection with the Stormfather underscores the mystical relationship between the Storms and the world of Roshar. Dalinar's internal feelings of dread and the storm's strange, vengeful nature foreshadow a coming catastrophe that threatens the land and its people.

The scene vividly describes the storm's destructive power and its eerie, almost sentient presence. Dalinar observes the storm's ominous approach, feeling its unnatural cold and inner chill, which signifies something more sinister than a typical highstorm. The Stormfather's distant voice confirms this, revealing that the storm is a new, unknown force—an enemy riding the storm itself, intent on destruction. Dalinar perceives visions of devastation—cities razed, fields destroyed, and people fleeing—highlighting the storm's malevolence and the threat it poses to Roshar's stability. This portrayal underscores the storm as a symbol of an emerging, vengeful adversary that aims to sow chaos and death.

Further introspection reveals Dalinar's understanding that the storm's wrath is targeted at the vulnerable—small towns, fields, and unprepared populations—rather than just large cities. The storm's deliberate attacks and the red lightning hint at a calculated assault, not just a natural phenomenon. The imagery of glowing red eyes and the storm's anger evoke a sense of an active, intelligent enemy. Dalinar recognizes that this storm's purpose is to weaken and destabilize, possibly to facilitate the rise of the Voidbringers and turn parshmen into tools of destruction. The chapter

emphasizes that this is a new level of threat, reminiscent of the Desolations, with a focus on bloodshed and chaos.

In the closing sections, Dalinar's personal struggles and relationships come into focus. Navani's support and her attempt to comfort him reveal the emotional toll of leadership and the burden of responsibility. Their intimate exchange underscores Dalinar's internal conflict—his desire for control and stability versus the chaos threatening to engulf them. His resolve to find a solution through oaths symbolizes a commitment to unity and binding promises, vital in facing the impending darkness. The chapter concludes with Dalinar's determination to act decisively, recognizing that the path forward involves firm commitments and unwavering resolve, even amid uncertainty and peril.



Summary