

## 29

The chapter opens with a reflective monologue from the Lord Ruler, expressing his conflicted emotions about Kwaan, a mentor who betrayed him by denouncing him as the Hero of Ages. Despite his anger, the Lord Ruler admits he couldn't bring himself to execute Kwaan, as the man had been like a father to him. He grapples with Kwaan's sudden rejection, questioning whether his presence at the Well of Ascension could truly be worse than the destruction wrought by the Deepness. This introspection reveals his inner turmoil and the weight of his perceived destiny.

The narrative then shifts to Vin, who is engrossed in reading the Lord Ruler's logbook. The entries describe his arduous journey to a cavern near the Well of Ascension, where he feels an ominous pulsing energy. The harsh, icy environment and the mist creature's attack on Fedik heighten the tension. The Terrismen accompanying him exhibit extraordinary abilities, but their leader, Rashek, harbors deep resentment toward the Lord Ruler and his people, believing Terrismen deserve dominance due to their powers. This foreshadows potential conflict and raises questions about the treatment of Terrismen.

The Lord Ruler's writings reveal his exhaustion with the burdens of prophecy and the expectations placed upon him. He longs for obscurity and a life free from the adoration and hostility his title brings. His fears about the power he will wield at the Well of Ascension are palpable—he questions whether he can resist the temptation to use it selfishly or even destroy the world. The entry ends with a sense of impending climax as he prepares to face his destiny, watched by the hostile Rashek, while the cavern above pulses with energy.

Vin, finishing the logbook, is left wanting more as the final entry is missing. She reflects on the Lord Ruler's descriptions of icy landscapes and marvels at the wonders he encountered, wishing for more vivid details. Despite her disdain for the tyrant he

became, she feels an unexpected familiarity with the man behind the words, struggling to reconcile his introspective, weary persona with the monstrous ruler he later became. The chapter closes with her curiosity unresolved, hinting at the mystery of what truly happened at the Well of Ascension.

