

Chapter 14: — Ender's Teacher

The chapter opens with a tense exchange between Colonel Graff and Admiral Chamrajnagar, highlighting their differing priorities regarding Ender Wiggin. Graff emphasizes Ender's potential and the need for a tailored education, while Chamrajnagar focuses on the urgency of preparing for interstellar war. Their dialogue reveals underlying tensions, with Graff asserting his role as Ender's mentor and Chamrajnagar dismissing Graff's concerns with a mix of mysticism and condescension. The conversation underscores the high stakes of Ender's training and the isolation he will face as the chosen leader.

Ender's arrival on Eros is marked by discomfort and disorientation. The asteroid's unnatural slopes, low gravity, and cramped tunnels exacerbate his unease, while the overwhelming presence of strangers intensifies his isolation. Unlike Battle School, where he knew everyone, Command School deliberately keeps him apart, offering no chance to form bonds. Ender retreats into his studies, excelling in astrogation, military history, and abstract mathematics, relying on his intuitive grasp of spatial and temporal patterns to solve complex problems.

The simulator becomes Ender's primary outlet, a sophisticated holographic game that evolves with his skills. Starting with controlling a single fighter, he progresses to commanding entire fleets, adapting to increasingly complex scenarios. The computer challenges him by mimicking his tactics, forcing him to innovate. As he masters each level, the simulations grow more demanding, requiring strategic decision-making and multitasking. Ender's ability to shift between micro and macro perspectives showcases his tactical genius and adaptability.

By the end of the chapter, Ender has spent a year at Command School, mastering the simulator's highest levels. The training mirrors his Battle School experience, emphasizing isolation and relentless pressure to hone his leadership. The chapter

underscores the psychological toll of his upbringing, as well as the military's calculated efforts to mold him into a weapon. Ender's brilliance is undeniable, but the cost of his education—loneliness and manipulation—looms large, setting the stage for his eventual confrontation with the war's realities.

