

# Chapter 29: Part Two - 11. The Masters of the Land

Linden Avery awakens from a deep sleep, disoriented by dreams of Thomas Covenant warning her of danger. Initially mistaking Liand's knocking for Covenant's voice, she struggles to shake off her grogginess and respond to the urgency. Her alarm grows as she realizes her health-sense—her ability to perceive the Land's vitality—has vanished, leaving her vulnerable and disconnected. Despite her frustration, she prepares to face the Masters, who have summoned her to discuss Anele's imprisonment and other pressing matters.

Liand and Galt inform Linden that the Demondim, who had besieged Revelstone, have mysteriously withdrawn overnight. Galt reveals that scouts have been sent to confirm their departure, but no results have been reported yet. Linden is stunned by this development, questioning how the Demondim could abandon their attack, especially with the Illearth Stone in their possession. The absence of her health-sense leaves her unable to verify the situation, deepening her unease. Meanwhile, Galt's lack of deference hints at the Masters' reluctance to cooperate with her.

Determined to secure Anele's release, Linden adopts a calm, resolute demeanor, masking her inner turmoil. She requests time to eat breakfast, using the delay to gather her strength for the impending confrontation with the Masters. As she prepares, she reflects on her dependence on the Staff of Law, which she crafted to combat the Land's corruption. However, without her health-sense, she cannot access its power, leaving her feeling powerless. This realization sparks panic, but she forces herself to think logically, recognizing the cyclical dilemma: she needs the Staff to restore her senses, but her senses are required to wield the Staff.

The chapter underscores Linden's isolation and the mounting challenges she faces. Her inability to use the Staff or perceive the Land's threats leaves her at a disadvantage, yet she refuses to yield to despair. The mysterious withdrawal of the Demondim and the Masters' ambiguous intentions add layers of uncertainty. Linden's internal struggle—balancing her fear with her determination to protect the Land—sets the stage for a pivotal confrontation, emphasizing her resilience in the face of overwhelming odds.

