

# Chapter 26: TWENTY-SIX: Gallows

## Howe

The chapter "Gallows Howe" depicts Covenant's harrowing journey after his failed attempt to confront the battle raging in the crevice of the EarthBlood. Overwhelmed by a powerful force, he loses consciousness and is later rescued by Bannor, a Bloodguard, who pulls him to safety. Covenant is left in a daze, barely aware of his surroundings, as Bannor carries him through the chaotic battlefield and into a tunnel. The scene underscores Covenant's vulnerability and the dire consequences of his failure, setting the stage for their desperate escape.

Bannor navigates the dark tunnels with precision, eventually reaching a boat on the lake of Earthroot. As they set sail, the boat is caught in a strong current pulling it toward a massive crevice. Recognizing the danger, Bannor acts swiftly, securing Covenant to the boat and preparing for the impending plunge. He instructs Covenant to use the orcrest, a luminous stone, to light their way. Covenant, though numb and unresponsive, obeys, and the stone's silver glow illuminates their path as they are swept toward the chasm.

The boat plunges into the crevice, launching them into a nightmarish descent through treacherous underground waterways. Bannor skillfully steers through the chaos, using broken pieces of the boat to navigate the violent currents and avoid deadly obstacles. Covenant, despite his stupor, maintains his grip on the orcrest, its light proving vital for their survival. The relentless torrent carries them through a series of caverns, each more perilous than the last, as Bannor's unwavering resolve keeps them alive.

Their ordeal culminates in a final, desperate struggle as the boat is driven underwater by the crushing force of the current. Bannor clings to Covenant, preventing him from inhaling water, and they are eventually ejected through a side tunnel into the open air.

The chapter ends with their dramatic emergence into the sunlight, battered but alive, as they are spat out onto the Black River. Bannor's steadfastness and Covenant's unconscious endurance highlight the themes of survival and loyalty amidst overwhelming odds.

