

# Chapter 22: Part Two - 10. The Pure One and the High God

Thomas Covenant rides southward on the Harrow's destrier, flanked by the Ranyhyn and the Humbled, who push the horse to its limits. Despite the physical strain, Covenant is mentally detached, consumed by grief and dread rather than the landscape or his mission. His thoughts linger on his painful separation from Linden, whom he loves deeply but has deliberately distanced himself from. He fears his own transformation and the possibility of breaking promises to her, knowing his unresolved fate could render him unrecognizable or unworthy of her trust.

Covenant's internal conflict centers on his refusal to let Linden accompany him, convinced her presence would doom her son, Jeremiah, though he cannot explain why. He trusts her devotion to Jeremiah implicitly, yet this certainty clashes with his inability to foresee the future clearly. His mortality now limits his perspective, confining him to the present—a stark contrast to his earlier omniscient awareness. This shift leaves him feeling trapped, though he acknowledges that such constraints are paradoxically liberating, enabling action where boundless knowledge might paralyze.

The chapter delves into Covenant's emotional turmoil, contrasting his love for Linden with his fear of failing her. He regrets his harsh departure, recognizing how his rejection deepened her despair. Yet he believes his sacrifice is necessary, even as he grapples with the weight of his choices. His physical discomfort—thirst, fatigue, and the jarring ride—mirrors his inner struggle, grounding his existential dread in the immediate demands of his body.

Ultimately, Covenant's journey reflects broader themes of sacrifice and mortality. His certainty about Linden's role clashes with his own uncertainty, highlighting the tension between faith and doubt. The chapter underscores his humanity, as he navigates love,

loss, and the burden of leadership, all while racing toward an uncertain confrontation with Joan. His reflections on constraint and freedom suggest that meaning emerges not from omnipotence but from acting within limits—a truth he must now accept on faith.

