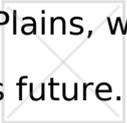


# 18. Surgeon

Kaladin stands on an Oathgate platform, reflecting on the snowy landscape and his concerns for Rock's family, who departed weeks ago. He uses the Oathgate to teleport to the Shattered Plains, where he soars through the sky with his Windrunner abilities, contemplating his future.  Though his comrades assume he'll transition to a strategic role, Kaladin is uncertain about becoming an ambassador, fearing his discomfort in political settings. His internal conflict is punctuated by moments of flight, where he savors his powers but grapples with the impending change in his life.

Navani's flying platform arrives, carrying refugees, and Kaladin greets them, apologizing for the delay. Later, he guides his parents through Urithiru's labyrinthine halls, explaining how the tower's organization has evolved from pryncedom-based sections to neighborhood-focused living spaces. The tower's design is both majestic and perplexing, with strange architectural features that hint at a deeper, unfathomable purpose. Kaladin notes his parents' awe and reflects on the challenges of maintaining community in such an immense and disorienting structure.

The chapter also includes an epigraph from Navani's lecture on fabrial mechanics, discussing the Fused's use of a unique metal that conducts Stormlight. She theorizes that the Fused employ an Investiture differential to extract Light from Radiants, though this remains unproven. This scientific curiosity contrasts with Kaladin's personal struggles, highlighting the intersection of technological advancement and individual introspection in the narrative.

Kaladin's tour of Urithiru with his parents underscores the tower's enigmatic nature, from its impractical outcroppings to its seemingly intentional yet cryptic design elements. His thoughts drift to Loral, who is adjusting to life without her husband, and the broader implications of Jasnah's new inheritance laws. The chapter weaves together Kaladin's personal journey, the tower's mysteries, and the broader world's

scientific and political developments, creating a rich tapestry of introspection and discovery.

