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The chapter opens with a reflective passage from an unnamed narrator, likely the Lord Ruler, expressing unwavering conviction in the necessity of destroying the Deepness—a sentient force of destruction and corruption. The narrator describes it as an existential threat to the world, not driven by malice but by its inherent nature. This ominous introduction sets the tone for the chapter, hinting at the broader conflict between preservation and annihilation that underpins the novel's mythology.

The scene shifts to Keep Lekal's grand ballroom, described as a pyramid-shaped marvel with a central dance floor and tiered balconies adorned with intricate stained-glass windows. Vin, the protagonist, admires the artistry of the windows, particularly those depicting scenes from the Ascension, including references to the Deepness. Her observations bridge the past and present, as she ponders the enigmatic nature of the Deepness and its defeat by the Lord Ruler, foreshadowing her growing curiosity about the world's history.

Vin, dressed in a pristine white gown, moves through the ballroom with purpose, contrasting her current aristocratic life with her former skaa existence. Her appreciation for the luxuries she now enjoys underscores her internal conflict and adaptability. She seeks out Lady Kliss, a gossipmonger, intending to manipulate her for information. Their exchange reveals Vin's strategic cunning as she plants a rumor about House Hasting's relocation of resources, leveraging Kliss's indiscretion to further her own goals.

The chapter highlights Vin's dual role as both an observer and an active participant in the political machinations of the nobility. Her interactions with Kliss demonstrate her growing proficiency in deception, while her reflections on the stained-glass windows and the Deepness deepen the novel's exploration of power, history, and identity. The juxtaposition of the ballroom's opulence with the underlying tension of Vin's mission

creates a rich, layered narrative that advances both plot and character development.

