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Kelsier spends his canal journey reading a translated excerpt from the Lord Ruler's logbook, which reveals the tyrant's surprising humanity and self-doubt. The text portrays the Lord Ruler as a reluctant hero questioning whether he truly fits the prophecies of the Hero of Ages, troubled by Rashek's skepticism and his own insecurities. Kelsier finds the account unsettling, as it contrasts sharply with the monstrous figure he knows—the oppressor of the Final Empire. The logbook's tragic undertones highlight the gap between the Lord Ruler's initial noble intentions and his eventual descent into tyranny.

The chapter juxtaposes Kelsier's reflections on the logbook with his arrival at a canal crossroads, marking the end of his travels. As the boats halt, Kelsier makes a dramatic entrance by using Allomancy to leap onto the lead narrowboat, stunning the skaa workers. This display serves a strategic purpose: reinforcing his mythic reputation among the recruits who will soon disperse to train for the rebellion. His showmanship contrasts with Yeden's earnest but uncharismatic demeanor, underscoring Kelsier's role as both leader and symbol.

Kelsier's internal monologue reveals his calculated approach to leadership. He recognizes the need to inspire hope in the skaa, even if it means performing as the legendary "Survivor of Hathsin." The logbook's themes of doubt and destiny parallel Kelsier's own burdens—he too carries the weight of prophecy and rebellion. Yet, unlike the Lord Ruler, he channels his charisma toward liberation rather than control, though he acknowledges his own flaws, humorously noting his excess of "presence" over earnestness.

The chapter closes with Kelsier and Yeden disembarking to meet allies from the caves, setting the stage for the next phase of their plan. The juxtaposition of the Lord Ruler's introspective writings with Kelsier's public persona deepens the novel's exploration of

power and perception. Sanderson subtly questions how legends are constructed, leaving readers to ponder whether Kelsier's performative heroism will avert the tragedy that befell his predecessor.

