

## 42. Armor and Teeth

Navani and her team navigate the dim, labyrinthine corridors of Urithiru, a once-grand tower now marred by theft and neglect. The atmosphere is tense, with distant screams and thunder underscoring the urgency of their mission. Guided by the Sibling's instructions, they search for a hidden garnet vein, a clue to unlocking the tower's secrets. The group's unease grows as Navani orders them to extinguish their lights, plunging them into darkness, where a faint garnet spark leads them to a concealed gemstone embedded in the wall.

The discovery of the topaz gemstone marks a critical turning point. Navani realizes it must be infused with Stormlight to activate a hidden mechanism, a task complicated by the absence of Radiants. She instructs her scholars to use small infused topazes to transfer Stormlight, a slow and meticulous process. Meanwhile, tensions rise with the Thaylen scholars, who resist sharing their guild's secrets despite the dire circumstances. Navani's frustration peaks as she confronts their stubbornness, emphasizing the existential threat facing their homeland.

A breakthrough occurs when one of the Thaylen scholars, Ulvik, reluctantly reveals a trade secret: sound vibrations can accelerate the infusion process. This revelation opens new possibilities, and Navani quickly deduces the use of tuning forks to achieve the required frequency. The chapter highlights the clash between tradition and necessity, as Navani's determination to save Urithiru overrides the scholars' reluctance to share guarded knowledge. The urgency of their task is palpable, with the invading forces drawing nearer.

The chapter culminates in a race against time, as Navani and her team work to infuse the gemstone before the tower falls. The interplay of ingenuity, collaboration, and desperation underscores the stakes of their mission. Navani's leadership shines as she balances technical challenges with interpersonal conflicts, driven by the conviction

that saving Urithiru is key to winning the war. The chapter leaves readers on the edge, anticipating the consequences of their efforts and the looming battle ahead.

