

Chapter 2: Part One - Two: Leper's Ground

The chapter opens with Honninscrave, the Master of the Giantship *Starfare's Gem*, responding sluggishly to a summons, his awareness dulled by despair. Covenant, the Unbeliever, remains in his cabin, paralyzed by guilt and fear. He reflects on the threat of the Nicor, serpentine sea beasts linked to the Worm of the World's End, and his own dangerous potential for destruction. Despite his friends' peril, Covenant feels unworthy to act, haunted by past failures and the consequences of his selfish love. His internal struggle highlights his sense of defeat and isolation.

Covenant's anguish deepens as he grapples with his inability to help. He tries to retreat into himself, but the silence of the ship and the looming danger of the Nicor gnaw at him. Memories of Honninscrave's suffering and the loss of his friend Foamfollower intensify his torment. Eventually, his concern for his companions overrides his despair, and he calls for Cail, the last remaining Haruchai in his service. Cail's isolation, a result of Brinn's departure, adds another layer of tension to the scene.

Covenant requests his old clothes, symbolizing a return to his former, more honest self, though he resents the idea. Before he can act, Pitchwife arrives with news: Linden Avery, the Chosen, has saved the ship by communicating with the Nicor. Using her unique senses, she and Galewrath rhythmically pounded the hull, calming the creatures and diverting their wrath. Pitchwife's excitement contrasts sharply with Covenant's inner turmoil, underscoring Linden's growing significance.

Covenant's reaction to the news is mixed—pride in Linden's accomplishment wars with his sense of irrelevance. Pitchwife's account of her heroism highlights her resourcefulness, but Covenant feels overshadowed and powerless. The chapter closes

with Covenant's silent struggle, torn between admiration for Linden and his own self-loathing, as the ship sails on, temporarily safe but still burdened by unresolved tensions.

