

Chapter 13: Part Two - Thirteen: The Eh-Brand

The chapter opens with Linden Avery struggling under the oppressive weight of the Sunbane, a corrupting force that exacerbates her physical and emotional torment. Her heightened health-sense, sharpened by Glimmermere's cleansing, makes her acutely vulnerable to the sun's ravages, which feel like they are consuming her from within. Despite earlier moments of hope and Covenant's love, she now feels broken and hollow, unable to reconcile her inner darkness with the Land's suffering. The Sunbane mirrors her own fractured state, leaving her despairing as the company prepares to confront Lord Foul, the source of the corruption.

Covenant leads the group westward along the dry riverbed of the former White River, hoping to use it as a path toward Andelain. Linden, though exhausted and traumatized by the Sunbane, agrees with the plan, desperate to minimize her exposure to the relentless sun. The landscape around them is desolate, with only a faint trickle of water remaining in the riverbed, a stark reminder of the Land's degradation. The sight of Furl Falls, though diminished, offers a fleeting glimpse of resilience, a small spark of hope amid the devastation.

The dynamics among the companions are highlighted as they navigate the treacherous terrain. The First, a Giant, chooses to scout ahead, her strength and determination contrasting with Linden's fragility. Pitchwife, though troubled, masks his worries with humor, while Sunder and Hollian express gratitude for the Giants' companionship. Covenant, burdened by memories of past allies, remains resolute despite his fears. Linden, however, is overwhelmed by exhaustion and the Sunbane's effects, her thoughts spiraling into despair as she questions the nature of their suffering.

By afternoon, the shade provides temporary relief, but Linden's physical and mental strength continues to wane. The alternating heat and shadow leave her numb, and she collapses, unable to continue. Her breakdown underscores the chapter's central theme of endurance amid overwhelming adversity. The Sunbane's relentless cruelty mirrors her inner turmoil, leaving her weeping and powerless, a poignant reflection of the Land's—and her own—broken state as they press onward toward an uncertain confrontation with Lord Foul.

