39. Invasion

The chapter opens with a philosophical reflection on the nature of Odium's power, suggesting that its Investiture can develop a will of its own when uncontrolled. This sets a foreboding tone as Teft suddenly collapses in a winehouse, exhibiting symptoms resembling a seizure or stroke. Kaladin, despite grappling with his own mental turmoil, springs into action, assessing Teft's condition with medical precision. The scene is tense as bystanders, including Rlain, react with alarm, while Kaladin remains outwardly calm, drawing on his surgeon's training to stabilize his friend.

Kaladin suspects Teft's collapse could be linked to past firemoss addiction or a stroke, though Teft had claimed to be clean for months. As he prepares to transport Teft to a clinic, he attempts to use Stormlight to Lighten him, but the power fails inexplicably. Meanwhile, Rlain helps clear a path through the crowd, highlighting the urgency of the situation. The chapter underscores Kaladin's internal struggle with his mental health, as he fights to compartmentalize his own darkness to aid his friend.

In a parallel scene, Navani interrogates a mute Windrunner named Dabbid, who exhibits erratic behavior. Red, a Lightweaver, identifies him as a former Bridge Four member but confirms he lacks a visible spren bond. The interrogation reveals the challenges of navigating Urithiru's radiant energy, which interferes with Shadesmar perception. Dabbid's frantic gestures and repeated Windrunner salutes add to the mystery, leaving Navani puzzled about his true nature and intentions.

The chapter weaves together two narratives: Kaladin's desperate attempt to save Teft amid supernatural interference with Stormlight, and Navani's investigation into a seemingly unhinged Windrunner. Both threads hint at larger, unseen forces at play—Odium's influence and the tower's peculiar energies. The unresolved tension in both scenarios builds anticipation for the next developments, leaving readers questioning the connection between these events and the overarching conflict.