

Chapter 7: Part One - Seven:

Physician's Plight

The chapter "Physician's Plight" follows Covenant and his companions as they resume their journey after the death of Hamako, a Stonedownor. Despite exhaustion, the Giants press on, guided by Waynhim, while Covenant struggles with nightmares and guilt. Linden tends to his injured arm, forcing him to drink diamondraught, which leaves him drowsy but unable to escape haunting dreams. His remorse over past decisions, particularly his refusal to heed High Lord Mhoram's call, weighs heavily on him, and he grapples with the belief that he could have saved Hamako and Seadreamer if he had acted differently.

Covenant's internal turmoil is compounded by the cold, desolate landscape as the company camps at the foot of Landsdrop. He reflects on his companions' silent grief, particularly Pitchwife's morose demeanor and Findail's refusal to offer guidance. Covenant recognizes that Linden, despite her own trauma and self-doubt, has a stronger claim to the wild magic than he does, as her ability to perceive the truth gives her a clarity he lacks. Yet, her emotional wounds and contradictions hinder her, leaving Covenant feeling isolated and uncertain of how to bridge the gap between them.

The company awakens to a somber morning, each member processing loss in their own way. The First dreams of battle, Honninscrave carries a grim resolve, and Mistweave remains emotionally adrift. Linden's raw grief mirrors Covenant's, but their shared pain does not bring them closer. Covenant's self-reproach deepens as he acknowledges his corruption and the fire he both fears and needs. The chapter underscores his relentless determination, even as he questions the cost of his choices.

Pitchwife's poignant song encapsulates the group's collective sorrow, mourning lost loved ones and the difficulty of moving on. His melody resonates with the cliffside,

symbolizing the weight of their shared grief. The chapter ends on a note of unresolved tension, with Covenant and his companions standing on the brink of the Sunbane's horrors, burdened by past failures and uncertain of the path ahead. The emotional and physical toll of their journey leaves them vulnerable yet stubbornly persistent.

