

32. Of Three Minds

Adolin and Zu, a Stoneward with scouting skills, observe a persistent Tukari caravan following their group through Shadesmar. Despite the uneven terrain making tracking difficult, the Tukari maintain a steady pace without overtaking them. Zu suggests confronting the group, leveraging her abilities, but Adolin hesitates due to their dwindling Stormlight reserves. The chapter highlights their strategic dilemma and Adolin's cautious leadership as he balances risk and resource management.

Adolin reflects on their dwindling Stormlight, a critical resource in Shadesmar, as their borrowed gemstones begin to dim. He considers the Tukari's behavior, noting their lack of aggressive pursuit, and consults Notum, an honorspren, who advises vigilance but no immediate action. Adolin's leadership is further emphasized as he organizes the group's march, checks on Maya—a deadeye spren cared for by his horse, Gallant—and seeks out Shallan, showcasing his multifaceted responsibilities.

Shallan, meanwhile, grapples with her own challenges, focusing on Beryl, a suspected spy within their group. Under the guise of mentoring her in Lightweaving, Shallan observes Beryl's struggles and apparent sincerity, which conflict with their suspicions. Veil, one of Shallan's alternate personas, doubts Beryl's guilt due to her convincing demeanor, while Radiant suggests further interrogation of Beryl's spren, Ornament. The internal conflict underscores Shallan's psychological complexity and the ambiguity of their evidence.

The chapter weaves together Adolin's external struggles with the Tukari and resource scarcity, and Shallan's internal conflict over Beryl's loyalty. Both narratives explore themes of trust, leadership, and the tension between perception and reality. The juxtaposition of their challenges enriches the chapter's depth, leaving readers questioning the true nature of the threats they face—both seen and unseen.