

## 22. No Use Talking

Adolin and his soldiers prepare to enter Shadesmar, a surreal realm with a black, starless sky and a distant, frail sun. The control room they expected is replaced by two towering spren—one marble white, the other onyx—who serve as gatekeepers. Adolin thanks them, and the marble spren explains they now obey the Stormfather after the death of their parent, the Sibling. This shift in allegiance allows the group to enter, as the Sibling had previously forbidden passage. The scene sets the stage for the strange and otherworldly nature of Shadesmar.

The platform they stand on is one of ten, each atop tall pillars resembling the Oathgates of Urithiru. Below lies a vast bead ocean, while above looms a shimmering, radiant tower of light and color, swarming with emotion spren. These spren, drawn by human emotions, appear more organic and beast-like here. Despite their potential danger, the tower's nature offers protection, leaving them calmer. The group takes a moment to absorb the breathtaking vista, a blend of beauty and mystery unique to Shadesmar.

Adolin surveys the Radiants and their personal spren, each with distinct forms and personalities. Pattern, Shallan's spren, stands out among the Cryptics with his lively demeanor. Zu's spren, Ua'pam, resembles a molten mountain, while Godeke's cultivationspren is composed of delicate vines. The most enigmatic is Arshqqam's mistspren, a feminine figure made of fog with a porcelain mask for a face. Her playful yet probing questions unsettle Adolin, highlighting the spren's curiosity about human perceptions.

The chapter underscores the complexities of the Radiants' bond with their spren and the ever-shifting dynamics of Shadesmar. Adolin's awe and uncertainty reflect the realm's unpredictable nature, where ancient orders clash with new allegiances. The vivid descriptions of the tower, the spren, and the gatekeepers immerse readers in a

world where light, emotion, and mystery intertwine. This journey into Shadesmar promises both wonder and peril as the group navigates its enigmatic landscape.

