

# Shallan's Sketchbook: Mistspren

The chapter from \*Shallan's Sketchbook: Mistspren\* provides a detailed observation of mistspren, enigmatic beings characterized by their porcelain masks. These masks shimmer translucently in the light, yet remain expressionless and motionless even when the spren speak. The description emphasizes their ethereal and unchanging nature, suggesting a disconnect between their appearance and communication. This portrayal highlights the mistspren's otherworldly qualities, setting them apart from more familiar, expressive beings in the Physical Realm.

Shallan notes that many mistspren are found working aboard mandra ships, their attire and equipment reflecting their maritime roles. This practical aspect contrasts with their mystical appearance, grounding them in a specific cultural and occupational context. The juxtaposition of their mundane duties with their surreal features adds depth to their characterization, blending the ordinary with the extraordinary. This detail suggests mistspren are integrated into the world's societal structures despite their alien nature.

The chapter reveals that mistspren have agency over their appearance in Shadesmar, often choosing humanoid forms though they are not bound to them. This flexibility underscores their adaptability and the fluidity of their existence across realms. Their ability to shape their presence in Shadesmar hints at a deeper complexity, implying they are more than mere spectral entities. This autonomy contrasts with their fixed, mask-like visage in the Physical Realm, creating an intriguing duality.

In the Physical Realm, mistspren manifest as reflections of light, akin to sunbeams passing through crystals, regardless of actual light sources or surfaces. This phenomenon emphasizes their intangible and ephemeral nature, blurring the line between reality and illusion. Their appearance defies conventional physics, reinforcing their mystical origins. The chapter concludes by leaving readers with a sense of

wonder, inviting further contemplation of these enigmatic beings and their place in the world.

