

I-2. Sja-Anat

Sja-anat, the Unmade known as the Taker of Secrets, revels in her role of collecting and hoarding knowledge—even from Odium himself. Existing between the Physical and Cognitive Realms, she moves as a shadowy presence, barely perceived by singers or Fused. Unlike other Unmade, she avoids manifesting fully, preferring her liminal state. She dreams of a realm perfectly suited for her and her "children"—the spren she transforms, which humans mistakenly call "corrupted." Sja-anat views her actions as enlightenment, granting spren new possibilities, though this defiance risks Odium's wrath.

The chapter explores Sja-anat's self-awareness as neither the cleverest nor the most mindless of the Unmade. She acknowledges Odium's intellectual superiority but still schemes against him, carefully hiding her true intentions behind layers of deception. The Everstorm's arrival revitalized her, allowing her to plan despite Odium's dominance. Her philosophy mirrors nature's harsh laws: sacrificing some children to protect others. This is exemplified when she sends an enlightened spren to bond with a human, Mraize, as a distraction while shielding her more valuable creations.

Tension escalates as Odium confronts Sja-anat, his presence overwhelming. They engage in a delicate dance of lies: she pretends loyalty, while he feigns ignorance of her rebellion. Their dynamic reveals deeper cosmere lore, hinting at Odium's dual nature as both Vessel and Shard, with conflicting desires. Sja-anat's defiance is subtle—she saved Shallan's life in Kholinar, an act Odium suspects but cannot prove was deliberate. Their interaction underscores her precarious autonomy, balancing obedience and subterfuge.

The chapter concludes with Sja-anat embracing her identity as Odium's creation yet asserting her independence. She manifests as a smoky figure with white eyes, embodying his essence while hinting at her evolved will. The final exchange with

Odium—a veiled interrogation about her "corrupted" spren—reinforces their mutual deception. Sja-anat's resilience and strategic sacrifices position her as a rogue element in Odium's forces, setting the stage for future rebellion.

