

Blood of the Fold Study Guide

Blood of the Fold by Terry Goodkind

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Plot Summary

Blood of the Fold, by Terry Goodkind, is the story of Richard Rahl in his quest to stop evil from taking over his home and destroying the world. The story focuses not only on Richard's story but on the events of others in the story that are either working against or with Richard. Richard's endurance and faith in himself will continually be tested as he, and his allies, continue to fight against the evil forces they encounter.

Richard Rahl arrives in Aydindril. He knows that he must fight to help stop the Imperial Order from taking over the known world but doesn't know how to do that. While in Aydindril Richard meets up with several Mord-Sith and D'haran guards that pledge themselves to Richard as the new Lord Rahl. Richard then goes to the General of the D'Harans troops in Aydindril and wins over their loyalty. Richard then calls together the representatives of the Midlands in Aydindril. Richard tells them they must join either the D'Harans or will be considered an enemy and with the Imperial Order.

At the Palace of the Prophets Verna is trying to figure out what happened to Prelate Annalina and Nathan. Warren is helping her when Warren has a prophecy come to him about a false prelate. Verna is trying to piece together the pieces of the puzzle when she is attacked and put on trial as a Sister of the Dark. The Emperor of the Imperial Order, Jagang, is headed to the Palace of the Prophets. There is a spell that keeps the Palace inhabitants from aging quickly. Jagang is going to live in the Palace while directing the prophecies in an attempt to take over the world.

Annalina and Nathan have escaped the Palace and are working to get a Wizard of the First Order, Zedd, back to help them destroy the Palace. Meanwhile Richard finds what is called the sliph, and uses its ancient magic to travel to the Palace of the Prophets. There he finds that Kahlan is being held prisoner with several others. Verna and the Sisters of the Light escape those who are working for Jagang. Zedd, Annalina and Nathan have set fire traps throughout the Palace, although Zedd was not strong enough to start them. Unknown to them, Richard is in the Palace and he is able to destroy the Palace, although some of the Sisters of the Dark escape. Jagang had not made it to the Palace. Richard returns home to find the D'Harans under attack.

Richard's friend Gratch, a gar, arrives with other gar to fight in their battle and eventually win. Several of the other lands in the Midlands swear fealty to Richard because of the battle.



Chapter 1-5

Chapter 1-5 Summary

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Chapter one begins with several women on a boat. These women are naked and have just finished a ritual to contact their dark master known as The Keeper. The women were Sisters of the Light, but each of these six women have sworn an oath to serve the Keeper, and worked in secret at the Palace of the Prophets as Sisters of the Dark until their presence was discovered and they were forced to flee. The women tried to contact the Keeper but were contacted by an evil man named Jagang who gave the women orders and warned them not to disobey and hurt each one of them before the trance was ended. The women hate Jagang but decide that they will do what they must in order to get back into the Keeper's good graces.

The women run out onto the deck of the boat, momentarily forgetting they are still naked from their ceremony, and order the captain to turn the boat around and give the captain the new destination based on Jagang's orders. Several of the men are leering at the women and one of them quickly uses magic to kill the man. The captain and the other men fall into order and agree to do as the women ask. Once back in their room, the women talk of their current plight and the fact that Richard Rahl is the reason they were forced to flee. The women all wish to see him dead and one says that she will bath in his blood. The Sister, Ulicia, knows that she is the stronger of the Sisters and knows that she will be the one in charge of their group. Ulicia agrees that Richard will pay with more than just his life.

Chapter two switches to Richard Rahl sitting on the steps with his pet Gratch. Most have a problem with Gratch because he is a gars and they are known to be dangerous but Gratch was raised by Richard and the two are good friends. Gratch is watching the woods intently and regardless of what Richard says, Gratch refuses to completely take his eyes off of the woods. Richard is thinking of his love, Kahlan, and how she narrowly escaped being beheaded by the Imperial Order. Richard is talking about this with an old friend of Kahlan's when suddenly they are attacked by creatures called Mriswith.

In chapter three Richard and Gratch both begin fighting with the Mriswith. Although it is not easy they, are able to kill the creatures. A man from the palace comes to tell Richard that there are reports from all over that people have been killed by something unknown. Richard realizes that there must be many Mriswith out to have killed that many people and that the reports seem to indicate that they are all heading looking for him. Richard leaves to go and try to make sure the Mriswith are stopped before more lives are lost.



In chapter four, Tobias Brogan and his sister Lunetta are riding. Lunetta is covered in tattered rags and talking to Tobias. Tobias is Lord General of the Imperial Order and allows his sister to live because he can control her filthy magic. Tobias loves his sister enough to slit her own throat rather than let her fall into the Keeper's clutches because of her magic ability. Tobias had had a dream in which the Creator had come to him and told him how proud he was of Tobias' accomplishments. Tobias had told no one about this, except his sister realizes it was boastful to express the Creator's pride in him to others. Tobias is thankful that he is alive at this point in time in the world in which he can see the purification of men and magic wiped from humanity.

Chapter five begins near the Palace of the Prophets where the Sisters of the Light reside. All the members of the Palace have spent all night outside with a large fire that burned the bodies of the Prelate Annalina and the prophet Nathan. Sister Verna is sad over the loss of the prelate for several reasons. Not only is the prelate the leader and the mother of the palace, but Annalina had been Verna's friend. When the night is over and the only thing left of the bodies is ashes, slowly the Sisters begin to return to the Palace. Verna soon finds that only she and Warren are left. Warren and Verna talk and Warren confides in Verna that she is the only Sister in the Palace that he trusts. She tries to act as if things are safe now that the Dark Sisters have been revealed but eventually admits to what Warren knows, that others in the Palace could very well have sworn themselves to the Keeper. While they walk back to the Palace, Verna explains that it may be months or even a year before the next prelate is named since the Sisters will be in a fight for the position. Verna explains to Warren that she is far too young to be considered for the position and doesn't have enough power to even help back her own choice. When they get near the Palace, a guard comes and says that Verna is needed at the Palace immediately.

Chapter 1-5 Analysis

This story is the third book in The Sword of Truth series. Much of the beginning of the book will be spent giving some background information on characters and events that happened previously. There are some characters, such as Sister Liliana, who is mentioned in chapter one. It is explained that she died by Richard's hand and that it was her own greed that forced the other Sisters of the Dark out of the Palace of Prophets. The mention of Jagang is very important although it won't be until later when he is mentioned again.

Other important characters, such as Zedd and Kahlan, have been mentioned already in the book but have not been shown yet. Much of the time that Richard spends on the steps thinking or the conversations that are had about past events are given to explain the background and much of the established events that the plots will continue to build on.

In the story Tobias and his sister Lunetta have been introduced briefly. There is not a lot of information about these two that has been given so far. It is important to fully understand Tobias' frame of mind. He truly believes magic to be evil and a tool of the



Keeper. This is the reason that he believes it would be better to murder his sister than let her be free with her magic abilities. How cruel his nature can be has yet to be shown, but his feelings toward his sister seems to indicate his resolve.

The Dark Sisters that are introduced in the front of the story will be seen several times again as the story continues. Their destination has not been revealed as of yet but it will be explained later in the story.

While the main character of the story is Richard Rahl, each character that comes into contact with Richard seems to play an important part in Richard's destiny, or he in theirs. The Sisters on the boat in chapter one remember their encounter with Richard quite well and recount much of that experience. The same is true of Verna and Warren. The exception to this seems to be Tobias and his sister Lunetta, but they will soon encounter Richard's path. Their story will take a much larger role for part of the book.

There are drums that Verna and Warren talk about as they walk up to the Palace. This will be important to recall later in the story.



Chapter 6-10

Chapter 6-10 Summary

In chapter six Verna and Warren arrive at the Palace of Prophets where several Sisters are waiting for them. The prelate's ring is on a pedestal surrounded by a powerful spell. The Sisters possess the power to drain the spell but have agreed that they should try each person in the Palace to see if the spell was intended for a specific individual. None of the Sisters were able to get close to the ring. Verna is able to walk up and take the ring. She finds a note stating that she is the new prelate and it is signed by Annalina. Verna is immediately bowed to by the other Sisters as she walks quickly out of the room. Warren is waiting for her in the hall and Verna and he leave the Palace to talk in private. Verna explains that being the prelate will bind her hands and keep her from looking for anymore Sister of the Dark. Warren explains to Verna that since Annalina could only trust Verna that it made sense she would try to put someone in the prelate's office that was not a Sister of the Dark.

Chapter seven resumes with Richard walking down the streets in Aydindril. Richard buys honey cakes from an old woman and a young girl in the streets and leaves them a silver coin with the symbol of the Palace of Prophets on it. As Richard walks away he stumbles in the way of an army composed of the Blood of the Fold. One of the men is ready to take Richard when Richard is suddenly grabbed by two large D'Haran men who claim that they have issue with Richard and take him away. Once in an alley Richard sees four dark figures make their way toward him.

As chapter eight continues the four figures step forward and Richard recognizes them as Mord-Sith. The Mord-Sith and the two large D'Haran soldiers swear loyalty to Richard and each of them were at the palace when Richard used magic to kill Darken Rahl. They explain that they have been following him since he left in order to protect him. Richard and his guards plan to go to General Reibisch and try to win over his loyalty with both a letter from a high D'Haran commander and by a show of Richard's magic since D'Haran are bonded to the Master Rahl. Richard became the next master of the D'Haran when he killed his father and banished his soul although Richard was unaware that they bonded to the Rahl master.

Chapter nine begins with Richard walking down the street with the two large D'Harans in front and two Mord-Sith on either side as they enter the D'Haran camp with Gratch walking behind the group. When they reach General Reibisch's room Richard removes his cloak and materializes. The General only laughs at first claiming that Richard is obviously not the Master Rahl when suddenly mriswith begin to attach and Richard must use his magic and the sword of Truth in order to kill the creatures. All the D'Haran's swear loyalty immediately to Richard. Richard turns and sees that one of the Mord-Sith and realizes that she has been gutted by one of the mriswith before Richard was able to kill it. As she dies she tells Richard that she was given freedom, if only for a short time, and that her life is worth that price.



Chapter ten begins with Tobias Brogan and his sister interviewing people from the streets of Aydindril about the Mother Confessor's death. Tobias' sister is able to use her magic to discern if people are telling the truth or lying. They are soon able to tell that the Mother Confessor is indeed alive and headed to the Southwest. The next woman they bring in is an old woman and her granddaughter. They don't lie about anything but Lunetta tells her brother that the woman knows much more than she is telling them. Tobias decides to have the woman and her granddaughter taken to be questioned by one of his men.

Chapter 6-10 Analysis

It isn't immediately known that the same person that is talking to Tobias in chapter eight is Mistress Sanderholt who earlier had been talking to Richard. It is never revealed in her name but it describes the fact that her fingernails were pulled out in order to force her to tell lies against the Mother Confessor. When the old woman comes in it is clear rather quickly that she is the same old woman that Richard had given the silver coin to. The reason that the woman seems to know so much about magic and little bits of information isn't explained. The point of view is seen only from Tobias' vantage point. The old woman told Tobias that it was the liver that made her teeth fall out. This is an important statement and hints at foreshadowing of later events.

The Mord-Sith are women but they pride themselves on being stronger than men and talk about their superior strength often as the story continues. They tell Rand when they first join him that their job is to die in battle and that they don't want to die old and toothless in their beds. They do however tell Richard that they want him to die old and toothless in his bed. After the Mord-Sith is killed while battling the mriswith Richard tells the remaining three to get used to the idea of dying old and toothless in their beds because he is going to try and see to it. The fact that they have been given a freedom that they have never known before is an important aspect to understanding both their devotion and what it is that Richard is trying to fight for for other people as well.

Richard had to show a use of magic in order to convince the other D'Haran armies to follow him. Richard cannot call on his magic at will and had counted on the cape he removed from the mriswith to be the thing that would get him their loyalty. He had been most surprised when they began laughing at him. The mriswith are sent by dark forces to kill Richard. The irony of the situation is that the D'Haran's may not have sided with Richard had they not seen him fighting the invisible creatures and then seen them materialize after they were dead. The mriswith will continue to play an important part in the story.



Chapter 11-15

Chapter 11-15 Summary

In chapter eleven, Tobias receives an invitation to come to the Confessor's Palace by invitation of Master Rahl. Tobias has no intention of receiving this invitation until he is told that the D'Harans made it clear that there was no choice in the matter. Tobias takes Lunetta and leaves one of his men in charge of the old woman and her young granddaughter, explaining that the young girl can be killed as an example to the old woman, but he wants to be able to question the old woman when he returns.

When Tobias arrives at the Confessor's Palace in chapter twelve, they find the mriswith bodies on pikes in front of the building. When Richard gets up to speak, he tells everyone there that they are to surrender themselves to the D'Haran armies. Richard says that they will either be considered with the D'Harans or with the Imperial Order and the D'Harans will seek out to take them by force if necessary in order to keep the Imperial Order from enslaving all the lands. Richard tells them that they are free to choose their side now, but when they choose they must be ready to fight. One person says that they have no desire to fight, but only want to live in peace. Richard explains that if they want to have freedom they will have to pay the same price that everyone else must.

In chapter thirteen, Richard calls Tobias and Lunetta forward to speak to him. Tobias lies to Richard, saying that he questioned people in the hopes that the Mother Confessor is alive in order to help her. Tobias gives Richard his knife as a symbol of his loyalty and asks Richard for a coin as a token of their new bond. Richard gives the coin as Tobias and Lunetta leave.

In chapter fourteen, Richard and General Reibisch begin talking and Richard realizes that Reibisch finds little difference in what they are doing as opposed to what the Imperial Order is doing. In the General's mind, both groups are trying to take over the world. Richard is hurt and worried that others will see it the same way and tries to explain that he is fighting to conquer the people so that they can have freedom. The General says that when you are in battle, reasons mean very little. The General does seem to accept some of what Richard says as he leaves. Richard makes the Mord-Sith swear that they will protect Kahlan the same as they would him before he falls asleep while sitting in his chair.

Tobias, Lunetta and Galtero take a duke and his wife hostage. Lunetta casts a spell on the woman after cutting off her left nipple, so that she will have to do their bidding. Tobias kills the duke in order to make it look like he was killed by mriswith. Lunetta says that she can do the other spell that Tobias wants as long as she has something that Richard has touched. Tobias tells her he has the coin from Richard.



Chapter 11-15 Analysis

When Tobias first sees Richard, he makes many deductions about Richard's character that all seem correct except for the fact that Tobias is certain that Richard is a servant of the Keeper. Tobias is obviously quick on his feet and is able to lie with ease. Although Tobias is very smart and realizes how dangerous Richard can be, Tobias is blinded to the fact that he is working evil. The reason for Tobias' extreme prejudice against magic has not been revealed. The spell that Tobias wants Lunetta to perform is not yet described. In the following chapters, more of that plot will be revealed.

Richard has begun to worry that the people that have sworn to protect him and fight with him are only doing so because they are sworn to it. They don't seem to understand him when he talks of conquering the people in order to give them freedom. If Richard sits back and does nothing, then the Imperial Order will be able to conquer the lands and will have a power that no one can defeat. The only way to stop them from enslaving all people is for Richard to first secure the nations that the Imperial Order is after.

The mriswith that were killed by Richard were the first of these creatures to be seen by Tobias. In the next few chapters these creatures will ally themselves with Tobias. Tobias' cruelty and darkness will continue to be revealed. More of their evil intentions are seen when Galtero is permitted to go and rape the Duchess while Tobias is killing her husband.



Chapter 16-20

Chapter 16-20 Summary

In chapter sixteen, Richard writes a letter for Gratch to take to Kahlan and Zedd. Richard gives Gratch instructions on how to find them and says that Gratch will know that it is Kahlan because she will know his name. Once Gratch is gone, Richard feels much more alone since Gratch followed him out of friendship and the others were bonded to him. Richard explains that the Imperial Order uses magic in order to destroy magic and that is the reason that they have wizards.

Tobias returns to his camp in chapter seventeen. He goes to where the old woman and her granddaughter were to be tortured and finds that his man that he left in charge has been skinned from the neck down and his liver has been partially eaten. On one side the liver has small bite marks in it and on the other side are larger bite marks that are irregular. Tobias slaps the dead face of his man and says that he is dishonorably discharged because a true banishing hunter would have killed the old woman at any cost before he died. Tobias decides that he, Lunetta, and Galtero will sneak out of the camp in order to hunt the Mother Confessor without the D'Harans realizing that they have gone.

Tobias and the others are away from the camp when they are suddenly surrounded by several D'Harans. Tobias knows that he cannot kill them all and Lunetta is quickly attacked before she can command a spell. Suddenly a wind kills the D'Harans and Tobias realizes it is a mrsiwith. The mrsiwith kills the D'Harans and tells Tobias that the dream walker wants him to escape. Tobias decides that since the Creator comes to him in dreams that the Creator is the dream walker and that the mrsiwith is a creature of the creator. Tobias quickly leaves to find the Mother Confessor.

In chapter eighteen, Verna is doing paper work as the prelate and feeling that it is indeed a prison. Warren comes to get Verna and they go for a walk to see Sister Simona, who has been deemed mentally ill. Simona tells Verna that she has bad dreams about the dream walker. She says that at times he tries to be the Creator but she knows that he is a demon and that the drums she hears are sounding his arrival. Verna tells her that the drums are announcing the arrival of Emperor Jagang. Simona begins screaming until Verna forces her to sleep with a spell. After they leave, Warren tells Verna that according to some of the oldest prophecies, the term dream walker was used for the Keeper and Warren doesn't believe that Simona is mentally ill.

In chapter nineteen, Richard goes out looking for Tobias but cannot find them. When he returns, one of the Mord-Sith threatens Richard for not telling her where he was going. Richard thinks it may be a mistake to let them help him. General Reibisch tells Richard that he had had bad dreams before Richard came but now cannot remember the dreams.



Chapter twenty begins with Duchess Lumholtz arriving to talk to Richard. When she enters the room, Richard feels a very strong attraction for her. She begs personal safety with him and agrees to surrender her people over to Richard without any questions in return for her own safety since her husband was killed by a miswith. Richard goes to bed not knowing why he feels such strong desires for the woman he had not found attractive at all the night before.

Chapter 16-20 Analysis

In the next few chapters, Richard will have to fight against his feelings for the Duchess. It seems at this point that the spell that Tobias and Lunetta had been talking about may have been a spell to make Richard fall for the Duchess. It is unknown what her role is for Tobias at this point, but it is clear that she was sent to get close to Richard.

Sister Simona explains that the dream walker tries to show himself as the Creator in her waking dreams that she has. This seems to suggest that Tobias was correct earlier in the book when he told his sister that the Creator had appeared to him. The three titles that are mentioned in the story are the Creator, the Keeper, and the dream walker. It is known that the Creator and the Keeper fight against each other but the relationship that the dream walker plays won't be explained for some time in the story.

Sister Verna is looking over the various papers for the Palace that she is in charge of signing for various reasons. There are two things that she has seen at this point in time that give her pause. One is the fact that there are two horses and some supplies missing. Verna states that while the horse may have run off, she doubts that they took supplies with them. The other is the fact that the first people to die in the palace in a long time were the prelate and Nathan the prophet, but Verna has been asked to sign a piece of paper for payment to an undertaker who recently dug two graves. Both of these issues will begin to make more sense in the coming chapters.

Verna has also been spending time wondering who it was that put the ring on the chair since the prelate was too sick to do so before her death. Verna will also find this information out in the next few chapters.

Tobias, Lunetta and Galtero will not be seen again for several chapters but their influence will continue to be seen although their exact plans will not be made immediately clear.



Chapter 21-25

Chapter 21-25 Summary

In chapter twenty-one, Verna is making a new rule that the wizards living in the Palace will no longer be allowed to get women in the town pregnant with no repercussions. Several of the Sisters try to argue with her, saying that men have uncontrollable urges and that if a woman does get pregnant then the Palace should pay to ensure the child does not go hungry. Verna tells them that the women in the town get paid a small fortune to have a wizard's child and that they are encouraging women to try and solicit the men and replacing the need for a father's care with gold. Verna says that they are meddling in people's lives in order to try and up the number of men born with the talent and that it is obviously not working since there are only a scant few born. The women leave and Verna looks over at the housekeeper, who is an older woman that had been a friend of the last prelate. Verna asks the woman if it had been her that had put the ring on the pedestal to be found after the prelates death and the housekeeper admits it was her and that other Sisters have asked her about it also. The housekeeper says that she was asked to put the ring there three weeks before the prelate died. The housekeeper then remembers that she had also been told to tell the new prelate to go to the private sanctuary in the garden.

Verna goes to find the hidden sanctuary in chapter twenty-two, and it is bespelled and can only be opened and closed with her ring. She finds a journey book in the sanctuary with a note on it instructing Verna to guard it with her life. A journey book has a twin and the pages are empty. You write in one and the message appears in the other so that people can keep in communication while on long journeys. Verna wonders who has the other book. Verna goes to the vaults to see Warren and gives him a darca, a dagger that drains the life and magic out of a magical person. She tells him about the journey book and they laugh that prelate Annalina is going to try and continue to run things from the after life. Warren then becomes serious and tells Verna about a prophecy that he has just received talking about a false prelate. He tells Verna that in order for there to be a false prelate that Verna must first die.

In chapter twenty-three, Richard meets again with the Duchess. Richard is still fighting his incredible urges for the woman but is able to concentrate on his anger enough to focus him while he presents her with the papers to surrender her people under Richard's control. She seems unsure about signing over her Keltish lands but eventually does. Richard orders the Mord-Siths to not let him out of their sight even as the Duchess is begging to be alone with Richard.

In chapter twenty-four, Verna is discussing with one of her assistants the missing Sisters, some of which had been her friends. Verna then orders her office to be left alone for a time and she uses a delicate magic shield to encase the room as she sneaks out through the window. Verna meets Warren in town and they go to meet with the undertakers to ask about the two graves that were dug.



In chapter twenty-five, while Warren waits outside, Verna finds out that the man that dug the graves was paid a large amount of money to dig two people up and wrap them in white cloth. Verna wipes the man's memories of the events and of her visit. She is short with Warren as she leaves, feeling angry that she is being used by Annalina still and that she is in fact the false prelate as Warren's prophecies have spoken of. Verna goes to the sanctuary and uses the journal to ask a question that only Annalina would know the answer to and threatens that the book will go in the fire if the answers are not exact. When she returns to her office, nothing is out of place but her magic shield has been shredded by someone not looking for it. Verna knows that someone was snooping around in her office.

Chapter 21-25 Analysis

Verna is changing a lot of rules and traditions as prelate. These changes are important to take note of as they will be mentioned later in the story. She sat and had a long talk with the housekeeper, Millie, in chapter twenty-one. Although this woman has a relatively short role in this chapter and won't be seen again until close to the end of it the story, she will be pivotal for the actions that Verna must take. The sanctuary will be seen only a few more times in the story.

The darca that Verna gave to Warren will also be seen again in the story. Verna listened to the prophecy that Warren gave and believes that she is the false prelate after learning that Annalina is still alive. Through the travel journal, Annalina and Verna will be able to converse, and it will be discovered that Verna is not in fact the false prelate. The developing relationship between Verna and Warren will also be important in the story.

Richard knows on some level that something is not right because of the way that he feels when he is with the Duchess, although he is unable to control all of his emotions. As the story continues this relationship and the orders of Tobias will become clearer.



Chapter 26-30

Chapter 26-30 Summary

In chapter twenty-six the six Sisters of the Dark, led by Ulicia, get off the Lady Sefa ship and find that Jagang's men are waiting to take them to the palace. The women have linked up their powers and intend to kill Jagang but know that they must wait until they are close. The ship and its men are told that they cannot leave and Ulicia and the others are certain that Jagang will kill the men, which makes them happy. When the group reaches the palace, Ulicia releases all the power that she and her Sisters have, and it seems to her that the whole world must be ended from the reaction that she feels.

As chapter twenty-seven continues, Jagang is simply sitting in his chair eating. He explains that the problem is that she releases her magic as quick as a thought but Jagang says that he can get into the fragments of time between thoughts because he is a dream walker. Jagang tells them that his desire is to remove magic from the world. Jagang tells the women that if they dream about anything that happened while they were awake then he will know about it. Jagang brings in the men from the ships and tells them that they can do anything they like with Ulicia and the other five Sisters of the Dark as long as they don't kill them or hinder them from doing work the next day. Jagang tells Ulicia and the others that if they displease him then he will continue to give them to his men to use for whatever their desires are. Ulicia and the other women can communicate through their magic link. They agree that they will find a way to make Jagang pay. Ulicia warns the others not to dream of their plans.

In chapter twenty-eight Annalina and Nathan are traveling toward Aydindril when they happen upon an army of D'Haran men. They tell Annalina about the new Lord Rahl. After the army has left them Annalina and Nathan discuss how cautious Verna is being. Nathan is angry that it took her this long to figure out that they weren't dead but Annalina explains that Verna had no reason to think otherwise. Nathan tells Annalina that the plan she has will get them killed. Annalina asks Nathan what he would do and he tells her the same but he still doesn't like the plan. Annalina pulls out the journal after they have stopped for the night and tells Verna that the next night she is to go where she found the journal when the moon is up.

In chapter twenty-nine the Duchess is begging Richard be alone with her. He finally is able to get into his room without her, his head swimming. Moments later the Duchess comes into his room. She has Richard laying down on the bed when she pulls out a dagger and tries to kill Richard. Richard is shocked when a mriswith appears and kills the duchess. Richard has no weapon to fight the thing but it calls him skin brother and says it must protect him. The mriswith leaves. Richard looks down at the Duchess' body and sees that her left breast is exposed and she is missing her nipple. Richard's magic intuition tells him that this is what is responsible for her actions. Richard calls for the three Mord-Sith women to come in. When the women come in Richard tells them all to show him their breasts. They are reluctant but being bonded to the Lord Rahl they all



show him their breasts. The last to show herself is Berdine and she is missing her left nipple just as the duchess. Berdine tries to kill Richard but he refuses to fight her. In the end Richard is able to heal her.

Chapter thirty returns to Verna as she is in the sanctuary waiting on her message from Annalina. Verna receives her answer and then Annalina tells Verna that she must discover who it is that is sworn to the Keeper and who is a Sister of the Light although Annalina doesn't know how Verna should do that. Annalina also tells her that they believe that Jagang is the dream walker. Verna tells them that Warren gave a prophecy and Annalina and Nathan both tell her to get him out of the Palace immediately. Upon reading the prophecy Nathan confirms that Verna is not the false prelate Warren is speaking of. They explain that Jagang wants the Palace of Prophets in order to have access to the prophecies and to take advantage of the spell the castle has that slows the aging process. It is Jagang's desire to live there.

Chapter 26-30 Analysis

Nathan has told Annalina that she is working to kill them both with her plan. She tells him that she doesn't feel there are any other choices, and Nathan agrees. There is no explanation given to this statement at this point in time. Nathan didn't mean kill them in the traditional sense. Despite the fact that he is her companion in many ways and the fact that they are working together, Annalina has Nathan in the collar, a Rada'Han, which allows her to control Nathan's magic and cause him pain. The Rada'Han is not supposed to be able to be removed by anyone that is not a Sister or anyone that is wearing a Rada'Han.

The false prelate mentioned in Warren's prophecy is very important to remember. Later in the story the truth of who the false prelate is will become clear. The six Sisters of the Dark that are now captive by Jagang will be seen again in the story and continue to have a strong role in many of the events that occur. The truth of the prophecies often will not be immediately clear, because while they lie, they do not necessarily tell the whole truth.

The three Mord-Sith were treated badly by Darken Rahl. The kindness that Richard continues to show them will eventually be enough to bind them to him in friendship rather than out of the need that he feels they currently have. When Richard asked to see their breasts, all of them worried it was because he was trying to choose one of them to stay the night in his bed. They had been forced to do this often by Darken Rahl. The fact that Richard was able to look at the Duchess' breast and know that it was that way because of magic was only because of his intuition. Richard's intuition continues to be one of his most important tools.



Chapter 31-35

Chapter 31-35 Summary

In chapter thirty-one Verna goes to look for Warren but Sister Leoma tells Verna that Warren had been hurt over the way Verna treated him and he left the Palace. Verna weeps in private, realizing how much Warren meant to her.

In chapter thirty-two Kahlan's wagon has an accident and they lose a man. Kahlan tries to blame herself, but Zedd assures her that it was not her fault.

In chapter thirty-three they reach an abandoned farm where they rest for the night. The group begins discussing what needs to be done. They all agree that it is necessary to have the Keltish lands on their sides, although they are not sure how. They have a woman with them, Jebra, who can read a person. She tells Zedd that she sees Zedd on wings and then falling into a fire ball. She tells Zedd that it is not an actual event but a sense of events. When she looks at Kahlan she sees Kahlan running in circles. Kahlan goes outside for some night air and hears something hit the ground.

In chapter thirty-four Kahlan calls to Gratch and the beast comes up and hugs her. She takes him into the house and Gratch hugs each of the people, although Zedd pretends to be angry over it. Gratch eventually hands over the letter from Richard. Kahlan is very angry that Richard has disbanded the Midlands and demanded each people's surrender because she had been the Mother Confessor of the people. Addie and Zedd both agree that it is the best course of action that Richard could have taken. Zedd decides that it is important for him to go help Richard. Zedd uses a spell to make him light so that Gratch can carry him and Zedd begins to make his way to Aydindril.

Chapter thirty-five returns to Richard and the Mord-Sith, who are entering the Wizard's Keep, although it is dangerous and no one is able to get past most of the magical blocks. Richard takes only Bernadine with him so that he has protection, but if something should happen to him then the others won't be trapped with him.

Chapter 31-35 Analysis

Zedd is heading to Aydindril because he realizes that Richard will be tempted to go into the Wizard's Keep. Zedd and Gratch will never make it all the way to Aydindril as they had planned, although their story will continue to be important to the events that unfold. Many of the people in the story will begin to gather in groups. Zedd soon will meet up with Annalina and Nathan. Annalina feels guilt over the way that she has treated Verna but felt that it was necessary in order to help events unfold in the way that they should. Annalina will continue to use people in this manner, Zedd included.

Kahlan is angry with Richard because she feels that the Midlands have fallen. Since Kahlan was the Mother Confessor, it was her duty to keep the lands together. Since the



Midlands have been disbanded by Richard that means, in Kahlan's mind, that she has failed her people. She will eventually see the wisdom in Richard's plans despite her own hurt.

The fact that it is Sister Leoma that told Verna that Warren left is very important to take note of. Leoma will continue to have a strong role in the story, although Warren won't be seen again for some time.

Jebra saw Zedd flying on wings and then falling into fire. The wings is beginning to be understandable considering Zedd is flying with Gratch. The fireball won't come into play until much later. The fact that Jebra saw Zedd "falling" into the fire will also be important. Jebra's vision of Kahlan running around in circles will also be explained in the next few chapters.



Chapter 36-40

Chapter 36-40 Summary

In chapter thirty-six Richard and Bernadine are still making their way through the keep.

Tobias is following the mriswith and someone who calls herself a Sister of the Light. Tobias confides in Lunetta that some of the things that the Creator is telling him lately has him confused. Meanwhile, Richard and Bernadine happen upon a mriswith in the Wizard's Keep that again refers to Richard as a skin brother and asks if he has come to wake the sliph. The mriswith leaves quickly and Richard and Bernadine find a body that has been in the Keep a long time. Richard take the journal that the person had been writing in as he and Bernadine leave the Keep. Once out of the Keep and reunited with his other guards, Richard and the group go back to the Confessor's Palace. One the way they happen upon the old woman and her granddaughter selling honey cakes. The woman introduces herself as Valdora and introduces her granddaughter Holly.

As chapter thirty-eight begins, Verna goes into her office and finds Leoma in there. Before Verna can demand an explanation, everything goes black. Meanwhile, Annalina is leaving Nathan for the next part of her plan. Nathan warns her not to get herself killed. As Annalina enters the streets, a small girl offers her a honey cake and Annalina pays her with a coin from the Palace of Prophets. Annalina suddenly feels sick and goes down. Valdora appears and tells Annalina that she was the young woman that Annalina kicked out of the Palace for wielding spells that were forbidden. Valdora promises to give Annalina pain and then death. Her small granddaughter Holly is helping. As Annalina passes out, she tells Holly that she forgives her.

In chapter thirty-nine Kahlan and Adie are running. Kahlan realizes that this is what Jebra had meant when she saw Kahlan running around in circles. The others went on to the city while Kahlan headed back with Addie. Kahlan fights with everything she has but in the end, she and Addie are captured as well as a guard that had been traveling with them. Addie and Kahlan have Rada'Hans put on their necks. Tobias begins to cut off Kahlan's nipple when the mriswith tells him that the master wants Kahlan alive. The mriswith warns Kahlan and Addie that if they speak he will cut out their tongues.

In chapter forty Annalina is crying as she prays that the person destined to arrive comes to save her in time. Holly tells her grandmother that she doesn't want to hurt Annalina for no reason and leaves to go play outside. Meanwhile, Zedd and Gratch are flying ever closer to Aydindril when Zedd, exhausted, loses control of his power momentarily, forcing him and Gratch to land on top of the Keep. When they land they are attacked by mriswith and Zedd is knocked unconscious. Gratch goes over the edge of the Keep with the mriswith.

Holly brings in Zedd to Valdora, telling her what has happened. Valdora says she will kill Zedd and Holly is upset because she had wanted to help Zedd. Annalina realizes that



this is the wizard that the prophecy said was going to come and help her. Holly leaves the Keep again as Valdora raises her knife to kill Annalina. Before she can kill her, Nathan puts a sword through Valdora. Holly knows that her grandmother had been mean and agrees to go with Annalina. Annalina puts a collar on Zedd, with Nathan's help, although Nathan warns her that it might be more trouble than she knows since Zedd is so powerful.

Chapter 36-40 Analysis

Valdora had seemed that she might be a protagonist at the beginning of the story. The fact that she murdered the man that Tobias left to torture her was unnerving in the manner that it was done, but seemed to be forgivable largely because the man's intentions had been so vicious. Holly will stay with Annalina for the rest of the story.

The crash that Zedd and Gratch underwent seemed to be a negative event in many respects, but it will prove to be an event that ultimately helped to save their cause.

Nathan tells Annalina that one like Zedd has never been collared before. Nathan hates wearing the collar. The relationship between him and Annalina is a very unique one. The relationship that they have could be compared to that of a husband and wife or perhaps a brother and sister. The true feelings that they have for each other is not ever explained.

Zedd will prove to be much more of a problem than she ever anticipated. Annalina believes that she is manipulating people in order to better help the prophecies come to a end that helps humanity. At the very end of the story, it will be revealed that Annalina too may be being manipulated without her realizing it.



Chapter 41-45

Chapter 41-45 Summary

Chapter forty-one continues as Zedd awakens. Upon talking to Nathan, they both realize that they are relatives of Richard's. Zedd tells Annalina to remove the collar. He tries to do magic but she is able to control his ability through the Rada'Han that she has placed on his neck. Despite her control, Zedd is still able to have a little control. Zedd tells Annalina that he has broken the truce that wizards have with Sister's of the Light by putting him in that collar. He warns her that any Sister of the Light found will be put to death. He promises to lay waste to her home of the Palace of the Prophets if she takes him away in the collar. Meanwhile, Verna awakes naked in a cell. She has her clothes by her and finds that she is wearing a Rada'Han. She had managed to save the journey book from being found because it was sewn into a small pocket of her dress, but she has nothing else. She knows she has to escape.

In chapter forty-two, Verna is still in the cell after two long weeks. Verna had written a note to Annalina but all she received back was a note saying that she must escape and then nothing else had come through. The door opens and Leoma enters and tells Verna that she has been convicted of being a Sister of the Dark. Sister Ulicia has returned with the other five Sisters and have cleared their names. Ulicia is now the prelate and they found Warren, put his Rada'Han back on him and have had him confess to the prophecy he wrote. Verna asks Leoma what she wants explaining that it is obvious that Leoma is a Sister of the Dark. Leoma says that Jagang can't touch anyone that has sworn themselves to Richard and wants Verna to denounce her bond to him as an experiment.

In chapter forty-three Bernadine has translated much more of the book that was recovered from the Wizard's Keep. It talks about the Wizard's Third Rule: Passion rules reason.

Chapter forty-four continues with Annalina, Zedd, and Nathan making camp. Zedd had managed to cast a spell over the travel journal so that Annalina could not open it without fear that she would die. Zedd lays down to go to sleep but warns her that if both her and Nathan fall asleep during the night then he will kill Annalina. Nathan assures Annalina that while he would do almost anything to get the collar off he would not allow Zedd to harm her. Nathan reminds Annalina that the prophecy says she has to bring the wizard angry and that she is doing a very good job of it. Meanwhile, Richard and Bernadine still work to translate the book they found in the Keep. They have discovered that the sliph is used for transportation and whatever it is referred to as female. At the same time Tobias is talking to Lunetta about the instructions given to him by the creator. Tobias confides in his sister that he believes the Creator has gone insane.

In chapter forty-five Kahlan arrives as a prisoner at the Palace of the Prophets. Addie and Kahlan decide that Kahlan must be the bait that Jagang hopes to use to lure



Richard to the Palace. Addie tells Kahlan that Lunetta is odd because she touches her power all the time. She is not sure how or why. It drains most wizards or sorceresses to do that, but Lunetta is never out of contact with her power. Lunetta begins moving Kahlan and Addie to the Palace. Tobias comes up and Kahlan tells him that the Creator won't allow him to put his filthy hands on her. Tobias reaches out to her but his sister grabs his hand to stop him. A Sister from the Palace comes to take Kahlan and Addie to their rooms. The woman tells Kahlan that her name is Merissa and that while here, she and Richard had been lovers. After Merissa leaves, Addie comforts Kahlan and tells her that Richard would not have done that and Merissa is only trying to hurt Kahlan.

Chapter 41-45 Analysis

Leoma has given Verna a lot of opposition throughout the story. It does not come as a large surprise that Leoma is a Sister of the Dark. Jagang told the six Sisters of the Dark that he had further use for them. It was not clear at first that he intended to send them back to the Palace of the Prophets, but it is obvious how his plan is beginning to fit together. The prophecies that are given have 'forks' where the prophecy could go one direction or another. Each side works to have the prophecies go in a way that works in their best interest. That is part of the reason that Annalina is working so hard to ensure that when they arrive at the Palace of the Prophets that Zedd is angry, because of the prophecy. Ulicia is now revealed as the false prelate.

The torture that Verna is forced to go through by Leoma is not detailed. Leoma has never been forced from the Palace and outed as a Sister of the Dark, but it is clear that she suffers from the visions of the dream walker the same as the other people that have not sworn fealty to Richard. In the next chapters, Verna will help put much more of this to the test.

The third rule, passion rules reason, is a hard rule for Richard to come to understand. He will try to rule with reason, remembering the story of a mother that died trying to save her drowning son because she would not wait for the boat that was coming. The child was saved but the woman's body was never found. The image of her being pulled under the current will continually be something that Richard thinks of when he feels that he is putting his passion before reason.



Chapter 46-50

Chapter 46-50 Summary

In chapter forty-six Richard decides to use the sliph to travel. Bernadine yells at Richard as he is riding away to take off his cape but he ignores her, feeling that the cape is too important to leave it behind. Meanwhile Tobias and Lunetta are in the Palace of the Prophets. Tobias is talking to Lunetta and explains that through his actions the Creator has shown himself to be a baneling because it was the Creator that created the gift. Back at the Wizard's Keep, Richard uses his magic to awaken the sliph. A pool of what looks like quicksilver rises up. A woman's face appears in the liquid metal and asks where Richard would like to go. He tells her the Old World, where the Palace of the Prophets are. She agrees to take him but tells him that he cannot take the Sword of Truth because of its magic saying it would kill any living thing inside of her. Richard takes a weapon from a mriswith in the Keep and enters the sliph.

In chapter forty-seven Verna hears voices and the housekeeper, Millie, enters her cell with Leoma behind her. Millie is complaining that it is not her job to touch filthy people that belong to the Keeper such as Verna. Millie is trying to clean up some of the filthiness when she pushes Verna's leg with her rag. Verna touches beside her leg and feels a dactra that Millie slipped beside her. Millie suddenly spits in Verna's face, telling her not to be looking at honest people that way and Verna knows that she must have been wide eyed. After Millie leaves, Verna waits until Leoma is close enough and stabs Leoma with it. Leoma knows that she will die before she has a chance to kill Verna and agrees to answer her questions and take the Rada'Han off of Verna.

Elsewhere, Richard comes out of the sliph and is in a trance and unknowingly allows the mriswith queen to go back through the sliph to Aydindril. Merissa appears, saying that she is going to kill Richard, but Richard is able to escape after hearing that Kahlan is in the Palace of the Prophets.

In chapter forty-eight Leoma has named all of the Sisters of the Dark. Verna is told about Jagang's plans and she then kills Leoma after she refuses to forsake the Keeper. Verna begins rounding up the Sisters of the Light and Millie in order to escape. Richard makes it to the Palace and tries to go see the Prelate Annalina. He arrives and finds Ulicia there instead. They tell Richard that they will swear their loyalty to him so that he can free them from Jagang's hold in return for information about Kahlan's location. Richard is desperate and agrees. Ulicia and the others head toward the Lady Sefa to exact their revenge on the crew.

In chapter forty-nine Kahlan and Addie attack Lunetta and throw her dress into the fire. Tobias suddenly realizes that it was not Lunetta that had the gift but him. Tobias says he is the new Creator and Lunetta kills Tobias, calling him a baneling. Galtero comes in and kills Lunetta and Kahlan runs Galtero through. In the library, Zedd, after hearing the reason he is there, agrees to help Annalina and try to destroy the Palace.



Chapter fifty Adie and Kahlan meet up with Verna. Verna goes to free Warren and Kahlan goes back into the castle and finds Richard. Once Verna is outside, she tells everyone to bond to Richard to be free of Jagang's reach.

Chapter 46-50 Analysis

Although Sister Leoma names the Sisters of the Dark, there are not any names given. Annalina will kill one woman that was pregnant. She is conflicted in herself because she knows that the woman might have been innocent but also knows that to take the chance was not worth it since she gave orders to Verna to have the true Sisters of the Light cleared out of the Palace.

The castle is shrouded in magic that slows the aging process. It becomes clear that Jagang wants the palace so that he can slow his own aging process to the point that he can take over the world.

Zedd had become calm when he reached the Palace of the Prophets and had refused to help Annalina destroy the building. He told her that he had been played for a dancing form but he just doesn't know the tune. Annalina is forced to explain to him what Jagang's plans are. At that moment Zedd is most willing to help and does the best he can. The prophecy had said that the wizard that was going to destroy the Palace had to be angry. The fact is that when Zedd agreed to help he was no longer angry.

Ulicia and the other Sisters of the Dark swear just enough loyalty to Richard in order to be free of Jagang. Richard's concern is that he let them escape and that they will continue to do harm and work for the keeper. Despite their ability to do harm to the world, Richard decides that a limited union is necessary under the circumstances.



Chapter 51-54

Chapter 51-54 Summary

In chapter fifty-one Richard is fighting and sets off the trap that Zedd created. From outside, Zedd and Annalina watch the explosion but are unsure what caused it. Nathan has disappeared and Annalina can find only his collar. She refuses to free Zedd until he helps her find Nathan. Holly goes with the other Sisters of the Light.

In chapter fifty-two Richard and Kahlan go through the sliph back home and Richard tells the sliph to sleep again. Richard is able to kill the queen mriswith and all her eggs that she had laid on the Wizard's Keep.

In chapter fifty-three Richard finds a battle being fought, and the D'Haran's are losing because of mriswith that have come through the sliph. Richard tries to fight with his people but there are too many mriswith. Gratch suddenly arrives with an army of gars. They soon kill all the mriswith. The D'Haran's fight until the Blood of the Fold surrenders. Richard agrees to give them mercy in the hopes that others will surrender rather than causing more loss of life. After the battle is over, Gratch shows Richard that he has a mate and leaves with the other gars.

In chapter fifty-four Richard finds that several of the lands have brought forth the surrender documents to Richard after seeing his defeat of the Blood of the Fold. Meanwhile Ann and Zedd are tracking Nathan. They are staying in a tavern and Ann has gone to bed. Someone asks Zedd about his strange necklace that doesn't seem to have a clasp. Zedd corrects them and shows them the clasp by taking it off and then putting it back on. Zedd then begins a story he knows about the wonderful Lord Rahl.

Chapter 51-54 Analysis

Ulicia and the other Sisters of the Dark that escape are not seen again after leaving the Palace. It is certain that they killed the captain and crew of the Lady Sefa but their direction or plans after that moment are not explained. This book is the third in the Sword of Truth series and it appears that there are many things that are left unanswered and will most likely be left to another book in the series.

The mriswith and the gars are both creatures of magic. Their true identities and origins were not explained until close to the end of the book. The reason that the mriswith were willing to help him seems to be because they wanted him to help them free their queen. Richard had thought it might be Kahlan that they were talking about when they first said he needed to help the queen. It was not known by Richard at that point that the mriswith had a queen. Jagang's plans have been slowed, but it seems unlikely that he will consider abandoning his plans to rid the world of magic.



Annalina doesn't know how Nathan got the collar off. It seems that Zedd and Annalina are following Nathan after the story that Zedd tells about the tracker cloud. The reason that Zedd continues on the road with Annalina is not known. The reason that Zedd does not tell her that he can remove his own collar, or how, are also not known. It seems that Zedd is attempting to use Annalina just as she has used others.

The statement that they are going to be killed was not an immediately death. Nathan had meant that they would all be dead because they would lose the Palace as their home where the Sisters live easily a thousand years. It is seen that many of the Sisters are heartbroken and panicked at the thought of losing their home toward the end of the story despite the fact that they know it must be done.



Characters

Richard Rahl

Richard Rahl is the main protagonist in the story. Richard defeated his father, Darken Rahl, in a previous story and Richard finds that he is now the new Lord Rahl. Because of an ancient spell set down from Richard's distant relative, Richard is magically bonded to the D'Haran people. Anyone who is bonded to Richard is beyond control of the dream walkers. Richard only becomes aware of his role as the new Lord Rahl when several of the servants that had been forced to Darken Rahl's service find him and swear their loyalty. Richard had given them their freedom after he defeated Darken Rahl. These servants had decided that they would use their freedom to protect and serve Richard in his quest to stop the Imperial Order.

Richard believes that each person should have some freedom in their life. The D'Harans that Richard has bonded to him at first do not seem to comprehend how Richard's motives are any different than his father's. Richard is even told at one point in the story that Darken Rahl wanted to rule the world and Richard is looking to take over the world. Richard, however, knows that if the Imperial Order is allowed to come to power than the people under their rule will suffer greatly. The Imperial Order also wishes to put to death any that oppose them or any that have a magical gift. Because of this, Richard is willing to fight. There are some that say that they simply want to be left alone and don't want to fight on either side. Richard explains that they will either join the D'Haran's or they will be considered an enemy and linked with the Imperial Order.

Richard carries many burdens. He a war wizard, the first to be born is several thousands of years. Richard is also a Seeker and carries the Sword of Truth. Richard continues to feel that people are following him only because they are bonded to him and that they doubt his sanity and Richard doubts their true loyalty since they feel no friendship toward him.

Richard is very intelligent but is quick to act without looking at all the consequences. The wizards Third Rule is that passion rules reason. Richard remembers that he saw a mother jump out into the water to save her child rather than wait for a boat. The child was saved but the mother drowned because her passion ruled her reason. Richard often compares his own actions to that mother that was drug beneath the water's currents.

Verna

Verna is a Sister of the Light. Those that live at the Palace of the Prophets do not age as quickly as everyone else. This is in order to give them ample time to learn to fully use their abilities. Verna had been away from the Palace for many years while she looked for Richard and so looks much older than some of the girls who were born before her.



Verna is named the next prelate at the Palace of Prophets, although she doesn't want the position. Verna is very worried that there are many more Sisters of the Dark at the Palace. Verna looks on the position as a prison. The prelate wears a ring to symbolize her authority and position. Verna says that she is in a prison that is tied with a gold ring.

Verna feels that the former prelate, Annalina, had been trying to control Verna's life and manipulate her. Verna holds a very dear spot for Annalina in her heart and so she feels very bitter toward Annalina for leaving the office to her and for the other actions that Annalina took to control Verna's foot steps without informing Verna of her actions.

Verna eventually becomes imprisoned by the Sisters of the Dark who hold a tribunal and convict Verna of being a Sister of the Dark. There are those in the Palace still loyal to Verna and she is able to escape and get the names of the other Sisters of the Dark.

Verna feels that she is old and has lost her youth but Warren continues to see what is on the inside of Verna. When Verna leaves the Palace she leaves with Warren after they have admitted how much they care for each other. Verna continues to be the prelate for the True Sisters of the Light.

Annalina

Annalina was the prelate before Verna took the position. Annalina had discovered the presence of Sisters of the Dark in the Palace and had been attacked by the Sisters of the Dark shortly after her announcing her knowledge of their presence. Annalina faked her own death and left a spell that would ensure Verna would take over as Prelate at the Palace of Prophets. Annalina escaped with the Prophet Nathan, heading toward Aydindril in the hopes of finding a wizard of the First Order to help them destroy the Palace.

Annalina continually meddles in the lives of others, trying to affect their choices without letting them know. Toward the end of the story, it seems that Zedd may also be using Annalina in some capacity.

Kahlan Amnell

Kahlan Amnell is the Mother Confessor, the previous leader of the Midlands. Kahlan was imprisoned in an earlier book in the series and sentenced to death, so Zedd put a spell on Kahlan that would shield her true identity from anyone. Kahlan is captured by Tobias and taken to the Palace of the Prophets. Kahlan meets back up with Richard at the Palace. Kahlan becomes the Mother Confessor once again after her and Richard head back to Aydindril.



Tobias Brogan

Tobias is a member of the Blood of the Fold. He believes that all magic is evil and comes from the Keeper. Tobias listens to the one that he sees in his dreams believing it is the Creator. Tobias finally begins to doubt the Creator and eventually declares himself the new Creator. Tobias discovers that his sister has kept hidden from him the fact that he has magic. When he fully embraces this magic as a gift and his power, his sister kills him for being a baneling.

Lunetta Brogan

Lunetta is the sister of Tobias. She has the gift of magic, although her brother has taught her that it is the taint of the Keeper. Lunetta uses the magic she has to try and serve her brother and the keeper. When her brother at last goes insane, Lunetta is forced to kill her brother. She is then killed by his man, Galtero. Lunetta always wears an odd rag dress that she calls her pretties.

Warren

Warren has spent most of his life studying at the Palace of the Prophets. He is the only one at the Palace that Verna truly trusts. Verna and Warren have an argument and Verna is told the next day that Warren left because of what was said. Verna finds later that Warren has been taken prisoner.

Ulicia

Ulicia is the leader of the Sisters of the Dark that attacked Prelate Annalina. Ulicia eventually becomes the false prelate that is spoken of in the prophecy given by Warren. Ulicia and the other Sisters of the Dark swear a weak bond to Richard in order to be free of Jagang but still not be forced to serve Richard or give up serving the Keeper.

Jagang

Jagang is the dream walker. He is the first to be born in over three thousand years. Jagang's plan is to take over the Palace of the Prophets where he can study and influence the prophecies' directions and rid the world of magic. While he lives in the Palace, his aging process will be slowed. Jagang often takes the form of the Creator to people he visits. He enslaves those with the gift using magic to destroy magic.

Millie

Millie is the housekeeper at the Palace of the Prophets. Millie had been friends with Annalina. Before Annalina's death, she entrusted her prelate ring to Millie and told her



what to do with to set up the spell that chose Verna as the next prelate. Millie slips Verna a dakra while cleaning out her cell after Verna has been found guilty of being a Sister of the Dark.

Valdora

Valdora had been at the Palace of Prophets when she was younger but had refused to stop casting glamor spells and so was kicked out of the Palace. Valdora, now an old woman, tries to kill Annalina for putting her out of the Palace and thus taking her youth from her. Valdora is killed by Nathan.

Holly

Holly is the granddaughter of Valdora. After her grandmother is killed, Holly leaves to go with Annalina to learn to be a Sister of the Light. This little girl is the one that sells honey cakes to Richard and others on the streets of Aydindril.

Galtero

Galtero is a member of the Blood of the Fold. He travels with Tobias and Tobias' sister, Lunetta. Galtero kills Lunetta after she kills Tobias.

Nathan Rahl

Nathan had been the Prophet in the Palace of Prophets for the past many centuries. He is traveling with Annalina. He is a past relative of Richard Rahl on Richard's biological father's side. Nathan disappears at the end of the story, although Annalina doesn't know how Nathan was able to remove his collar.

Zeddicus Zu'l Zorander

Zeddicus is Richard's grandfather on his mother's side. He is a wizard of the First Order. Annalina puts a collar on Zedd and takes him with her back to the Palace of the Prophets in the hopes that Zedd can destroy the Palace before Jagang takes over. Zedd fights Annalina and protests being in a collar, but at the end of the story Zedd shows someone that he can remove the collar and replace it. Zedd's reasons for going with Annalina are not explained.



Objects/Places

The Palace of the Prophets

This is the place where the Sisters of the Light live. It is this place that Jagang wants to take control of because of its vast library of the prophecies and because of the spell that slows down aging. The Sisters are heart sick when they must destroy it but each of them knows that if Jagang were able to rule for a thousand years it would be much worse than their home being destroyed. This is also the place where Kahlan and Addie are taken when they are captured by Tobias.

Wizard's Keep

The Wizard's Keep is a magical building in Aydindril where the wizards had lived with their families centuries ago. It is in here that Richard finds the sliph. This is also the place that Annalina is tortured by Valdora. This is also where the mriswith queen lays her eggs.

Dacra

A dacra is a dagger that is used by the Sisters of the Light. A dacra can take the magic out of a person after it punctures their skin. The dacra doesn't have to be somewhere vital. It is a dacra that Millie slips to Verna while she is in the cell accused of being a Sister of the Dark.

Gratch

Gratch, a gar, is Richard's friend. Richard raised Gratch from a baby. Gratch is able to sense mriswith because they were created by an distant relative of Richards to combat the mriswith. Gratch brings a company of gars to fight beside the D'Harans at Aydindril.

Mriswith

Mriswith are scaley creatures that become invisible. It is discovered that they used to be wizards that developed the ability to become invisible. It is the mriswith queen that Richard inadvertently frees after he travels through the sliph.

Sword of Truth

The Sword of Truth is Richard's sword that he uses in his role as the Seeker. The sword sings with him through magic when Richard does battle. It is the sword that allows



Richard to win the loyalty of the D'Haran armies in Aydindril. Richard uses the Sword of Truth to plunge into the sliph to kill Merissa.

Lady Sefa

The Lady Sefa is a ship that takes Ulicia and the other Sisters of the Dark to meet Jagang. The crew of the Lady Sefa are allowed to use the Sisters as whores. Ulicia and the others eventually have their revenge and the Lady Sefa is seen being blown up.

Honey Cakes

Honey Cakes are the items that Holly and Valdora sell at their street side stand. It is one of the Honey Cakes that Holly gives to Annalina that poisons her.

Rada'Han

A Rada'Han is a collar that is put on those with the magic ability to allow others to control their magic. A Rada'Han is placed on Kahlan, Addie, Verna, Nathan and Zedd. Nathan appears to have been able to remove his Rada'Han although it was not seen. Zedd is shown removing his Rada'Han and putting it back on although he shouldn't be able to do such things.

Prophecy

There are many prophecies given during the story. The importance of the prophecies is that they can be altered. The ability to control these prophecies is the reason that Jagang wants to occupy the Palace of the Prophets.



Themes

Friendship

Friendship is continually focused on throughout the story. Richard has the loyalty and the bond of the Mord-Sith and the D'Haran troops in Aydindril. Despite this, Richard is not comforted by it because he knows that these people are not following him because they think him right or agree with him. He seems to view their bond more as a need or a job rather than their desire. Richard has Gratch with him and this is the only one that Richard counts as his true friend when he first becomes Lord Rahl to the D'Harans. When Richard is forced to send Gratch to Kahlan to make sure she is safe he suddenly realizes how alone he feels. Gratch's friendship meant a lot to Richard.

Friendship is also looked at again when Bernadine begins to talk to Richard of her true feelings. She has sworn herself to Richard, but she still believed that at some point she would be called to his bed or forced to do something for him. When he proves that he does not want this, Bernadine bonds herself to him again without the need of a bond, but in friendship. This becomes very important for Richard.

Annalina is also in the need of friendship in the story. She loves Verna like a daughter and she cares for Nathan very much, but her role in their lives has left her feeling that she cannot be forgiven by Verna and that Nathan is not her true friend. Annalina doesn't say so but it seems that part of the reason that she keeps Zedd around is because she doesn't want to be alone.

Verna also is desperate to feel that there is someone she can trust. The ones that end up being the most important to her are Warren and Millie. Both of these people risk what they have to help her. Without their friendship, she would not have been able to get away.

Passion versus Reason

The wizards third rule is explained as passion versus reason. Richard doesn't seem to understand this at first until he thinks of a woman that he know. The woman didn't know how to swim but she jumped into the water to save her drowning son rather than waiting on a boat that was coming. The woman drowned and her son was pulled safely to the shore. The woman was so overcome with passion that she was not able to reason things out. Richard often thinks of himself in comparison to the woman that he saw going under the water.

Passion versus reason is seen several times in the story. Tobias is a prime example of a character that is so overcome with passion that he cannot see reason. Tobias feels that his duty in life is to help the Creator and get rid of magic and all those that serve the keeper. Tobias is so blinded by the thought that he is being pious and doing the work of the Creator that he cannot fathom that he is following something that might not be good.



He is so certain of his own purity that when he discovers that he can wield magic he no longer claims that magic is a taint but that he in fact must be the creator that must stand in judgment.

Merissa is another character that lets her passion rule her reason. Merissa wants Richard Rahl dead at all costs. She knows that he is dangerous and has a chance to escape with the other Sisters of the Dark after destroying the Lady Sefa, but Merissa goes after Richard instead. It is this passion that costs her her life.

Freedom

Freedom is a constant theme throughout the story. Richard is fighting to conquer the world, just as the Imperial Order is doing. The difference between Richard and the Imperial Order is that Richard wants his people to live in freedom and not have to worry about being under the vicious rule of the Imperial Order. Although everyone in the story seems to have to answer to someone, the importance of choosing where you are going to be and what you will fight for becomes increasingly important. That appears to be part of the reason that Verna fights so much against the position she has been put in by Annalina, Verna feels that she has no freedom or choice in the matter.

When the Mord-Sith first find Richard, they explain that they were given their freedom and that have chosen to come and serve him and protect him. It is only a short time later that one of the Mord-Sith dies. She tells Richard while she lays dying that although she had freedom for only a short period of time, that it was worth the price paid.

Jagang is also fighting for freedom, although he is determined that it is magic that has bound men. This freedom is a freedom of the mind rather than a freedom to have choices. Jagang talks of being free of magic while he has enslaved thousands and killed thousands more.



Style

Point of View

The point of view in the story will change between different groups of characters. The story is told in third person with a point of view that is limited to the person or group that is focused on. In the beginning of the story the point of view will stay with the same person or group for at least one chapter and sometimes for several chapters. As the story comes to an end and the story begins to speed up the chapters will switch and have several different point of views that are given in each chapter.

The point of view in the story is not limited to the protagonist and there are several different antagonist that are viewed. The main protagonist is Richard Rahl and all the points of view link back to Richard and the battle that he is fighting.

Since the story is told in the third person point of view the feelings of others are often left to interpretation but the author includes obvious information that gives a clear indication of what is being felt. An example of this is seen when Kahlan tells Zedd how angry she is with Richard. Her feelings are not explored first hand but through her conversation with Zedd.

Setting

The setting in the story takes place in a fictional land. The setting could easily be described medieval times although there is no type of date given. Often the characters talk about events that happened hundreds or thousands of years ago but there aren't any dates that are explained. There is a lot of magic and unique creatures explained in the story. Gratch is a gar and from the description given it appears that a gar could be roughly described as a dragon.

There are several different settings that are seen in the story. Richard spends a great deal of time in the story in Aydindril at the Confessor' Palace. This is where Richard demands the surrender of the Midlands to Lord Rahl and the D'Harans. This is also the city where the Wizard's Keep is located. Another setting that is often seen in the story is the Palace of the Prophets. This is where Verna is with the other Sister's of the Light. This is also the place that Jagang wishes to capture so that he can slowly take over the world and rid it of magic.

The author gives large amounts of details to certain places or events but there are some places that are not described in much detail. There are some places that are linked to past events, some of which took place in other books in the series. The author links those together and often gives explanations of how things are related to each other.



Language and Meaning

The language in the story is straightforward, informal and typically is very easily understood. The characters in the story often joke around with each other and use sarcasm that seems to be banter that would be common in modern society but there are other aspects that are very unique to this book. The prophecies that are given and some of the spells that are recited are very formal. They have a structure that almost makes some of them resemble types of poetry. The characters in the story explain that these prophecies are not easily understood because, while they are always truthful, your interpretation of what they mean might not be the truth of their meaning.

There are words that have been created that are unique to the book, such as mriswith, Mord-Sith, baneling, and many others. In addition to the vocabulary that has been created there are some words that are used in a unique context in this book. The words Creator and Keeper refer to what could be called God and the Devil or Good and Evil. Mother Confessor is the title that Kahlan has. This term is made up of words that are widely understood but their meaning in *The Sword of Truth* is different.

Structure

Blood of the Fold by Terry Goodkind consists of 623 pages and is divided into fifty-four chapters. The chapters vary in length and typically end and begin with the start and ending of significant scenes. The chapters, and interruptions within chapters, each contain a drawing of a sword, presumably the Sword of Truth. The story also contains a map at the beginning of the story that gives a detailed description of the lay of the land explaining the relationship between the lands that the characters visit. This helps the comprehension in regards to how important it is to know that Richard left Aydindril, went to the Palace of Prophets in Tanimura, and returned within two days.

Often the story will seem to be a little slow because the author spends a lot of information explaining past events that will tie into events later in the series or were important in past books. These descriptions do make it easier to feel that you have a more complete sense of what the characters have been through and some of the reasons for their reactions, such as the reason that the Mord-Sith. Richard often spends time remembering the details of a Mord-Sith training, such as the fact that they were forced to kill their own fathers as part of their training. Bernadine also talks to Richard of her past with Darken Rahl and the way that she was violated by Darken Rahl. This information has very little to do with the events that unfold but are seemingly necessary for making the Mord-Sith realities believable.



Quotes

"In a haze of simmering rage that rose at the thought of the people murdered by the mriswith, he whispered to himself, 'I vow to give this dream walker nightmares.'"

Chap. 3, p. 35

"Tobias Brogan loved his sister-loved her enough to slit her throat himself, if need be, to free her from the Keeper's tendrils, from the torment of his taint, if it ever slipped the bounds of control."

Chap. 4, p. 38

"Richard hadn't anticipated their choice when he had declared the Mord-Sith free from the shackles of the discipline; having their freedom, they chose to be his guardians, and were fiercely protective of him."

Chap. 8, p. 80

"He knew what Mord-Sith were; he knew some of the things the D'Harans had done; he knew some of the things the representatives of some of the lands here had done; yet he was foolish enough to believe they could do right if given the chance."

Chap. 19, p. 215

"Nathan and I believe Jagang is what was called in the ancient war a 'dream walker'."

Chap. 30, p. 351

"If such a man were to see you, understand who you were, and name you aloud, then it would break the spell, and all would once again know your identity."

Chap. 33, p. 386

"He looked down at the bones, wondering what this wizard had been doing in this room, and what had kept it sealed, and worse yet, what had unsealed it."

Chap. 37, p. 426

"Now that you've got a wizard of the First Order, the true madness of this whole plan of yours begins."

Chap. 40, p. 453

"When the prelate and the Prophet are given to the Light in the sacred rite, the flames will bring to boil a cauldron of guile and give ascension to a false Prelate, who will reign over the death of the Palace of the Prophets."

Chap. 42, p. 471

"This foolhardy prophecy says you have to bring him angry, and you're doing a splendid job of it."

Chap. 44, p. 491

"Zedd, when the wizards of old began jealously guarding their power and refused to train young men with the gift so as to prevent a threat to their domination, the Sisters of



the Light were formed to help these young men lest they die."
Chap. 49, p. 553

"It all started before, in the ancient war,' Zedd began, 'when were created the ones called dream walkers."
Chap. 54, p. 623



Topics for Discussion

Describe the relationship between Annalina and Nathan. Speculate on the reasons why Nathan left his collar where Annalina could find it. Do you think he could have removed the collar at any time or do you think someone removed it for him? Explain.

Compare Zedd and Nathan. How do they differ? How are they similar? Why does Zedd choose to stay with Annalina? Speculate why Zedd chooses not to let Annalina know that he can remove the collar whenever he wants?

Why is Kahlan so angry that Richard disbanded the Midlands? Why is she able to forgive him?

Compare Lunetta to Tobias. When does it become obvious that Tobias has power? Why did Lunetta hide her true appearance? Why was Lunetta so loyal to Tobias?

The Mord-Sith are bonded to Richard after he defeats Darken Rahl. How does the relationship that Richard has with the Mord-Sith differ at the end of the story from that at the beginning of the story? What causes these changes?

Why did Merissa choose to go after Richard after she was free of Jagang rather than go with the other Sisters of the Dark? Why did the other Sisters of the Dark not go after Richard afterward?

Explain what it is that those living in the Palace feel that they have been robbed of their lives if they are not allowed to stay in the Palace. What was the significance of Valdora's response in the story?

Explain the importance of the prophecy that Warren gives in the story. What about the prophecy was misleading? What did each part of the prophecy mean?