

# **The Fires of Heaven Study Guide**

## **The Fires of Heaven by Robert Jordan**

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# Plot Summary

Elaida do Avriny a'Roihan is the new Amyrlin Seat and she is intent on two things, tracking down the rebel Aes Sedai that oppose her rule and bringing Rand Al'Thor, the Dragon Reborn, under the control of the White Tower. The Forsaken have their own plans for Rand. They intend to bait him into attacking one of their number, Sammael. If Rand does so, he will walk straight into a trap set by three others, Rahvin, Lanfear, and Graendal.

Siuana Sanche, the recently deposed Amyrlin Seat, sets off across the land in search of the seat of the rebellion. Min Farshaw, Leane Sharif, and Logain travel with her to the hidden city of Salidar, where the rebellion has set up a "Little Tower" to oppose Elaida. Siuan and Leane convince the rebels to begin the process of choosing a new Amyrlin to make their opposition to Elaida official.

Nynaeve al'Meara, Elayne Trakand, Thom Merrilin, and Juilin Sandar sneak out of Tanchico to begin their journey back to the White Tower and continue their hunt of the Black Ajah. After they are drugged and almost captured by a spy for the Yellow Ajah, they learn about the coup in the White Tower and resolve to locate the sisters of the rebellion. Nynaeve meets with Egwene in Tel'Aran'Rhiod, and together they investigate the papers of Elaida and her keeper Alviarin. They learn that Siuan and Leane have been stilled, an order for the arrest of Moiraine has been issued, and Elaida has announced an amnesty for any sisters who will return to the Tower and accept her rule. Nynaeve also learns the location of the rebellion. Nynaeve and Elayne arrive in Salidar and the sisters of the Little Tower waste little time in returning them to their status as lowly Accepted.

Rand Al'Thor has been given pledges of loyalty by several of the Aiel tribes. The Shaido, led by Couladin and Sevanna still resist, and have begun an invasion of Cairhien, with Couladin posing as the Dragon Reborn. The Shaido lay siege to Cairhien but Rand and his force of loyal Aiel break the siege. Mat Cauthon plays a leading role in the battle and kills Couladin. Rand is welcomed by the nobles of Cairhien but refuses to take the throne, stating that it belongs to Elayne Trakand.

A rumor arrives in Cairhien that Rahvin has killed Queen Morgase and now rules Caemlyn. Rand resolves to attack Rahvin and avenge Morgase, while at the same time securing Andor for Elayne. Before he sets off, Lanfear, furious when she learns about Rand's affair with Aviendha, attacks Aviendha and Egwene, forcing Rand to defend them. Moiraine intercepts Lanfear and manages to pull both Lanfear and herself through the ter'angreal to the world of the Aelfinn that Mat had used in Rhuidean. Lan can no longer feel Moiraine's presence and concludes she is dead.

Rand confronts Rahvin in Caemlyn and the two soon slip into Tel'Aran'Rhiod, dueling. Nynaeve captures another of the Forsaken, Moghedien, in Tel'Aran'Rhiod and, using a device to control Moghedien's ability to channel the One Power, uses the Forsaken to help Rand defeat Rahvin.



# Prologue-Chapter 3

## Prologue-Chapter 3 Summary

In the previous book, *THE SHADOW RISING*, Rand al'Thor, the Dragon Reborn, successfully staked his claim as Car'a'carn, leader of the Aiel. He wriggled out of a trap set by the Forsaken Asmodean and Lanfear. Asmodean, rendered helpless by a ward placed on his power by Lanfear, is now acting as Rand's advisor. Elayne and Nynaeve have stopped the Black Ajah from obtaining the male a'dam they wished to use to control Rand, but now the two women face a return to a White Tower that has divided in their absence. Elaida is the new Amyrlin Seat and is already taking steps to bring to heel the Aes Sedai who fled the tower after the deposing of Sivan Sanche. Sivan, Leane, and Min escaped the tower and set off into the world, searching for allies.

### Prologue

Elaida meets with her inner circle of advisors. They tell her about a strange calm that has descended over the Borderlands and the Blight. They mention the rebellion in Tarabon and the deposition of the Panarch Amathera. Elaida tells them that none of it is as important as laying their hands on al'Thor.

The Forsaken meet in Caemlyn, where one of them, Rahvin, has bewitched Queen Morgase and is acting as the ruler of Andor. Rahvin, Lanfear, Graendal, and Sammael review their position. Four Forsaken are dead or captured by al'Thor. They begin hatching a plan to bring al'Thor down.

### Chapter 1

Sivan, Leane, and Min are being held in a small town, awaiting the ruling of a local lord. They had sneaked into a barn on the previous night with Logain, but when the farmer discovered them, Logain fled and accidentally set fire to the barn. Gareth Bryne is by chance the lord who passes judgment on Sivan, Leane, and Min. Sivan and he have met before, but both Sivan and Leane have been altered by their stilling and now appear as young women. Bryne sentences the women to work off the debt on his estate. The women give their word that they will serve him well, but Logain intercepts them on their carriage ride to Bryne's estate, and helps them escape. Learning of their escape, Bryne resolves to take a small band of old fighters who are loyal to him in pursuit.

The High Lady Alteima of Tear visits Queen Morgase and sees firsthand how the Andoran Queen is bewitched by the man she knows as Gaebriel, who is actually the Forsaken Rahvin.

### Chapter 2



In Rhuidean, Rand meets with the Aiel chiefs that are loyal to him. They review how to get the rest of the septs to fall in line, and the chiefs tell Rand about "the Sickness," a wave of depression that has gripped the Aiel since Rand revealed the secrets of their lineage. The Sickness has cause some Aiel to throw down their weapons and abandon the Aiel system of honor, ji'e'toh.

### Chapter 3

Rand asks Asmodean if it would be possible to cleanse the taint from saidin, but Asmodean assures him that only the creator or the Dark Lord could do such a thing.

Down in the square, Mat is gambling with the Aiel, winning as usual. He attracts the attention of a beautiful Maiden of the Spear named Melindhra. Moiraine is supervising the transport of the angreal Rand discovered in Rhuidean, using the wagons of Kadere. When Rand arrives, Mat tells him that he is considering leaving with the wagons on their trip to Tar Valon.

## Prologue-Chapter 3 Analysis

The oath Sivan swears has been mentioned before in the series. It includes a promise that the one giving the oath will lose his or her hope for rebirth and salvation if the oath is broken. It is the strongest oath that can be given and breaking it is tantamount to incrimination as a Darkfriend. Min is shocked when Sivan gives it, but she and Leane have no choice but to follow suit. Sivan uses a trick of words to justify her flight from Bryne. In her mind, she is not breaking the oath because her promise included nothing about when exactly she would work off the debt. This will come back to haunt her later when the council of the little Tower in Salidar enforces Bryne's right to repayment.

The angreal that Rand found in Rhuidean were those entrusted to the ancestors of the Aiel by Aes Sedai during the breaking of the world. Knowledge of this responsibility came to Rand in visions when he entered Rhuidean in the previous book. The Aiel who abandoned the quest to guard the angreal eventually became the people known as Aiel today, while those that held to the quest, called the Jenn Aiel, founded Rhuidean, where they secreted the angreal, before dying off. When modern day Aiel refer to "failing the Aes Sedai" it is the loss of these artifacts to which they refer.



# Chapters 4-7

## Chapters 4-7 Summary

### Chapter 4

Rand had given Aviendha a bracelet made of ivory, to thank her for being his advisor. The Maidens of the Spear believed it to be a courting gift, and Aviendha is shamed by their assumption. She gives Rand a dragon belt buckle just to even the score. They are interrupted by the Darkfriend Isendre, who has been made a servant by the Maidens. Aviendha chases the women from Rand's room, believing that she came up there to try to get into his bed.

### Chapter 5

Egwene, Aviendha, and Moiraine meet with Aiel Wise Ones in their sweat tent. Moiraine tries to persuade the Wise Ones into talking Rand out of his plan to take the Aiel over the Dragonwall and seize Cairhein. They refuse. After Moiraine leaves, the Wise Ones command Aviendha to begin sleeping in the same room with Rand in order to learn his intentions. Egwene and Aviendha both protest but Aviendha eventually relents. Egwene tells them that she has not yet succeeded in finding Elayne or Nynaeve's dreams in Tel'Aran'Rhoid.

### Chapter 6

Rand lies in his chamber, nodding off, but he feels the approach of Shadowspawn. Rand skulks upstairs to an empty chamber to await the attack. Five Darkhounds materialize out of the shadows. He destroys them with balefire as Moiraine arrives. She asks immediately if the dogs touched them in any way, for even their saliva is poisonous. But Rand runs out of the chamber toward the building where Mat is sleeping. Mat's chamber door is under attack from three Darkhounds. The door is broken open in several places, but Rand kills the dogs with more balefire. Mat's arm is burning. He tells Moiraine that he thought the dogs dripped saliva on him as he was defending the door. When Moiraine tries to use the One Power to heal Mat, the fox head medallion he acquired when he went through the twisted ter'angreal in Rhuidean becomes icy cold, and Moiraine's weaves of the One Power will not touch him. He takes the medallion off and she heals him.

Moiraine begs Rand to listen to her advice and finally pledges that she will do everything Rand says if he will keep her close. Rand agrees and Moiraine tells him that he must avoid using balefire. It is banned by the White Tower and even the Forsaken dare not use it because it burns its target out of the pattern. The stronger the power used, the further back in time the target is erased, which is why the door of Mat's chamber is no longer compromised and his contact with the saliva of the Darkhound is not fatal.



Thinking that the attack might have been a diversion, Rand returns to his chambers and checks the hidden wall behind which he is keeping the two powerful ter'angreal he took from the square in Rhuidean. Lanfear appears and glimpses the statues. She tries to convince him to give her the female statue and work with her to take on the Dark Lord. She disappears when Aiel Clan Chiefs come looking for Rand to tell him that the Couladin is leading the Shaido toward Cairhein to preempt Rand's invasion.

## Chapter 7

Rand leads the Aiel out of Rhuidean to catch Couladin before he crosses the Dragonwall. Lan tells Moiraine that he has never seen her so worried and impatient.

## Chapters 4-7 Analysis

Aviendha is at this point already in love with Rand, but her reverence for ji'e'toh and her near-sister Egwene do not allow her to accept her feelings. She buries them in mock rage at Rand, which she fools herself into believing is a genuine result of his callousness and ignorance of Aiel customs. This is unfair to Rand, who though he is the Car'a'carn and new leader of the Aiel people, cannot be expected to understand the complex customs of a people he has just met. The bracelet, which Rand intended as a peace offering and not a courting gift, has created an imbalance in their relationship, at least in Aviendha's eyes, and she seeks to balance the scales so that she can dismiss the gift. Rand is not immune to Aviendha's charms. It is clear that, despite his feelings for Elayne, he is beginning to harbor equally strong feelings for Aviendha. He does not know that the new necklace that Aviendha is wearing is a gift from Egwene, and he is filled with jealousy when he sees it around her neck, not knowing what man may have given it to her.

Sammael has already used Darkhounds in *THE SHADOW RISING* to chase Moiraine, Lan, Perrin, Loial, and Faile from Illian. That Rand can now sense them as they approach shows that he has been using the One Power long enough to begin developing some of its side properties, one of which is the sensing of Shadowspawn like Darkhounds. Moiraine and Lan, as Aes Sedai and Warder, can both sense Shadowspawn as well, which explains why Moiraine is so quick to arrive on the scene despite Rand's foolhardy resolve to sneak off and meet the Darkhounds alone without raising an alarm.

The fox head medallion that Mat wears is a gift from the Aelfinn, the Snake people, who he visited when he traveled through the ter'angreal doorway in Rhuidean. The medallion was given to fulfill one of his requests, specifically that he be free of the influence of Aes Sedai.



# Chapters 8-11

## Chapters 8-11 Summary

### Chapter 8

Nynaeve, Elayne, Juilin, and Thom ride out of Tarabon, posing as dye merchants. On the border of Amadicia, they are stopped by a patrol of Whitecloaks, but Nynaeve convinces them that she is a simple merchant on her way to Andor. The Whitecloaks let them pass, and they camp that night on the edge of a town named Mardecin.

### Chapter 9

Nynaeve and Elayne stroll through Mardecin. Nynaeve recognizes an arrangement of flowers on an apothecary door as a signal that the shop owner has a message sent out by the Yellow Ajah in the White Tower. Nynaeve and Elayne enter the shop, which is run by a woman named Ronde Macura. Mistress Macura brews them tea, which they drink, and she tells them the message: "All sisters are welcome to return to the White Tower, the Tower must be whole and strong." This message makes no sense to Nynaeve and Elayne who do not yet know about the schism in the tower and the ousting of Sivan Sanche. They begin to ask questions but a sudden lethargy overtakes them. They attempt to channel and cannot. They blackout as Mistress Macura ties them up.

### Chapter 10

Elayne and Nynaeve are rescued by Thom and Juilin. When Nynaeve asks Ronde Macura how long she has been a Darkfriend, Macura protests bitterly. She says that she recognized Elayne from a description sent out by the Tower. It seems that the Amyrlin Seat herself wants Elayne brought in by any means necessary. Macura tells them that she used Forkroot tea to incapacitate the women. Nynaeve, an expert on herb lore, has never heard of it.

### Chapter 11

Sivan, Leane, Min and Logain enter Lugard, and Sivan pays a visit to Mistress Tharne, a message bearer for the Blue Ajah. Sivan does not reveal who she is to the women. She tells Mistress Tharne about the schism in the tower and asks if she has been given any messages to pass on to members of the Blue Ajah. Mistress Tharne says that she has been told a name and nothing more, "Sallie Daera."

## Chapters 8-11 Analysis

This is the first appearance of Forkroot tea in the series, but it will become a critical agent in dealing with channeling women. Nynaeve is embarrassed that she is ignorant of Forkroot, since she was the Wisdom of Emond's Field and an expert on herb lore. In





a way this reaction reveals Nynaeve's occasional arrogance and headstrong ways. After all, it is perfectly reasonable to expect that despite her thorough knowledge of medicinal herbs around Emond's Field, there may be hundreds of herbs and plants in the other lands of the world of which she is wholly ignorant.

Siuan is exhilarated by the news she learns in Lugard. She knows that Sallie Daera is not a person at all, but the name of a location, Salidar, an abandoned town in Altara. Aes Sedai who are stilled face bleak futures. Many of them lose the will to live and die soon after stilling. Some have taken husbands and started families in an attempt to restore meaning to their lives and avert this, but most Aes Sedai think of stilling as a death sentence. Siuan tells Min that she is using her crusade to gather support and depose Elaida to try to stave off the effects of the stilling. Leane is taking a different approach. Leane is a Domani woman. Domani women are notorious for their licentiousness, sexual skill, and ability to entrance and manipulate men. When she was an Aes Sedai, Leane was an atypical Domani woman, in that she did not indulge in men or use her significant seductive abilities. Her first warder had died many years ago and she never bonded another or married. After her stilling and the unexpected boon of her returned youth, Leane decides to become a Domani woman again. As they travel south in search of other Aes Sedai, Leane has been changing her appearance, using more provocative clothing and makeup. She has been practicing her seductive abilities on Logain and on various men they have met along the way, though she has not actually engaged in sexual relations with any of them. She tells Min that she hopes that relearning what it means to be a Domani woman will give her the kind of goal needed to stave off death. Min is somewhat scandalized by Leane's enterprise, as well as skeptical of its efficacy.



# Chapters 12-15

## Chapters 12-15 Summary

### Chapter 12

Gareth Bryne arrives in Lugard several days behind Suan, Min, Leane and Logain. After getting a positive identification of Suan he is told that his quarry left town heading west. Bryne tells his men they will pursue the women into Altara.

### Chapter 13

Elayne, Nynaeve, Juilin and Thom have changed disguises. Elayne is now pretending to be a noblewoman, Nynaeve her maid, and Juilin and Thom her footmen. Outside a town named Sienda they are stopped by a man named Valan Luca, who operates a traveling circus that is camped nearby. He asks Elayne if she will become his patron, but she refuses and they press on into Sienda.

### Chapter 14

Nynaeve meets with Birgitte, the hero from the Age of Legends in Tel'Aran'Rhoid. She asks Birgitte to try to find out what the Forsaken are planning, especially Moghedien. Birgitte leaves and Egwene arrives, accompanied by the Wise One Melanie. They update each other, Nynaeve telling Egwene about the incident with Ronde Macura; Egwene telling Nynaeve about Rand and the pursuit of the Shaido.

### Chapter 15

After Egwene and Melanie leave, Nynaeve dreams herself into the White Tower and begins searching the Amyrlin's study. It is much changed since she last saw it. Egwene arrives and chastises Nynaeve for her carelessness in Tel'Aran'Rhoid. The two of them begin trying to read official papers from the desks of the keeper and Amyrlin, a difficult task because in Tel'Aran'Rhoid the contents of the papers disappears in seconds. They learn that Elaida is now the Amyrlin, and that there is a standing order to arrest Moiraine and bring her to the White Tower on treason charges. Nynaeve reads something about a possible gathering of Blue Ajah rebels, but the page goes blank and she cannot remember the location she read.

Egwene awakens and goes to tell Moiraine what she and Nynaeve have learned.

## Chapters 12-15 Analysis

Valan Luca will enter the story in future books, once again as a facilitator of the flight of several main characters. Here he quickly becomes smitten with Nynaeve, who rebuffs his advances but at the same time finds herself thinking about how nice his calves are.



This is a difficult transitional time for Nynaeve. The Emond's Field children, who she cared for and watched over for years in the manner of an elder sister, have become adults. When she arrives in Tel'Aran'Rhiod, she is already in a foul mood, as she has been forced to pretend to be Elayne's servant for several days. Egwene's upbraiding about Nynaeve's carelessness takes the older woman by surprise and Nynaeve is forced to come to grips with the fact that Egwene is no longer her young apprentice but a capable woman, one who has already endured more hardship and peril than most people endure in their lives. Nynaeve is, for the first time, cowed, something that even Moiraine never managed but which will occur again later in the book, when Nynaeve feels herself responsible for Moghedien's assault on Birgitte.

The final scene in chapter 15 releases a great deal of tension. The main characters are split into many locations, and it has taken time for the important news of the coup in the White Tower to reach them.



# Chapters 16-19

## Chapters 16-19 Summary

### Chapter 16

The next day, Elayne is in the common room of the inn in which she, Nynaeve, Thom, and Juilin are staying, when she is approached by her half brother Galad, who was present at the battle that split the White Tower; Galad is now wearing the uniform of a Whitecloak captain. He urges her to let him escort her back to Caemlyn for her own safety. Elayne says she needs no escort, but Galad begins watching her movements and Elayne tells Nynaeve that they will have to sneak out of town or Galad will do whatever he has to do to ensure her safety, even arrest them.

### Chapter 17

Elayne, Nynave, Thom, and Juilin sneak out of town and approach Valan Luca, the owner of the circus, and offer to be his patrons if he will let them travel with him. Elayne tells Luca that she can walk the tightrope, which she does, using the One Power, and Thom impresses the man with his ability to juggle and eat fire. They tell Luca that Elayne is a noble woman whose brother wishes her to marry against her will, and that she is on the run from him. Luca agrees to allow them to join the circus as it moves through Amadicia to Altara and beyond.

### Chapter 18

Liandrin returns to a manor house in Amador, the capital of Amadicia, where she and other members of the Black Ajah are in hiding. She finds her other sisters in conference with a woman named Gyldin, who was a servant in the manor that the Black Ajah had used in Tanchico. The woman is actually Moghedien, who reveals her true identity to the women in the room, giving them all new assignments in service to the Dark Lord. Liandrin and four others she sets the task of finding Nynaeve Al'Maera.

### Chapter 19

In Caemlyn, Guardsman Lieutenant Tallanvor visits Morgase to tell her that there is news from the Two Rivers. Someone has raised the old banner of Manetheren, and Tallanvor suspects rebellion. Morgase consults Gaebriel on the matter, but he dismisses her, using the One Power to cloud her mind. Morgase leaves, but her will reasserts itself, and she begins to realize that she has few memories of the past year. She visits her old nurse, Lini, who confirms Morgase's suspicions. Over the last year, Gaebriel has, with Morgase's permission, exiled Morgase's closest allies and replaced most of the Royal Guard in Caemlyn with men loyal to him, and not to her. Morgase, sensing that she does not have enough power to challenge Gaebriel, resolves to sneak out of the city and gather those loyal to her in order to retake her throne. She summons young Tallanvor, who swears allegiance to her. She, Lini, and Tallanvor sneak out of the palace



to the inn of Basil Gill, a friend of Thom Merrill. There they enlist the help of a loyal brute named Lamgwin, and his lover Breane, an exiled Cairhenin noblewoman, along with Master Gill himself. Together, they sneak out of town in search of support.

Padan Fain sneaks into a storeroom in the White Tower to retrieve the dagger of Shadar Logath, to which he is bound. He is caught by Alviarin, Keeper of the Chronicles, and second in command to the Amyrlin Seat. They realize that they are both Darkfriends, and after some interrogation, Alviarin allows Fain to leave.

## Chapters 16-19 Analysis

When Elayne describes Galad to others she is quick to point out that he is not her full brother. They share the same father, but have different mothers. Galad is also the half-brother of Rand. He and Rand share the same mother. This means that while Galad is related to both Elayne and Rand, Elayne and Rand are not related to each other. When Rand first learns that he might be descended from the ruling family of Caemlyn, he is perturbed that he might be related to Elayne, with whom he had already begun an affair. The other thing Elayne always tells people about Galad, as an invective, is that he always does what he believes to be the right thing, no matter the consequences.

Morgase's strength of will finally allows her to break Rahvin's weave of coercion. Her actions over the last year, especially the exile of her closest allies, will have harsh consequences for her daughter Elayne, who will be forced briefly to defend Caemlyn without the support of many of the strongest houses in Andor.

Alviarin's position as the head of the Black Ajah is hinted at, but this is the first time the reader learns with certainty that she is a darkfriend. Still, Padan Fain considers himself above her. At one point, he calls her "girl," though Alviarin is far older than he.



# Chapters 20-23

## Chapters 20-23 Summary

### Chapter 20

Rand leads the Aiel through Kinslayer's Dagger in pursuit of Couladin and the Shaido. They approach the town of Taien on the Jangai Pass. The town is ravaged. The Shaido killed many and have hung their bodies on the walls of the town. They also took many of the citizens as gai'shain, a state of servitude the Aiel expect from those that are captured in battle. The Aiel Wise Ones tell Rand that taking non-Aiel, or wetlanders, as the Aiel call them, is against ji'e'toh.

### Chapter 21

Thinking Rand had not understood that her gift of the dragon buckle canceled debt between them, Aviendha presents him with another gift. It is the sword of king Laman, the Cairhienin king that the Aiel call the Treekiller, because he cut down the Avendesora tree that stood as a sign of the compact between the Aiel and Cairhienin. His actions started the Aiel War twenty years before. He was killed in combat and his sword captured. No Aiel wanted to keep it long, though it was encrusted with gems, and so it had been sold back and forth from person to person for two decades. Rand cares nothing for the gems, but he recognizes the blade as one wrought with the One Power, made in the Age of Legends.

### Chapter 22

That night, Mat and Melindhra are lounging in his tent when they hear a bird cry from the sentries announcing an attack. The camp is under attack from men and Trollocs. Rand exits his tent to see Aviendha moving toward a Draghkar in a trance. He destroys the thing with balefire. Aviendha turns toward him and hurls a ball of fire that seems to brush past his ear. He begins yelling at her until she points to the other Draghkar which was sneaking up behind him and which was burnt to ashes by her fireball. The Maidens who were supposed to be guarding Rand had joined the fight with the Trollocs. Now they presented their spears to him, ashamed that they fell for the distraction and allowed the Draghkar to get so close to him. He refuses their spears.

### Chapter 23

Rand and the Aiel ride out of Kinslayer's Dagger into the countryside around Cairhien. The maidens have fashioned dolls for themselves, and now carry them along with their spears, as a self-imposed punishment for their failure in the pass. The Aiel have a custom of taking a fifth part of the riches of any place they conquer. Rand tells them that he will allow them to take the fifth from Cairhien, with the exception of food, and he forbids them to ravage the land.



## Chapters 20-23 Analysis

Normally, when an Aiel is captured in battle, he or she enters a period of self-imposed servitude to his or her captor. During this period the Aiel in question is considered to be gai'shain, a servant and by legal status a child. Gai'shain carry no weapons and may not take part in any fighting. The relationship between gai'shain and captor is an integral part of ji'e'toh, the Aiel system of honor. The captured Aiel is expected to remain gai'shain for one year and one day, even if that means being the servant of a mortal enemy. It is also a point of ji'e'toh that the captor must treat the gai'shain appropriately. The gai'shain has the status of a child. He may be punished or admonished for laziness or poor attitude, as a child would be punished, but the Aiel consider doing actual harm to a gai'shain, for instance killing or raping, to be equivalent to killing or raping a child. The Aiel chiefs loyal to Rand tell him that it is a violation of ji'e'toh to take wetlanders, a derogatory Aiel word for anyone not Aiel, as gai'shain. They tell him that only someone who follows ji'e'toh can understand the concept of gai'shain, and therefore what the Shaido have done is both meaningless and dishonoring.

Laman, who cut down the tree that stood as a symbol of the cooperation between the people of Cairhien and the Aiel, was Moiraine's uncle. His actions started the Aiel war, in which Rand's mother, then a Maiden of the Spear, fought while pregnant with Rand. This made it possible for her to fulfill one of the prophecies about the Dragon Reborn, namely that he would be born on the slopes of the Dragonmount, a precipitous mountain near Tar Valon. That Rand will now wear Laman's sword is a curious coincidence. Aviendha tells Rand that the sword was passed around from one Aiel to the next since it was taken from Laman at the end of the war, twenty years earlier. The use of swords is proscribed in Aiel culture, and this particular sword was doubly undesirable because it had belonged to Laman, whom the Aiel call Treekiller.



# Chapters 24-27

## Chapters 24-27 Summary

### Chapter 24

Egwene comes early to a visit with Elayne in Tel'Aran'Rhoid, and catches a glimpse of Elayne talking with a golden-haired woman.

### Chapter 25

Egwene asks Elayne about the identity of the golden-haired woman, suspecting it is Birgitte. Elayne tells Egwene that she is forbidden to divulge the woman's identity because of a solemn promise. After Elayne departs, Egwene is nearly pulled into a fantasy about Gawyn. She flees, still in Tel'Aran'Rhoid to Emond's Field. The fantasy follows her and she is nearly pulled in but manages to break free and step out of Tel'Aran'Rhoid. Moghedien appears nearby. She is surprised that the girl escaped the trap and is impressed with Egwene's powers. Moghedien was spying on both Elayne and Egwene, hoping that one of them would lead her to Nynaeve.

### Chapter 26

Siuana, Leane, Min and Logain ride into Altara on the border of Amadicia. They ride into the newly reconstructed village of Salidar, which is filled with warders, Aes Sedai, and tower servants that fled in the coup. The leaders of the Aes Sedai in Salidar do not recognize Siuana and Leane, because of the effect that stilling has had on them but after grilling them with questions, they become satisfied that Siuana and Leane escaped execution.

### Chapter 27

Siuana tells the Aes Sedai that they are rudderless. They are actually considering returning to the White Tower under Elaida's rule. Siuana tells them that Logain was set up as a false dragon by Red sisters. This charge changes their minds about returning to Elaida, but they tell Siuana and Leane that the two women cannot resume their places as Amyrlin and Keeper, because they are stilled and therefore not even Aes Sedai anymore. Siuana tells them that as the former leader of the eyes and ears of the Blue Ajah, she can be valuable to have around. Leane suggests that the Aes Sedai in Salidar set up a White Tower in exile and elect a new Amyrlin. The Aes Sedai try to decide who among them would be a good choice, but Leane suggests that they choose someone who was not present on the day of the coup who did not choose sides. The Aes Sedai agree, adding that it must be someone very strong in the One Power.

As the meeting is ending, a scout arrives to say that a group of armed riders is approaching the village. One of the warders recognizes the leader of the riders as Gareth Bryne. Siuana tells the Aes Sedai of the incident that set Bryne on their trail. The





Aes Sedai resolve to make Bryne their general and to raise an army to one day lay siege to Tar Valon.

## Chapters 24-27 Analysis

The fantasy about Gawyn is a trap woven by Moghedien to try to trap Egwene. Moghedien does not yet know Egwene's identity, but Moghedien is interested in anyone who has a close relationship with both Nynaeve and Elayne. Moghedien is taken aback at Egwene's resistance to her trap and recognizes that unlike Elayne and Nynaeve, who must use a ter'angreal to visit Tel'Aran'Rhiod, Egwene is a dreamwalker of some power.

Siuana and Leane had been Amyrlin and Keeper for many years and have just traveled halfway across the continent together, but starting with their first meeting with the Little Tower in Salidar, they begin pretending to be at odds. They hope the other sisters will believe that Leane blames Siuana for getting the two of them deposed and stilled. This is a prearranged strategy between Leane and Siuana whose purpose is to allow them to continue to influence the decisions of the rebels. Siuana knew that any sisters that she found in Salidar would be skeptical of any suggestion she makes, because though many of them believe Elaida went too far in her bid to seize power, they also believe that Siuana's heavy-handed, deceptive use of the Tower's power in connection with Rand was reckless and they blame her for the schism almost as much as Elaida. Siuana and Leane therefore decide that when they arrive in Salidar, they would pretend to be in an open feud. This would allow Leane to slip what she and Siuana considered the most important suggestions to the Little Tower. Siuana would pretend to be opposed, shocked, or skeptical of these suggestions, and thus the Little Tower would be deceived into believing that Siuana has no path to controlling their actions. The first of these suggestions is the idea of creating an official tower in exile and electing a new Amyrlin. Siuana and Leane will continue playing this game through the rebellion.



# Chapters 28-31

## Chapters 28-31 Summary

### Chapter 28

The Little Tower asks Bryne to raise and lead an army against Elaida. He agrees, provided he remains in command of the army, not them, and that Suan Sanche will become his servant on the journey to begin repayment for oath breaking. Min tells Suan Min saw a vision and an aura around Bryne when he walked in. The vision was of a bull ripping roses from around its neck. The aura Min interprets instinctively saying that if Suan does not stay close to Gareth Bryne, he and Suan will both die.

### Chapter 29

Hadnan Kadere is alone in his wagon, contemplating the orders that came from Lanfear to watch Al'Thor and Natael. He is also fingering a note that was slipped under his door, telling him that he was not alone, that there were others nearby who served the Dark Lord and that a way had been chosen. Isendre visits him, telling him that she cannot get past Aviendha to worm her way into Rand's bed. She is sleeping with Natael but he is telling her nothing. She is flustered and near breaking from her treatment by the Maidens, and Kadere decides to do away with her before she confesses her actions to them. He strangles her.

### Chapter 30

Rand and the Aiel are in a small town called Eianrod, north of Cairhien. A group of nobles ride into the camp saying they are a sortie that successfully broke through the Shaido siege of the city in order to seek help. Rand sends them back to Cairhien with a message that help is on the way. Rand rouses the Aiel; they will have to move without pause if they wish to make it to Cairhien before the city falls.

### Chapter 31

Rand returns to his chambers to find Aviendha bathing with a large bowl. She is naked and mortified. In a blind panic, she creates a rent in the air with the One Power and leaps through into another place, which is in the grips of a snowstorm. Rand, worried that she will freeze, follows her, and wedges open her gateway. He chases after her as she runs blindly into a frozen lake, the ice giving way beneath her. Rand pulls her out, channels the One Power to make a shelter of ice around them, and stripping off their clothes, holds his body against hers to try to keep her from freezing to death. She awakens and they make love. Afterward, she tells him that it will not happen again, that he belongs to Elayne, to whom she now has toh.



## Chapters 28-31 Analysis

Min's vision of a bull ripping roses from its own neck symbolizes Bryne, the bull, taking down Elaida, who as advisor to Morgase for many years, was nominally in control of Bryne. Elaida has a passion for breeding rare roses. Sivan recognizes the significance of Min's vision immediately, and though Bryne will try her patience more than anyone she has ever encountered, she works to keep Bryne close to her and the rebellion.

The brutality of Hadnan Kadere's strangulation of Isendre is heightened by chilling hints of his past. When he is killing Isendre, Kadere thinks back to his youth and his beloved sister, who it appears he was required to murder in one of his first acts as a Darkfriend. It is significant that Rand, when he first met Kadere, considered him the most dangerous member of the caravan, even though that caravan included, in disguise, both Lanfear and Asmodean.

Rand's upbringing in Emond's Field was rather traditional. After he sleeps with Aviendha, he is consumed with thoughts about what the Women's Circle in Emond's Field would say about such things, despite the ridiculousness of those thoughts. He assumes that Aviendha will want to marry him straight away and is mystified by her refusal.



# Chapters 32-35

## Chapters 32-35 Summary

### Chapter 32

Rand and Aviendha make their way back to the gateway because neither of them knows for certain how to make another. They find it guarded by a party of Seanchan, including two damane. Aviendha shields the women and Rand holds the rest with the One Power. They attempt to remove one of the a'dam from a damane but are unsuccessful and flee through the gateway. Asmodean is waiting in Rand's chambers. He had hidden Aviendha's gateway from sight and told Sulin that Rand and Aviendha did not wish to be disturbed. As the gateway closes, a Seanchan soldier hurls a spear through it. The gateway snaps shut on the end of the spear, cutting it in half. Rand decides to keep the spear as a scepter to remind him that he must still deal with the Seanchan.

### Chapter 33

Valan Luca's traveling menagerie is parked on a river that marks the border between Amadicia and Ghealdan. There are Whitecloak encampments on the near side of the river, and a strong Whitecloak presence in Samara on the far side. Juilin spots Galad with the Whitecloaks and tells Nynaeve and Elayne that they have not shaken him off their trail.

### Chapter 34

Nynaeve and Birgitte spy on a meeting of the Forsaken in Tel'Arhan'Rhiod. The Forsaken intend to induce Rand to focus his attention on Samael, so the other five can blindside him. Nynaeve and Birgitte leave the meeting, but are followed by Moghedien. She hurls Birgitte into a wagon and ties Nynaeve up with the power. Moghedien is taunting Nynaeve when Birgitte's arrow appears under her right breast. Moghedien conjures a black smoke which consumes Birgitte, then disappears. Nynaeve leaves Tel'Arhan'Rhiod.

Moghedien, injured, demands healing from Chesmal of the Black Ajah. Liandrin tries to strike out at Moghedien while she is injured, but Moghedien rebuffs her attack and sets up a permanent block between Liandrin and the One Power.

### Chapter 35

Nynaeve awakens and explains what has happened, but is interrupted by Thom, carrying in the body of a naked woman he said simply appeared outside the wagons. It is Birgitte who is barely alive. Nynaeve tries to heal her but Brigitte is still fading. In desperation, Elayne bonds Birgitte as a Warder and the extra power the woman receives from the bond stabilizes her.



## Chapters 32-35 Analysis

The Seanchan spear, which Rand will keep with him from now on as a reminder of the Seanchan threat, is quickly given the name The Spear of the Dragon by the Aiel. After Aviendha leaves to attempt to stop the maidens from spreading rumors about her and Rand, Rand makes Asmodean show him how to create the weave that Asmodean used to hide the gateway. This weave, involving a bending of light around an object, will be used frequently in the future by both Rand and others.

Birgitte has been born into the world as an infant at pivotal times in history. She and her eternal partner, Gaidal Cain, are born into the world and are drawn together again and again in each lifetime. Shortly before her fateful encounter with Moghedien, Birgitte had noticed that Cain had disappeared from Tel'Aran'Rhiod, presumably to be born again into the world. She anticipated that she would follow him. Moghedien's actions have disrupted the pattern. In her new life as Elayne's warder, Birgitte will often be visited by sorrow when she remembers that somewhere out in the world is an infant boy who is bound to her, but to whom she has now been placed out of reach by the difference in their ages. She also tells Elayne that she senses that this life will be the last into which she and Cain will be born.



# Chapters 36-39

## Chapters 36-39 Summary

### Chapter 36

Elayne finally tells Thom and Juilin about everything that happened in Tanchico, including how she and Nynaeve are hunting the Forsaken but on the run from Moghedien. She holds back only Birgitte's identity, though Thom guesses it. Birgitte awakens and Elayne tells her about the bonding.

### Chapter 37

Valan Luca's circus performs outside of Samara. Nynaeve is watching Elayne and Juilin walk the tightrope from the crowd when she overhears a man with a Shienaran exclaiming over Elayne's beautiful. Nynaeve recognizes Uno, a man who traveled across the world with them and fought at the battle of Falme.

### Chapter 38

When Uno recognizes Nynaeve, he leads her to town to see Masema, another Shienaran soldier who was with Rand at Falme and is now known as the Prophet. He is spreading tales of the end of the world and building a ragtag army to follow Rand. Uno takes Nynaeve to Masema, assuming that she and Elayne need help spiring themselves out of a Samara surrounded by Whitecloaks.

### Chapter 39

Masema has become a zealot and a tyrant. When Nynaeve and Uno arrive at the house in which he is staying, the queen of Ghealdan herself is visiting him, bribing him with jewels to provide protection for the town. The queen leaves and Masema meets with Nynaeve, whom he says is blessed because she attended the Lord Dragon as a babe. Nynaeve asks Masema if he can arrange for a ship to take them south down the river. She lies to him, telling him that she and Elayne are Rand's messengers and must return with him with news of Tanchico. On the way back out of town, Nynaeve and Uno spot Galad trailing after them.

## Chapters 36-39 Analysis

There is great comedy in Nynaeve's exchange with Uno. The Shienaran uses what Nynaeve considers inappropriate language. His speech is littered with these colorful accents. When she tells him that she will not stand for such language, he tries to refrain, but he is so dependent on the foul words that he is constantly stopping and restarting everything he says to her. Nynaeve is unsettled not only by Uno's speech, but by the



fact that he has lost one of his eyes in battle and wears over the damaged socket a patch on which is painted a stylized red eye that Nynaeve finds disturbing.

Nynaeve is shocked by the behavior of the queen of Ghealdan, and tells Uno after she has left that the queen must be a pitiful woman. Uno fires back that she is nothing of the sort. She is a strong and extremely wise woman, who recognizes the danger that Masema and the Whitecloaks pose and is trying to do anything in her power to decrease the danger to her people. Queen Alliandre will appear later in the story, once again trying to mitigate the damage to her people by allying herself to a powerful man, in this case Masema, and in the future, Perrin.

Masema is consumed with a vision of a new world order brought about by the arrival of the Dragon Reborn. He believes the Dragon Reborn has broken all boundaries and agreements, and therefore has no regard for the difference between kings, queens, soldiers, and common people. He still considers himself a common soldier, but his zealotry has led him to begin theorizing on the type of world the Dragon Reborn would create. He believes Rand wants the world to be purified of greed, title, sloth, and excess. His quest to purify the world for the dragon has allowed his followers to terrorize the countryside in the name of piety.



# Chapters 40-43

## Chapters 40-43 Summary

### Chapter 40

Nynaeve allows Galad to approach her. As they are talking, Nynaeve finally remembers the name of the town she saw on the piece of paper in the White Tower. Salidar. After Galad promises that he will not turn them in, Nynaeve tells him that she and Elayne intend to escape Amadicia by boat. He tells her that he cannot accompany her but offers to find her a boat. While escorting her back to the menagerie, Uno tells Nynaeve that he has fifteen Shienarans under his command, none of them eager to remain with Masema. He offers her an armed escort wherever she goes. She tells him to keep the Shienarans close to the menagerie and be ready to move at a moment's notice. Nynaeve tells Elayne about Salidar and her deals with the Prophet and Galad.

### Chapter 41

Rand and the Aiel have arrived at a Cairhien which is surrounded by Shaido. The city has yet to fall but the overwhelming number of Shaido on the plains beside the walls make it an inevitability. Rand has employed a man named Kin Tovere, a master of glasswork, to build him a telescope. Two large observation platforms allow Rand and the Aiel Chiefs to view the entire countryside surrounding Cairhien and plan their attack on the besieging Shaido.

### Chapter 42

Mat is trying to convince himself to take his leave of Rand and journey south. He visits Rand's tent but finds only Natael. There are maps laid out on the floor, detailing the plan of the coming battle. Lan arrives and Mat begins to breakdown the battle, using the memories from his many past lives. He lays out a plan similar to what the Aiel Chiefs had proposed, but with a few improvements. Rand arrives to hear the last of it. Mat tells Rand that he intends to ride south, perhaps making his way back to Emond's Field. They part company. Rand and Lan marvel at Mat's strategic abilities, and Rand begins to guess that Mat may have taken more away from Rhuidean than the fox head medallion, a scar, and the strange spear.

### Chapter 43

The morning of the battle Rand mounts one of the platforms with Aviendha and Egwene. They will use the One Power to bombard the Shaido from a distance, while the Aiel Chiefs drive the Shaido away from the walls of the city. Maidens of the Spear surround the platforms to guard Rand.

Mat is making his way through the battle when he spots the Shaido setting up an ambush for a unit of approaching Tairens and Cairhienin. He takes command of the unit





and reorganizes them, leading them into the battle. After a few successes, he gathers more men to him and soon is in command of all Rand's non-Aiel forces.

## Chapters 40-43 Analysis

Elayne is infuriated with Nynaeve for dealing with Galad and is convinced he will find some way to have them arrested and detained for their own protection.

Since his ordeal at Rhuidean, Mat has experienced insights and visions from past lives. He believes this is something the Aelfinn did to him when he was inside the ter'angreal at Rhuidean. He seems to have forgotten that he was experiencing occasional visions and moments of insight from the past before he arrived in Rhuidean. Mat's special ability, apart from his status as ta'veren and his prodigious luck, is that he is the most recent incarnation of a soul that has played a major part in the military affairs of the world for millennia, and he is capable of accessing these memories to his advantage. One of his requests of the Aelfinn led them to clear away the obstructions that were blocking this knowledge. Lan is amazed by Mat's analysis of the coming battle, and knows that there is something unnatural about it, something that cannot be explained by even the strongest aptitude or genius. Later, Mat's strategic gifts will have the same effect on Davram Bashere, Faile's father, and general of Saldaea.



# Chapters 44-47

## Chapters 44-47 Summary

### Chapter 44

Rand is exhausted from channeling lightning into the battle below. Suddenly, return lightning strikes through the line of Maidens below him and brings down the platform. Rand, Aviendha, and Egwene are thrown clear, but many Maidens are killed. Rand recognizes the work of Sammael. Aviendha has to stop him from tearing off after the Forsaken, as he is almost too weak to stand.

Couladin and a force of Shaido are moving east away from the wall and the thrust of the battle. Mat sets an ambush for them and kills Couladin in combat.

Rand rides back into his camp. Several of the chiefs who were holding out on supporting him until he could prove that he, not Couladin, was the true Car'a'carn, have arrived to pledge their support. Rand, who has been holding saidin all day, releases the power, and his exhaustion and injuries overtake him. Moiraine has to act quickly to keep him alive.

### Chapter 45

Mat's wounds are being sewed up when he is approached by Talmanes and Nalesean, two lords who Mat led in the battle. They proclaim him their general, despite his protests, and agree to follow Mat wherever the Lord Dragon sends him.

Rand awakes to a tirade from Aviendha about how foolish he was for nearly killing himself with exhaustion. She tells him that the remaining nobles from Cairhien intend to welcome Rand into the city with a grand procession. But she mentions her distrust for several of the nobles, including men named Meilan and Torean.

### Chapter 46

Rand rides into a Cairhien decimated by civil war and siege. He surprises the high lords by not assuming the throne. The high lords of the city all swear fealty to Rand. He accepts, but orders the Rising Sun banner of Cairhien be raised over most of the town, instead of the banner of the Dragon Reborn and the banners of the lords of Tear.

### Chapter 47

Egwene visits the dreams of Nynaeve and Elayne, telling them each of Rand's victory at Cairhien. Thom and Juilin arrive with the news that there is rioting in Samara. The Prophets men are clashing with Whitecloaks and the city is beginning to burn. Uno arrives with news that the Prophet has procured a ship for Nynaeve and Elayne. It waits on a dock in Samara, and Nynaeve and Elayne resolve, over the protests of the men, to



enter Samara and make their way to the docks. Valan Luca tries to stop them from leaving, pulling Nynaeve aside and telling her that he has fallen in love with her and wishes them to marry. She rejects his offer and she, Elayne, Thom, Juilin, Birgitte, and the Shienaran soldiers set off for Samara.

## Chapters 44-47 Analysis

Holding the One Power can allow one to ignore both physical wounds and fatigue, but this effect does not keep the body from actually experiencing pain and exhaustion. After the battle, Rand lets go of saidin, which he has been holding for more than 24 hours. The subsequent return to the pain and exhaustion of his body nearly kills him, and Moiraine tells Rand that even if such a thing fails to kill him it can gentle (i.e., strip him of his ability to channel) him.

At some point in his gathering of the Aiel, when Maidens of the Spear began dying to protect him, Rand began committing to memory the names and faces of every woman who dies for him. This list, already large, will continue to grow and will weigh upon him heavily.

The nobles of Cairhien ask Rand if he will assume the Sun Throne, but he tells him that it belongs to Elayne Trakand and refuses to sit in it. He will do the same in Caemlyn.

Valan Luca's love for Nynaeve is sincere, though she suspects that he could never love anything as much as he loves a handsome profit.



# Chapters 48-51

## Chapters 48-51 Summary

### Chapter 48

Galad joins the party as they move into Samara. They find trouble almost at once and must fight their way through a mob incensed by the teaching of the Prophet. They arrive at the docks, where Captain Agni Neres is holding his boat for them. A crowd of refugees, mostly women and children, wait on the docks, hoping for passage out of the burning town. Elayne forces the captain to dump his smuggling cargo to allow the refugees aboard along with her party. Galad parts with the company, after first pulling Elayne aside to tell her to stay away from Rand Al'Thor, who he says brings death wherever he goes.

### Chapter 49

Elayne and Nynaeve move among the refugees, healing and handing out coins. Three of the refugees stand out, Nicola, a young woman whose fiancé was killed in the fighting, Marigan, an older woman with two young sons, and Areina, the youngest, who had set out for Illian to bring back her missing brother but who had gotten caught up in the violence brought upon the land by the Prophet. Birgitte, who had until now believed that Elayne was lying when she claimed to be the daughter-heir of Andor, finally realizes that her new friend is not lying. The boat travels downriver, and most of the refugees depart at a city called Boannda, but Nynaeve and Elayne convince Neres to take their party, which now includes Nicola, Areina, and Marigan and her two sons, on to Salidar. They disembark near Salidar and the Shienaran soldiers begin cutting a path through the forest.

### Chapter 50

Nynaeve and Elayne arrive in Salidar and tell their story to the little Tower. The sisters, upon hearing the story of how Siuan sent three Accepted out in search of thirteen sisters of the Black Ajah, are aghast. Their reception of Nynaeve and Elayne is less than warm but they do not assign the women any punishment, but expect both to return to their place as Accepted. Nynaeve tells them about Moghedien and about her suspicions of the trap the Forsaken are laying for Rand. The sisters are eager to learn to use the ter'angreal to access Tel'Aran'Rhiod and begin open dialogues with the Aiel Wise Ones as well as make contact, however indirectly, with Moiraine. They also show the sister the disc of cuendillar, a seal of the Dark One's prison, which they acquired in Tanchico, and which became brittle and shattered on the journey to Salidar. They are forced to conceal Birgitte's true identity as well as the fact that Elayne bonded her as a Warder.



Siuana and Nynaeve come to an agreement. Nynaeve will teach Siuana about Tel'Aras'Rhiod and how to use the ter'angreal ring, without the sisters of the little Tower knowing about it, and Siuana will allow Nynaeve access to Leane, Logain, and herself. Nynaeve intends to see if stilling or gentling can be cured.

Min tells Elayne that she had indistinct but troubling viewings when she saw Nicola, Areina, and Marigan. Min tells her about a vision she had of Rand. In the vision, Min sees that she will fall in love with Rand, but that she will have to share him with two other women. One is a ill-tempered redhead whom Min does not recognize, the other is Elayne. Neither of them wishes to share Rand, but both know that Min's viewings, when she knows what they mean, are inevitable.

## Chapter 51

Two letters arrive for Rand in Cairhein. One is from Elaida, informing him that an escort is being sent from Tar Valon to escort him back to the White Tower with honor. Another is from Alviarin, who writes that there is a faction in the White Tower that will follow and support him, regardless of what Elaida wishes. Rand tells Moiraine that he has no intention of allowing Elaida's escort within a mile of the royal palace, and Moiraine approves.

Mat arrives with news from Andor. The group of men who pledged themselves to him after the battle of Cairhein has taken to calling itself the Band of the Red Hand. He has led them in several successful skirmishes against Gaebriel's Andoran forces, which are encroaching on Cairhein. Mat tells Rand that Andor is filled with the news that Morgase is dead and Gaebriel, whom they all know is actually the Forsaken Rahvin, has been named king of Andor. Rand plans to steal into Caemlyn and attack Gaebriel the next morning. Moiraine, Egwene and Aviendha convince him to take them as backup.

Mat returns to his chambers and tells Melindhra that Rand is sending him to Tear to lead the army against Sammael and Illian. Melindhra attempts to kill Mat, who is forced to kill her to defend himself. As she dies she tells him she is a Darkfriend.

## Chapters 48-51 Analysis

The sisters of the Little Tower are skeptical of Nynaeve and Elayne's story, especially Nynaeve's astonishing claim of having bested Moghedien in a duel in Tanchico. The sisters assign no punishment to Nynaeve and Elayne, reasoning that they were just following the orders of their Amyrlin, and they consider the whole affair another sign of Siuana's recklessness.

Siuana tries to bully Nynaeve, telling the younger woman that she will instruct Leane and her how to use the ter'angreal and visit Tel'Aras'Rhiod. Nynaeve stands her ground and tells Siuana that she can tell that the rift between Siuana and Leane is a ruse, and that she will tell the Little Tower unless Siuana allows Nynaeve to study the effects of stilling on Siuana and Leane.



Min's viewings are as prescient as ever. Nicola and Areina will be continuing sources of problems throughout the rebellion. Marigan is Moghedien in disguise.

Rand believes that Alviarin's letter points to the existence of a cell of Aes Sedai within the White Tower that secretly supports the Dragon Reborn. In one of her final pieces of advice to Rand, Moiraine tells Rand to trust no living Aes Sedai fully, including Alviarin. The escort of sister Elaida sent from the White Tower is thick with Darkfriends and its actions will be the subject of the next book.

The Band of the Red Hand is a legendary fighting force said to be the last group to hold out in the final battle of the Trolloc Wars when Manetheren, an empire that once flourished in the country where Emond's Field now stands, fell.



# Chapters 52-56

## Chapters 52-56 Summary

### Chapter 52

Rand is preparing to leave for Caemlyn the next morning when Moiraine arrives, handing him two sealed letters. Both are from her. One is to Rand, the other to Thom Merrilin. Moiraine tells Rand that they must make a detour to the docks of Cairhein.

At the docks, Lanfear pays a visit to Kadere in his wagon, which explodes as Rand's party arrives. Lanfear steps out, livid with the knowledge she learned from Kadere, that Rand had slept with Aviendha. Moiraine attempts to stand down Lanfear, but is flung aside. Lanfear lashes out at Egwene and Aviendha, but Rand protects them. Lanfear is channeling through a sa'angreal bracelet on her wrist, and it is all Rand can do to protect Egwene and Aviendha. Lanfear, in her rage, falters, but Rand finds himself unable to kill her, though he does refute her vehement claims that he belongs to her. Lanfear has walked from wagon to wagon until she ends up in the one carrying the twisted doorway ter'angreal Mat had used in Rhuidean. As she is distracted with Rand, Moiraine sneaks up, leaps onto the wagon, ripping the bracelet off Lanfear's wrist, and both of the women topple through the doorway and vanish.

### Chapter 53

Lan says he can no longer feel Moiraine; she is dead. Lan tells Rand that Moiraine had arranged for his bond to pass to another when she died, and that Lan must now go find that woman. The two men part company. Rand reads Moiraine's letter, in which she tells him that she learned of what would happen on this day while in the ter'angreal in Tear. She gives him some final advice.

### Chapter 54

Rand transports himself and a fighting force of Aiel, Asmodean, Aviendha, and Mat to the streets of Caemlyn, where they are quickly met by a force of Trollocs. Rand attempts to channel and sets off a series of explosive traps Rahvin had placed. The explosions kill many of the Aiel, along with Aviendha, Mat, and Asmodean. Rand, in a rage, races toward the palace.

Nynaeve and Birgitte confront Moghedien in Tel'Aran'Rhiod. Nynaeve acts subservient until she is close enough to fasten an a'dam around the Forsaken's neck. Nynaeve can now control Moghedien's ability to channel. Moghedien pleads with Nynaeve, offering her information, including news that Rand intends to go after Rahvin that very day. Nynaeve resolves to travel to Caemlyn in Tel'Aran'Rhiod and see if there is anything she can do to help. She brings Moghedien with her, still chained.

### Chapter 55



Rand and Rahvin duel through the palace. Rahvin creates a door directly into Tel'Aran'Rhiod, and Rand follows. Nynaeve arrives in the palace with Moghedien. They are forced to take cover as the two men begin bringing down walls with balefire. Moghedien says they must flee, because the men are here in the flesh, which makes them much more dangerous. Nynaeve succeeds in distracting Rahvin, and Rand finishes the man with balefire.

Nynaeve guesses from Moghedien's knowledge of events in Salidar that Moghedien is in disguise in the city. She gives Moghedien a cup of Forkroot tea to drink. Nynaeve intends to search Salidar for Moghedien when they leave Tel'Aran'Rhiod.

Rand walks out of the palace to find Aviendha, Mat, and Asmodean all alive. Rand's weave of balefire was so strong and erased Rahvin so thoroughly from the pattern that it undid many of his actions from the past few days.

## Chapter 56

Davram Bashere, Faile's father arrives in Caemlyn with an army of Saldaeans to support and advise Rand. Bashere wants Rand to help him find Mazrim Taim, a false dragon who is responsible for many deaths in Saldea. Rand refuses Bashere's request, telling him that he has announced a general amnesty for men who can channel and will report to a new school he is forming in Caemlyn.

Asmodean is ambushed and killed by an unknown assailant in the palace.

## Chapters 52-56 Analysis

Lan's bond passes to Myrelle, an Aes Sedai of the green Ajah, currently a member of the rebellion in Salidar. Moiraine took this unusual measure because she foresaw that Lan's involvement would be critical in the battle of Tarmon Gaidon. Warders usually do not survive the deaths of their Aes Sedai. After an Aes Sedai's death, her warder will quickly find a way to die in battle or will, if detained from doing so, soon die of grief. It is one of the prices of the bond. One of the methods for trying to save a warder from death is to quickly bond him to a new Aes Sedai who will not only take him as her warder, but take him into her bed as her lover. Myrelle has saved an unprecedented three warders in this fashion, and Moiraine hopes that she can save Lan. Many Aes Sedai consider what Moiraine and Myrelle have done, the passing on of a bond without the warder's permission, to be reprehensible and akin to rape.

Nynaeve's clever capture of Moghedien will have innumerable consequences for the rebellion. Moghedien, while captive, will lead Egwene, Nynaeve, and Elayne to the discovery of many ancient and powerful uses of the One Power.

In the previous books, Rand's reckless behavior led him straight into traps set by the Forsaken. In this book, his recklessness allows him to circumvent one. The Forsaken have been trying to get Rand to attack Sammael, in Illian. The attacks in the Waste and Kinslayer's Dagger were all conducted by men and Trollocs wearing Sammael's colors





and shouting his name. In the battle of Cairhein, it is Sammael who attacks the Maiden's around Rand's platform, killing many in an attempt to draw Rand after him and into the trap. Rand strikes in another direction, at Rahvin, and thus thwarts the Forsaken's plan. None of the Forsaken trust each other entirely though, and Rahvin has prepared for a possible attack. In the final duel, Rand and Rahvin destroy much of the palace of Caemlyn, but as they are doing so in Tel'Aran'Rhiod and not in the real world, the real palace is not damaged.

The final chapter is an introduction to two new characters that will be critical to future books. Davram Bashere will quickly become one of Rand's most trusted advisors and one of the few people that Rand feels he can trust with his life. Rand's association with Mazrim Taim will have a mixture of good and bad consequences.

The identity of Asmodean's assailant is a tantalizing mystery left unsolved at the end of the book.



# Characters

## Rand Al'Thor

One of three ta'veren discovered by Moiraine Sedai in the small town of Emond's Field, Rand Al'Thor is the Dragon Reborn, the reincarnation of Lews Therin Telamon, the most powerful Aes Sedai of the Age of Legends. Rand leaves Emond's Field with Moiraine and learns quickly that something is different about him. He can channel the One Power. Because of the taint the Dark Lord has left on the male half of the One Power, most men who can channel go insane from using it. Because of this, the Aes Sedai of the White Tower gentle any man they find channeling the One Power.

Siuan Sanche and Moiraine conspire to hide Rand's identity from the rest of the Aes Sedai. They have studied the prophecies of the Dragon and know Rand's involvement will be crucial at Tarmon Gai'don, the last battle with the Dark One, which both Siuan and Moiraine believe is looming. They allow Rand to roam free, though Moiraine has been trying to stay close to him and advise him.

Rand first defeats Ishamael, a member of the Forsaken, at the battle of Falme. After this he travels to Tear and captures the impregnable citadel at the city's center, which was prophesied only to fall with the coming of the Dragon Reborn. He draws the sword Callandor out of the Heart of the Stone in the citadel, in the process battling with another member of the Forsaken. This act convinces many that he is the real Dragon Reborn. In his attack against the Stone of Tear, he was joined by members of the Aiel people. They were following a different set of prophecies which said that the fall of the Stone would announce the coming of their Car'a'carn, chief of chiefs, and savior of their people. They believe Rand to be the Car'a'carn.

Rand then travels to the abandoned city of Rhuidean, in the Aiel Wastes. There he performs the rite needed to become an Aiel chieftain and is marked on each forearm with magical symbols in the form of dragons. The Aiel know that only the Car'a'carn will be marked this way, and many agree to follow him. But a tribe known as the Shaido, led by a violent renegade named Couladin, refuses to believe what Rand reveals about the origin of the Aiel.

Around this time, Rand wins a duel with another of the Forsaken, a man known as Asmodean. He takes Asmodean prisoner and makes the man his advisor, to teach him about using the One Power.

## Mat Cauthon

One of three ta'veren discovered by Moiraine Sedai in the small town of Emond's Field, Mat Cauthon is a man with unique abilities and is destined to play a vital part in Rand's efforts to unite the world and prepare for Tarmon Gai'don. Mat accompanies Rand when he leaves Emond's Field with Moiraine. Mat takes a cursed dagger from a place of evil



known as Shadar Logoth and is consumed with paranoia and sickness. A Darkfriend named Padan Fain steals the dagger and takes it to Falme, where Mat manages to take it back in the process sounding the mythical Horn of Valere. He is near death, the dagger consuming his body. He is rushed back to the White Tower where the Aes Sedai succeed in separating the dagger from him. Mat then travels to Tear, where he participates in the storming of the Stone of Tear and is reunited with Rand.

In Tear, Mat visits the world of the Eelfinn, where he learns that he will go to Rhuidean with Rand and that he will marry the Daughter of the Nine Moons. In Rhuidean, while Rand is involved in the rite of the Aiel chiefs, Mat visits the world of the Aelfinn, who grant several requests, before returning him to Rhuidean and hanging him from a tree. Rand rescues Mat, but Mat will bear the scare of the hanging on his neck for the rest of his life. The Aelfinn left with Mat two objects from the Age of Legends. The first is a weapon called an Ashandarei, a staff tipped with a short sword, wrought with the One Power. The second is a silver medallion in the shape of a fox head and bearing the ancient symbol of the Aes Sedai. The medallion unravels any flows of saidin and saidar used against the one wearing it. This means that when Mat has the medallion on no one may wield the One Power against him directly.

Since he first left Emond's Field, Mat has caught fleeting glimpses of memories of other lives. He seems to have access to the memories of all his incarnations. Throughout history he has played vital roles in the military campaigns of innumerable city-states. This ancient knowledge grants him the tactical wisdom equal to the greatest field marshalls of the time, and also allows him to read and speak the Old Tongue, the ancient language used during the Age of Legends.

Mat's other peculiar talent involves providence or luck. He has a supernatural ability to bend circumstances to his favor.

## **Egwene Al'Vere**

When Moiraine Sedai came to Emond's Field in search of the Dragon Reborn, Egwene Al'Vere was the apprentice to the town's young Wisdom, Nynaeve Al'Meara. Moiraine singled out Egwene and Nynaeve immediately as having strong potential in the One Power. Egwene offered to follow Moiraine to Tar Valon.

Once in the White Tower, Egwene became a novice. She met Elayne Trakand, also visiting the White Tower as a novice. Shortly before the Battle of Falme, Egwene, Nynaeve, Elayne, and Min Farshaw agreed to accompany Liandrin Sedai through the Ways to Falme. Liandrin betrays them to the Seanchan, and Egwene is taken captive and forced to wear an a'dam until Nynaeve and Elayne rescue her during the Battle of Falme.

The three friends returned to the White Tower. Siuan Sanche then entrusted them with the dangerous mission of tracking down the thirteen sisters of the Black Ajah led by Liandrin, who had stolen several powerful angreal and fled the Tower. Their search took



them to Tear, where they were briefly captured, then rescued by Mat Cauthon and Juilin Sandar. After Tear, Nynaeve and Elayne left Egwene to continue the hunt in Tanchico.

Egwene traveled with Rand to the Aiel Wastes after being contacted in Tel'Aran'Rhiod by an Aiel Wise Woman named Amys, who told Egwene that she must come to the Aiel to be trained as a Dreamwalker.

## **Nynaeve Al'Meara**

When Moiraine Sedai left Emond's Field with Rand, Mat, Perrin, and Egwene, Nynaeve set off in pursuit, determined to rescue the children of her town from Moiraine. She ended up joining their party in order to keep an eye on Egwene, who was determined to go to the White Tower to become an apprentice. Nynaeve deeply distrusts Moiraine and until Moiraine's death, would blame the Aes Sedai for putting the children of Emond's Field in danger.

While travelling with Moiraine to the Eye of the World, Nynaeve fell in love with Moiraine's warder Lan. He told her that he was married to his war with the shadow and could not make a widow out of her. But he gave her his signet ring, the ring of the royal family of his lost land, Malkier, and she wears it on a chain around her neck.

Once in the White Tower, Nynaeve was told by the other Aes Sedai that she was what they called a "Wilder," in that she had learned to control the One Power without instruction. Scarcely one in four wilders survive, and if they do they are considered untrained and inferior in status by most Aes Sedai. However it quickly became obvious to the White Tower that Nynaeve's strength in the One Power would eventually place her above any living Aes Sedai. They made her an Accepted, which is a step above novice but a step below Aes Sedai.

She helped Elayne Trakand rescue Egwene from the Seanchan in the Battle of Falme, returned to the White Tower and then, like Egwene and Elayne, tracked the Black Ajah to Tear where she participated in the fall of the Stone of Tear.

She and Elayne traveled to Tanchico with Thom Merrill and Juilin Sandar. There Nynaeve secured a dangerous male a'dam the Black Ajah hoped to use on Rand and in the process fought and won a duel with the Forsaken Moghedien.

## **Elayne Trakand**

Elayne Trakand is the daughter of Queen Morgase of Andor. She is next in line to the throne. She first met Rand when he stumbled into the royal garden in Caemlyn on his way to the Eye of the World. She fell in love with him on sight. She and her two brothers Gawyn and Galad traveled to the White Tower, where Elayne became a novice and her brothers studied war craft with the warders of the White Tower.



In the White Tower, she meets and befriends Egwene, Nynaeve, and Min Farshaw. She is tricked by Liandrin Sedai and betrayed to the Seanchan. Egwene is captured, but Nynaeve and Elayne escape. They later rescue Egwene and Min during the Battle of Falme.

After returning to the White Tower, Elayne Sivan Sanche gives Elayne the task of tracking down the Black Ajah. She, Egwene, and Nynaeve travel to Tear, where they are briefly captured, then freed by Mat Cauthon and Juilin Sandar. It is around this time that Elayne learns of a vision of Min Farshaw's, in which Min saw herself (Min) having to share Rand with two other women, one of them being Elayne.

Elayne and Nynaeve journey to Tanchico with Thom Merrill, who is her mother's former lover, and Juilin Sandar. In Tanchico she meets and befriends a disguised Seanchan noble named Egeanin Tamarath. Together they rescue the Panarch Amathera while Nynaeve fights a duel with Moghedien.

## **Elaida do Avriny a'Roihan**

A commanding Aes Sedai of the Red Ajah, Elaida was the advisor to Queen Morgase during most of Elayne's childhood. She led the coup against Sivan Sanche and now sits in the Amyrlin Seat.

## **Aes Sedai**

In the Age of Legends, the Aes Sedai were male and female wielders of the One Power who protected the city-states against the forces of the Shadow. After the Dark Lord placed a taint on the male half of the One Power, the Aes Sedai became a female-only order, and one of the primary functions became finding and gentling men who could channel because if a such men are left to wield power, they go insane and wreck havoc with the power as they did during the breaking.

## **Dragon Reborn**

According to prophecy, the Dragon Reborn would be the reincarnation of the greatest Aes Sedai of the Age of Legends, Lews Therin Telamon, who was known as the Dragon. The circumstances of Rand al'Thor's birth, his life, and his accomplishments have made it obvious that he is the fulfillment of the prophecies.

## **The Forsaken**

Known by each other and other Darkfriends as The Chosen, the Forsaken are a group of powerful Aes Sedai who, during the Age of Legends, joined the forces of the Dark Lord. They were sealed up along with their master by Lews Therin Telamon, and slept



for thousands of years. The recent weakening of the seals on their prison has allowed them to escape.

## **Sammael**

A member of the Forsaken, Sammael is a short, blond man with a disfiguring scar, given to him by Lews Therin Telamon, on his cheek. He is a blunt man, a strategic thinker who prefers to think his way through situations tactically. He is cautious when confronted with unknowns.

## **Rahvin**

A lothario (a seducer of women) and manipulator, Rahvin is a member of the Forsaken and a powerful former Aes Sedai from the Age of Legends. He is currently using the name Gaebril and acting as the Captain of the Guard to Queen Morgase in Andor.

## **Lanfear**

Lanfear is a fierce, powerful female member of the Forsaken. She was Lews Therin Telamon's lover in the Age of Legends, but he rejected her when she turned to the shadow. She is now obsessed with Rand, Lews Therin's reincarnation.

## **Graendal**

A master of coercion and manipulation, Graendal is a member of the Forsaken who has a penchant for opulence and luxury. She is a skillful tactician but prefers to operate as an assisting force to other members of the Forsaken. This is not because she lacks in power or skill, but rather that she prefers to limit her exposure to danger.

## **Siuan Sanche**

Siuan Sanche was born to a poor fishing family in Tear. After the Aiel War, while still fairly young, she was raised to Amyrlin Seat in the White Tower. Around that time she initiated a conspiracy with Moiraine Sedai, with whom she was a novice in the Tower. They conspired to find the Dragon Reborn, help guide him, but keep his existence a secret from the rest of the Tower, especially the Red Ajah.

## **Min Farshaw**

A young Andoran woman who first met Rand on his way to the Eye of the World, Min Farshaw cannot channel the One Power, but possesses an ancient skill that allows her to sometimes see prophetic visions and auras around individuals. She met Rand in



Baerlon and immediately saw a vision indicating that she would fall in love with him but would have to share him with two other women, one of whom, Elayne Trakand, she befriends when visiting the White Tower. She was in the White Tower during the coup that deposed Sivan Sanche and assisted the escape of Sivan and Leane. Min is currently traveling with Sivan, Leane, and Logain in search of the rebellion.

## **Leane Sharif**

A tall, seductive Domani woman, Leane served as Keeper of the Light, second in command to Sivan Sanche before her Amyrlin was deposed and both she and Sivan were stilled and forced to flee the White Tower.

## **Logain Ablar**

When Logain learned that he could channel the One Power he gathered a force and began making a bid to pass himself off as the Dragon Reborn. He is quite strong in the One Power but was nevertheless captured by Aes Sedai, taken to the White Tower and gentled. He is currently dejected and seeking revenge on those who captured him, especially the Red Ajah, but Min Farshaw can see an aura of future glory every time she looks at Logain.

## **Thom Merrilin**

Thom Merrilin is a gleeman, a kind of bard, in his middle years who was in Emond's Field when Moiraine discovered Rand, Mat, Perrin, Egwene, and Nynaeve. Thom journeyed with them and his fate has been tied to Rand's ever since. He is the former court bard of Andor and lover to Queen Morgase.

## **Juilin Sandar**

Juilin Sandar was a thief catcher in Tear who helped Mat Cauthon during the the fall of the Stone of Tear. He has recently been charged by Lan with protecting Nynaeve on her hunt for the Black Ajah.

## **Ajah**

The Aes Sedai divide themselves into societies called Ajahs. A sister will choose an Ajah based on her interests and over the years this process has lead to the Ajah taking on certain often predictable characteristics. The Red Ajah concerns itself with hunting and gentling men who can channel. The Green Ajah considers itself the battle Ajah and prepares for the final battle with the shadow. The Blue Ajah concerns itself with the political stability and jurisprudence of the world. The White Ajah reveres cool logic and reason. Sisters of the Gray Ajah tend to be skilled at negotiation and reconciliation. The



Yellow Ajah attempts to perfect the art of healing. Brown sisters are lovers of ancient books, scientists, and researchers.

## **Black Ajah**

A secret society within the White Tower, the Black Ajah, is a loose collection of Aes Sedai conspiring to aid the shadow. Its very existence was, until recently, denied by most Aes Sedai.

## **Alviarin Freidhen**

Alviarin is the head of the Black Ajah and is currently serving as Keeper of the Light to the Amyrlin Seat, Elaida do Avriny a'Roihan. Elaida is not aware that Alviarin is a darkfriend and member of the Black Ajah.

## **Lan Mandragoran**

Moiraine Sedai's warder is also the last lord of the Malkier, a city-state which was swallowed up by the Blight. While traveling to the Eye of the World Lan fell in love with Nynaeve Al'Meara, but, believing himself destined to die in combat against the shadow, refused her advances. Lan's bond to Moiraine is a further point of contention between Nynaeve and the Aes Sedai.

## **Couladin**

Couladin is a fierce member of the Shaido Aiel clan. Though he has never journeyed to Rhuidean to perform the rite of the Aiel chieftains, Couladin has been acting as chief of the Shaido and has proclaimed himself the Car'a'carn, Chief of Chiefs, a title also claimed by Rand.

## **Morgase Trakand**

Morgase is the Queen of Andor and the mother of Elayne, Gawyn, and Galad. She is currently having an affair with her Captain of the Guard, Gaebril, who is actually the Forsaken Rahvin.

## **Tallanvor**

A young captain in the Queen's Guard, Tallanvor swears an oath of loyalty to Morgase and accompanies her on her flight from Rahvin.





## Basil Gill

Basil Gill is the proprietor of the Queen's Blessing, an inn and tavern in Caemlyn. He is a good friend of Thom Merrilin and loyal to Queen Morgase.

## Aviendha

Aviendha is a former Aiel Maiden of the Spear and is now training to be a Wise One. Her potential strength in the One Power is matched by only Egwene and Nynaeve. She is the mysterious third woman who Min Farshaw saw in her vision of the two women with whom Min would have to share Rand. Aviendha considers herself near-sister to Egwene and Elayne and has been entrusted with the task of keeping other women away from Rand so he remains true to Elayne Trakand. This task, along with an additional assignment to spy on Rand and act as his Aiel cultural advisor for the Aiel Wise Ones, has placed her in close proximity to Rand. She has fallen in love with him.

## Moghedien

A member of the Forsaken known as the Spider, Moghedien is a master of weaving complex traps and snares for her enemies. She will remain in the shadows to trap her prey and does not mind pretending to be even the most put upon servant, if it serves her purposes. She recently lost a duel with Nynaeve Al'Meara and is obsessed with repaying the upstart young woman.

## Asmodean

Perhaps the weakest of the Forsaken in the One Power, Asmodean was a composer of music and an Aes Sedai during the Age of Legends before trading allegiances and joining the shadow. He was captured by Rand in Rhuidean and had a weave placed over him by Lanfear which limited his abilities to channel. He is currently acting as advisor to Rand, under the name Jasin Natael.

## Amyrlin Seat

The Amyrlin Seat is the elected head of the Aes Sedai. She is considered to belong to all Ajahs. The current Amyrlin Seat is Elaida do Avriny a'Roihan.

## Gareth Bryne

Gareth Bryne is the former Captain of the Guard and lover to Queen Morgase of Andor. He is renowned throughout the land as one of the three greatest living field marshals. The other two are Pedron Niall, the leader of the Children of the Light, and Davram Bashere, Marshal-General of Saldaea.



## Melindhra

Melindhra is a Maiden of the Spear from the Shaido clan who is currently sharing her bed with Mat Cauthon. She is also a Darkfriend.

## Birgitte Silverbow

Birgitte is a hero from the Age of Legends who is born into the pattern as a different woman to play important roles fighting the shadow during times of crisis. She along with her companion, Gaidal Cain, await rebirth in Tel'Aran'Rhiod. After she is pulled into the world by Moghedien, Birgitte becomes Elayne's warder and takes the name Birgitte Trahelion.

## Maidens of the Spear

The Maidens of the Spear are an all-female society of Aiel warriors. Rand's mother was a Maiden of the Spear and because of this the Maidens have adopted Rand as a son. He has reciprocated by proclaiming that the Maidens of the Spear carry his honor and are entrusted to be the personal guard of the Car'a'carn.

## Galad, Galadedrid Damodred

Galad is the handsome, half-brother of Elayne Trakand. He is a powerful and dangerous young warrior. After the split of the White Tower, Galad joins the Children of the Light. Elayne says Galad will do what he feels is just or righteous, no matter the consequences. Galad is also the half-brother of Rand.

## Uno

Uno is a Shienaran warrior who fought at the Battle of Falme and was left behind along with a contingency of Shienarans in Altar when Moiraine Sedai set off to intercept Rand in Tear.

## Masema, the Prophet

After the battle of Falme, Masema, a Shienaran warrior, began rallying followers to Rand's cause. He now styles himself as the Prophet of the Lord Dragon and has become a force of unrest in the southwest.



## Valan Luca

A menagerie and circus owner with a love of profit, Valan Luca meets Elayne Trakand and Nynaeve Al'Meara when they are fleeing Amadicia. He finds himself taken with Nynaeve, though she spurns his advances.

## Moiraine Damodred

An Aes Sedai of the Blue Ajah, Moiraine and her friend Siuan Sanche began a conspiracy after the Aiel War to find and aid the Dragon Reborn and keep his identity secret from the rest of the White Tower. She locates three ta'veren in Emond's Field and journeys with them to the Eye of the World where they learn that Rand is the Dragon Reborn. She has been keeping as close to Rand as possible, acting as his advisor.

## Ta'veren

A ta'veren is an individual whose thread acts as an influence on those around that individual. The Wheel of Time spins out the pattern of existence with the threads of individual lives. Most people have threads that follow the pattern and exert little force on the weaving. Ta'veren's create new patterns and bend and twist the weave. They come in varying degrees of strength. The weakest can manipulate individuals in close proximity. The strongest, like Rand, Artur Hawkwing, and Lews Therin, can create chaos in whole cities, creating anomalous events and unlikely outcomes.



# Objects/Places

## The White Tower

A massive structure created with the One Power after the Breaking of the World, the White Tower is the center of power to the order known as the Aes Sedai. It lies in the city of Tar Valon on the River of Erinin, halfway to the Borderlands from the great city of Caemlyn.

## Salidar

An abandoned town on the border between Altara and Amadicia, Salidar is now the headquarters of the Aes Sedai who rebelled when Suan Sanche was deposed by the current Amyrlin, Elaida. It is a small town surrounded by thick forest and far from any major city. The inn in Salidar has become known as the Little Tower. In it, the leaders of the rebellion conduct all their official business. When Suan Sanche asks a contact of the Blue Ajah if any messages are to be told to blue sisters, the contact tells her the name Sally Dara, thinking it refers to a woman. Suan recognizes that this refers to Salidar and concludes that the rebellion must be headquartering there.

## Tar Valon

A small city on an island in the middle of the River Erinin, Tar Valon serves as the home of the servants and artisans who tend the White Tower.

## Cairhien

Cairhien is the eponymous seat of the city-state bordering the Dragonwall, east of Caemlyn. It is the birth home of Moiraine Sedai, who is a niece of the former king. Before the Aiel War, it was the only city-state with whom the Aiel conducted trade. Cairhien is famous for the deceitful intriguing of its nobility. They call this Daes Daemar, or simply The Game.

## Caemlyn

The largest city in the known world, Caemlyn is the seat of Andor. Its most distinctive feature is the sloping white walls that surround its inner city. Emond's Field, the birthplace of Rand Al'Thor, is considered to be under the rule of Andor, and thus Caemlyn is his homeland's capital city, though it is so far from Emond's Field that no contingent of the Queen's Guard has visited it in Rand's lifetime. Andor is currently ruled by Queen Morgase, who lives in the royal palace in the inner city of Caemlyn. Caemlyn



was the first of the great cities visited by Rand, and it was where he first met Elayne Trakand.

## The Little Tower

The Little Tower is the name given to the inn in Salidar where the rebellion conducts its official business. The name has also come to be associated with the small ruling council of the rebellion.

## Gentled/stilled

Gentling and Stilling are procedures to cut a man or a woman, respectively, off from the One Power. The process is thought to be irreversible and has a strong negative psychological effect on the one being gentled or stilled. A man or woman who is treated in this way often gives up the will to live and dies soon after.

## Tel'Aran'Rhiod

Tel'Aran'Rhiod is a separate reality inside the realm of dreams. It is real, in the sense that physical damage done to a person in Tel'Aran'Rhiod can affect his or her body in the waking world. The characters in the story use Tel'Aran'Rhiod as a meeting place, but it can also be used to reconnoiter possibly dangerous locations, discover the location of sought after items, and review the conditions in far away locations. Dreamwalkers who have been trained to control their dreams can access Tel'Aran'Rhiod at will, but most people require the aid of an angreal or other object to grant them access.

## Angreal

Angreal focus the effects of the One Power. They come in two forms. The first, ter'angreal, focus the One Power to produce a specific effect. They most often require the user to be able to wield the One Power. However there are famous exceptions, such as Mat Cauthon's fox head medallion. Sa'angreal are far more rare. They amplify the power of the wielder, allowing him or her to do any task desired with much greater power than normal. The most famous sa'angreal are Callandor, which Rand Al'Thor drew out of the Stone of Tear, and the Choedan Kal, giant statues of a man and woman on opposite ends of the world, which are the most powerful sa'angreal ever made.

## Rhuidian

Rhuidian is an abandoned city, sacred to the Aiel, which lies in the Aiel Wastes just east of the Dragonwall. There Rand became an Aiel chief; Mat Cauthon entered a ter'angreal and received gifts from the Aelfinn, and Moiraine Sedai learned of her fate.



## Dragonwall

The Dragonwall is a vast mountain range, stretching north to south, which separates the mainland from the Aiel Wastes. Its most famous feature is the pass northeast of the city of Cairhien, which is known as Kinslayer's Dagger.

## The One Power

The One Power is a supernatural force by which some people are able to manipulate the physical world. It is divided into five elements, earth, air, fire, water, and spirit. Men tend to be stronger in fire and earth, women in air and water, while both sexes tend to wield spirit equally. The Dark One has cast a taint on the male half of the One Power so that long exposure to it produces madness and death.

## Saidin/Saidar

Saidin and Saidar are the male and female halves of the One Power, respectively. They are controlled in very different ways, and it is well known to Aes Sedai that a man trying to teach a woman to use the One Power, or vice versa, is like a trying to teach a fish how to use a bicycle.



# Themes

## Chivalry and Chauvinism

The central characters in the Wheel of Time series are Rand Al'Thor, Mat Cauthon, Perrin Aybara, Egwene Al'Vere and Nynaeve Al'Meara. All five of them were born in a small provincial town on the extreme edge of Andor. The values instilled in them in this small town are, compared to those of the cities, are old fashioned and conservative, especially when it comes to matters of sex. The young women of Emond's Field wear their hair combed out until they reach sexual maturity. They then keep their hair braided throughout adulthood. When a boy and girl have reached maturity, they can begin courting only after their relationship has been sanctioned by the Women's Circle. Sexual intimacy is expected to be preceded by marriage or certainly to be followed by it. Any violation of these norms results in a strong social rebuke.

Likewise, the men of Emond's Field are taught that a woman's life is more precious, and no matter who she is or what she has done in her life, somehow more innocent than a man's. Though the Women's Circle is the ruling council in Emond's Field, and the men of the town respect and even revere their women as fierce social leaders, they believe that fighting and dying in battle is a hardship and a glory made solely for men. A woman killed by violence is almost always considered a tragedy and akin to the death of a child.

Rand and Mat are each having a hard time reconciling these chauvinistic values with the world into which they have ventured. Rand is particularly troubled. After he and Aviendha sleep together in their ice dome Rand expects that they will marry straightaway and even begins to ponder how he will communicate with the Women's Circle in distant Emond's Field in order to acquire permission to marry an Aiel woman. Rand has been away from home for several years and has fought battles against the Forsaken, conquered the impregnable Stone of Tear, drew Callandor, became the Car'a'carn of the Aiel, and came to grips with the fact that he is the Dragon Reborn, the most powerful man in the world, and perhaps doomed to dying fighting the Dark One at Tarmon Gai'don. Despite all this, his social upbringing immediately causes him to worry about what the Women's Circle in Emond's Field will say about his sexual liaison with Aviendha. In many ways, Aviendha confuses Rand further by refusing to marry him. She is a woman, and for that reason he associates her with the Women's Circle, which he has always understood as the ruling social force. Her refusal is at odds with his conceptions about women.

He is also deeply troubled by his relationship with the Maidens of the Spear, to whom he has given his honor and named as his personal guard. Maidens of the Spear do not normally marry or take lovers without giving up the spear. When a Maiden becomes pregnant but does not wish to give up the spear, her child is taken from her at birth and placed into another Aiel community. Thus the Maidens have never known which children in the Aiel communities are theirs, and have always thus considered them lost. Rand was born to a Maiden of the Spear who then died in the last battle of the Aiel War. He



was taken from the battle by Tam Al'Thor, who was fighting for Andor against the Aiel, and raised in Emond's Field. Once Rand becomes Car'a'carn, he and the Maidens are able to determine who his mother was. The Maidens now consider Rand to be the first child who has ever come back to them, and they dote on him. He finds that it is similar to having ten thousand aunts, even though some of them are younger than he. He allows them to carry his honor but finds he is particularly troubled when a Maiden dies for him in battle. After his ascension to Car'a'carn, this began happening with greater frequency, and Rand begins to memorize the names and faces of every woman who dies for him. Though thousands of men will die in his battle with the shadow, it is only women whose names Rand commits to memory.

He offends the Maidens several times by sneaking away from them to confront dangerous situations alone and by keeping them on the backlines during battles, in particular the battle of Cairhien. They punish him with strong social rebukes and in a few cases physical ones, but he continues to hold on to his belief that the death of a woman, even a woman who has dedicated her life to the spear, is tragic.

Mat and Rand are both perturbed by the prospect of being the agent of a woman's death, and in several cases they put their life in jeopardy because of this chivalry. Mat is forced to kill Melindhra after she attacks him and attempts to kill him, but he hesitates because she is a woman and it nearly costs him his life. Even after her death, with her confession that she is a Darkfriend still ringing in his ears, he makes a vow to never again get himself into a situation in which he will have to take the life of a woman. Rand finds himself in the same predicament when Lanfear attacks at the docks in Cairhien. He knows that, though it is taking most of his power to protect Aviendha and Egwene, he probably still has enough to kill Lanfear. But he hesitates because she is a woman, and because of this someone else, Moiraine, has to act to stop Lanfear. Rand is heartbroken over the event. Because he could not kill a female enemy, he lost a female friend and a vital advisor.

## **Maturity and New Roles**

When Nynaeve Al'Meara set off from Emond's Field in pursuit of Moiraine Sedai and the children Nynaeve believed Moiraine seduced away from the community, Nynaeve was the Wisdom, or Wise Woman of Emond's Field. She was very young for the position but was fiercely independent, commanding, and gifted in not only the art of healing, but also in predicting the weather, a vital role in a rural farming community. She was several years older than Egwene and her hair was braided as a sign that she was a mature woman. She grew up caring for Egwene, Rand, Mat, and Perrin as an older sister would, chastising them when they behaved poorly, mending their cuts and scrapes and once in Egwene's case, saving her from a deadly fever, and exercising her authority over them to get them to perform chores.

She succeeded in tracking down Moiraine but could not convince the children to return with her to Emond's Field. She decided to stay with them and act as a buffer between them and Moiraine, whom she despised. Over the course of only a couple years, her





young charges had journeyed to the Eye of the World, battled with the Forsaken, fought epic battles at Falme and Tear, and journeyed into the distant Aiel Wastes. They had each become adults and had endured hardships and faced challenges that most people would never face in their whole lives. They had changed, but Nynaeve's attitude toward them had stayed the same. She still considered herself their protector and she still expected them to submit to her authority.

In the Fires of Heaven, Nynaeve reaches a crossroads in her life. Moiraine has died, and though Nynaeve does not know this yet, the death of her adversary has changed her life. For the past few years, Nynaeve has sought to thwart Moiraine, recover the children Moiraine "stole," and revenge herself on the woman by taking Lan. With Moiraine's death, her role has changed. At the same time, she has found herself a new adversary in Moghedien, and Nynaeve's determination to learn everything about healing makes it impossible for her to turn her back on the White Tower, which for years she has allowed to govern her only so that she may keep an eye on Egwene.

Nynaeve is having a hard time confronting these changes. As she begins meeting Egwene in Tel'Aran'Rhiod she finds that her young apprentice is now a woman and is not only capable of taking care of herself but has in some areas acquired authority over Nynaeve. This comes to a head when Egwene upbraids Nynaeve about her careless and arrogant use of Tel'Aran'Rhiod. Egwene is a gifted Dreamwalker and capable of manipulating and controlling Tel'Aran'Rhiod. She pulls Nynaeve into a nightmare in order to scare the older woman into taking Tel'Aran'Rhiod more seriously. Nynaeve is at first shocked by Egwene's behavior but then finds herself feeling shame, an emotion she feels rarely and admits even less. She suddenly sees that she has been arrogant about Tel'Aran'Rhiod, that Egwene is no longer a child, and that she, Nynaeve, deserves the rebuke.

## Sexism

Many of the men in the Wheel of Time series have chauvinistic attitudes about women, but the women, too, have many erroneous conceptions about men. Women share authority in Jordan's world. There are ruling kings and queens. While his central protagonist is male, the strongest institution, the order of the Aes Sedai, is entirely female. This is mirrored by the social structure of Emond's Field, which has a mayor, Egwene's father, who shares power with a ruling council of older women, the Women's Circle.

Throughout the series, the attitude of most of the female characters toward men is unchanging. There are, of course, a few exceptions, including Birgitte, and the Maidens of the Spear. But most of the principle female characters, including Nynaeve, Egwene, Elayne, and Min, maintain a fixed view of men. They consider men incapable of making proper intellectual decisions without the aid of women. They believe that men, if left to their own devices, will gamble, drink and womanize and that society will break down because men will not perform necessary tasks and behave responsibly without the guidance of women.



There is an excellent example of this sexism in the way Nynaeve and Elayne treat their male traveling companions, Thom Merrilin and Juilin Sandar. Thom and Juilin were employed by Rand and Lan, respectively, to journey to Tanchico with Nynaeve and Elayne. Nynaeve and Elayne keep the men in the dark about the nature of their mission, which is confronting the Black Ajah. Even after the raid on the Panarch's palace and the flight from Tanchico, the men are not told the whole story, despite the fact that they are risking their lives each day. This secrecy is especially damning after Tanchico, when Nynaeve and Elayne know they are being hunted by one of the Forsaken, Moghedien. Only after Birgitte's arrival does Elayne tell Thom and Juilin about their mission and their state of affairs, and Nynaeve later rebukes Elayne for doing so, because now that the men know what is going on they are bound to make a muddle of it.

# Style

## Point of View

The entire Wheel of Time series is written in third person omniscient. Jordan changes viewpoints frequently. He sticks with the principle characters, Rand, Mat, Egwene, Nynaeve, and Elayne, most of the time, but he will occasionally jump into another character. He rarely shows the point of view of an antagonist. This occurs only a few times in Fires of Heaven, when Kadere confronts Isendre, when Alviarin meets with Padan Fain, and when the Forsaken plan their attack on Rand. After the first two books, each book in the series contains an extensive prologue. This section is often dominated by the points of view of the antagonists, and Jordan uses it to set up the action that will follow and splice in bits of information that will prove vital later on in the series.

Though there is a great deal of action in the series, it would be inaccurate to call it action-oriented. Jordan spends far more time examining the psychological states of his characters than he does their physical activities. He sticks to third person omniscient for all this psychological examination, but when he is examining the internal state of a character, he slips into first person. In the first two books, he used italics to mark these sections off as the internal thoughts of his characters. As the series progresses he has dropped this distracting tendency and the separation of thought from reality is left to the reader.

## Setting

The Fires of Heaven is split into three narrative lines, each following a group of characters that are journeying across the land. Rand rides with an army of Aiel from the ruined city of Rhuidean in the Aiel Wastes, which now contains a vast lake created by the cataclysmic duel between Rand and Asmodean in *THE SHADOW RISING*, through the high pass of Kinslayer's Dagger on the Dragonwall, and into the fields of Cairhien. Their journey takes them from the dry, savage wasteland east of the Dragonwall, where the Aiel have for centuries fought over watering holds and other scant resources, into the green farming fields that surround Cairhien. Nynaeve and Elayne are on the opposite side of the world, in the southwest, fleeing the coastal city of Tanchico. Theirs is a journey along provincial roads through Tarabon and into Amadicia, where they must hide their identities for fear of being arrested and tried by the Children of the Light. The final leg of their journey takes them along a wide, snaking river heading south toward Illian. They stop at Salidar to join the Little Tower's rebellion. The third narrative thread is the smallest, which involves Suan, Leane, Min, and Logain, who travel south out of Andor with Gareth Bryne in pursuit. They stop in the rough-and-tumble, landlocked city of Lugard, where Suan learns about the rebellion gathering at Salidar. She takes them west into Altara, converging on the path of Nynaeve and Elayne. Salidar is a once-abandoned town surrounded by thick forest, which is now patrolled by vigilant warders.



The town itself has been transformed into a bustling community of Aes Sedai, servants, warders, novices and soldiers.

## Language and Meaning

The language used in the Wheel of Time series is simple and straightforward. The author's vocabulary is no more than high school level, and there is very little in the way of complicated philosophical or scientific content. The book is deeply concerned with the psychological state of its characters, but these are presented in a charged, emotional simplicity, not in meditative philosophy.

Like many epics in the fantasy genre, the series is a sharply divided battle between good and evil, though the author has mixed in plenty of ambiguous elements to complicate the story. Clearly, the book could be considered as a defense of war in the name of righteousness. As with most stories in this genre, there is little negotiation and reconciliation with the dark force or forces. The last battle must occur. The evil must be stamped out. There is no coexistence and failure to defeat the force or forces of evil will result in servitude or annihilation.

## Structure

The Fires of Heaven is a traveling book. There are three narrative lines, each involving a group of characters that is on the move. In two cases, the narratives converge at the town of Salidar. In the other case, the narrative builds to a battle at the siege of Cairhien. The chapters most often signal a change in the point of view, though there are cases where the author will switch points of view within a chapter. These breaks never leap into other narratives, but will instead show the point of view of another actor in the same narrative. The only exception to this is in the prologue, where the author jumps around a great deal to set the stage for the ensuing story.

The narratives share focus and are not told all at once, but woven together in alternating chapters. Particularly climatic moments often end chapters that are then followed by a jump to another narrative. This allows the author to increase the suspense created by the most important twists in the plot. The chapter is the largest division in the story. It is not broken up into parts or books. The chapter titles hint at their content, but there is no standardized structure to the titles, though they do not exceed the size of a short preposition or formal location name.



## Quotes

"Those marked him, to the people on this side of the mountain range variously called the Dragonwall or the Spine of the World, as He Who Comes With the Dawn. And like the herons branded into his palms, they marked him for those beyond the Dragonwall, too, according to the Prophecies, as the Dragon Reborn. In both cases prophesied to unite, save—and destroy."

p. 56

"'You believe it will not be a catastrophe for the Aiel as well?' It must have been difficult to sound as cool as a winter stream when you glistened from head to foot with condensed steam and your own sweat, but Moirain apparently had no difficulty. 'It will be the Aiel War all over again. You will kill and burn and loot towns as you did then, until you have turned every man and woman against you.'"

p. 101

"Her laugh was as silvery as the moon above, but bitterness tinged it. 'It has been more like wrestling with a bear than pulling strings on a puppet. Do you want an oath not to try manipulating you? I give it.' Her voice hardened to crystal. 'I even swear to obey you like one of the Maidens—like one of the gai'shain, if you require—but you must—' Taking a deep breath, she began again, more softly. 'I ask you, humbly, to allow me to help you.'"

Moiraine to Rand, p. 119

"It did not matter what she should do; that disgusting woman had told her what she needed. Not Sallie Daera; not a woman at all. Only a Blue would know, or even suspect. Salidar. Birthplace of Deane Aryman, the Blue sister who had become Amyrlin after Bonwhin and had rescued the Tower from the ruin Bonwhin had poised it for. Salidar. One of the last places anyone would look for Aes Sedai, short of Amadicia itself."

p. 173

"'Is that all you can say? I think Suan was your friend once, Moiraine. Can't you shed a tear for her?'"

The Aes Sedai looked at her, and that cool, serene gaze told her how far she had to go before she could use that title herself. Sitting, Egwene was nearly a head taller, and she was stronger in the Power besides, but there was more to being Aes Sedai than strength. 'I have no time for tears, Egwene. The Dragonwall is not many days distant now, and the Alguenya...Suan and I were friends, once.'"

Egwene and Moiraine, p. 214

"She let her temper flare right back at him. 'If you are a man, behave as one. Stand, and answer your queen's questions truthfully. And remember that I am your queen, young Tallanvor. Whatever you think may have happened, I am Queen of Andor.'"

'Forgive me, my Queen. I hear and obey.' The words were properly said, if not exactly contrite, but he stood, head high, staring at her as defiantly as ever. Light, the man was as stubborn as Gareth Bryne had ever been."

Morgase and Tallanvor, p. 253



"Aviendha was in her blankets, with one slim, bare leg sticking out. He tried not to look at it, or her. She had left a lamp lit. He climbed into his own blankets gratefully and channeled the lamp out before releasing saidin. This time he dreamed of Aviendha hurling fire, only she was not hurling it at a Draghkar, and Sammael was sitting at her side, laughing."  
p. 288

"The faces are close, in many ways,' Sheriam said slowly. 'Someone could have found women who look much like them, but why?'  
Siuana and Leane did not look smug any longer. 'We are who we are,; Leane said crisply. 'Question us. No impostor could know what we know.'  
Siuana did not wait for questions. 'My face may be changed, yet at least I know what I am doing and why. That is more than I can say for you, I'll wager.'  
Min groaned at her steely tone, but Myrelle nodded, saying, 'That is Siuana Sanche's voice. It is she.'"  
Siuana, Leane and Min before the Little Tower, p. 318

"But these are my conditions.' They stiffened to a woman at that, even Siuana and Leane. Men did not make conditions for Aes Sedai. 'First, the command is mine. You tell me what to do, but I decide how. You give commands to me, and I give them to the soldiers under me, not you. Not unless I have agreed first...Second, if I tell you it can't be done, you will consider what I say. I don't ask to usurp your authority'—small chance they would allow that—'yet I do not want to waste men because you do not understand war.'"  
Gareth Bryne to the Little Tower, p. 337

"The night folded in over Birgitte like an ocean wave, enveloping her in blackness. When it passed, the bow dropped atop empty clothes as they collapsed. The clothes faded like fog burning off, and only the bow and arrows remained, shining in the moonlight."  
p. 393

"Hear me Shienarans,' he said, turning his head, and suddenly his voice was steel. 'I am Galadedrid Damodred, and this woman is under my protection. As for her companion, I would count it small loss to die in order to save her the smallest harm. If you allow either to come to that smallest harm, I will find you both and kill you.'"  
Galad to Uno and Ragan regarding Elayne and Nynaeve, p. 448

"I understand that a man can kill or gentle himself doing what you did. Strength in the Power is useless if the body is exhausted. Saidin can easily kill, if the body is exhausted."  
Asmodean to Rand, p. 514

"Yet if they held the mob, it was Galad that broke them. He faced their charge as though awaiting the next dance at a ball, arms folded and unconcerned, not even bothering to bare his blade until they were almost on top of him. Then he did dance, all his grace turned in an instant to fluid death. He did not stand against them; he carved a path into



their heart, a clear swath as wide as his sword's reach."  
p. 558

"Suppressing a small bubble of hope—she could not allow herself that luxury—Moiraine balanced upright a moment on the wagontail, then embraced the True Source and leaped at Lanfear. The Forsaken had an instant's warning, enough to turn before Moiraine struck her, clawing the bracelet away. Face to face, they toppled through the doorframe ter'angreal. White light swallowed everything."  
p. 632

"Moghedien's hand leaped to the collar, shock rounding her eyes. Rage and horror. Rage more than horror, at first. Nynaeve felt them almost as if they were her own. Moghedien had to know what the leash-and-collar was, yet she tried to channel anyway; at the same time Nynaeve felt a slight shifting in herself, in the a'dam, as the other woman tried to bend Tel'Aran'Rhiod to herself. Suppressing Moghedien's attempt was simple; the a'dam was a link, with her in control. Knowing that made it easy. Nynaeve did not want to channel those flows, so they were not channeled. Moghedien might as well have tried to pick up a mountain with her bare hands. Horror overwhelmed rage."  
p. 656



## Topics for Discussion

Explain the concept of chivalry. Does it make sense in a modern context, or is it merely sexism?

How does Rand's distaste for seeing women killed and injured cause him pain?

Discuss the transformation of Nynaeve's role as protector of the children who left Emond's Field.

Discuss how the attitudes of many of the women in the Wheel of Time series toward men are an example of sexism.

Explain the psychological subterfuge that Siuan Sanche and Leane Shariff employ in order to exercise some control over the Little Tower in Salidar.

Min knows that she must share Rand with two other women. She is unhappy with this but knows that it is unavoidable if she wishes to be with him. She is willing to do this. Aiel women often share a husband. Discuss polygamy in the context of the Wheel of Time world.

Can the Wheel of Time series be seen as a justification for war? Defend your answer.

The author for the most part stays away from the points of view of his antagonists. What does this do for the narrative? Does it successfully help to create suspense?