

The Great Hunt Study Guide

The Great Hunt by Robert Jordan

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Plot Summary

The second book in the Wheel of Time series begins in Fal Dara, the capital city of the land of Shienar, on the edge of the Blight. Rand, Mat, Perrin, Egwene and Nynaeve have just returned from their journey to the Eye of the World, during which Rand destroyed the forsaken known as Aginor and grappled with the Dark One, Ba'alzamon. Rand's ability to channel the One Power, a force that allows one to manipulate matter and energy, has instilled in him a strong desire to leave his friends, both to protect them from what he might become once the taint left by the Dark One on the male half of the One Power has driven him mad and to protect himself by putting as much distance between himself and the White Tower as possible.

After a meeting with the leader of the Aes Sedai and Moiraine, Rand agrees to help retrieve the Horn of Valere, which has been stolen in a raid on the keep of Fal Dara. Rand's primary reason for pursuing the horn is that those who stole it also took the dagger that Mat Cauthon had removed from Shadar Lagoth. If the dagger is not found and returned to Mat, he will die.

Rand, Perrin, Mat and Loial the Ogier set off on the trail of the horn and the dagger with an armed party of Shienaran soldiers led by Ingtar. After becoming separated from the others, Rand and Loial catch up with the Darkfriends led by Padan Fain and steal the horn and the dagger back, taking both to the city of Cairhien to await the arrival of Ingtar.

While in Cairhein, Rand sparks a civil war, as various intrigues lead to the death of both the king and his chief rival. Padan Fain steals the horn and dagger back from Rand and enters a nearby Waygate, leaving a message for Rand that he will await him on Toman Head, a peninsula on the Almoth Plain. Rand uses the One Power to transport his party to the Almoth Plain, where an invading army from across the sea has pacified many of the villages and holds the city of Falme.

Nynaeve and Egwene journey to Tar Valon to begin their training in the White Tower. There they meet up with Min, who Moiraine had introduced to them when traveling through Baerlon. Egwene, after being made a novice, discovers a new friend in Elayne, the daughter heir of Andor, who is a novice as well.

Shortly after Nynaeve is elevated to the rank of Accepted, Liandrin, an Aes Sedai of the Red Ajah, tells her Moiraine believes Rand is in trouble on Toman Head and needs their assistance. Liandrin takes Nynaeve, Egwene, Elayne and Min through a Waygate to the Almoth Plain only to betray them to the Seanchan, the invaders from across the Aryth Ocean. Egwene and Min are both captured, but Nynaeve and Elayne escape.

Rand and his party sneak into Falme and find the horn and the dagger in the home of the Seanchan High Lord Turak. Rand kills Turak, but as they make their escape, Rand spots Egwene and feels he must try to rescue her.



Events come to a head as the Seanchan army converges on both Rand's party, and Nynaeve and Elayne, who have managed to free Egwene and Min. Attempting to flee Falme, both parties find themselves trapped between the Seanchan and an army of Whitecloaks, who have come to retake the city. Mat sounds the Horn of Valere, calling fighters from the Age of Legends to join them. They pledge their allegiance to Rand, who they recognize as the Dragon Reborn, and, flying the banner of Lews Therin Telamon, they help Rand's party destroy the Seanchan army. Meanwhile, Rand battles Ba'alzamon in the sky above Falme. He sustains a grievous wound but defeats Ba'alzamon and is rescued by Min, who gets him to Moiraine and Verin Sedai to be healed.

As the story comes to a close, Rand must face the fact that he is indeed the Dragon Reborn, and that news of his battle with Ba'alzamon in the skies above Falme, which was seen by the whole city, will be spread across the land.



Chapters 1-3

Chapters 1-3 Summary

It is nearly one month since Rand told them he was leaving, but he has lingered. Lan says he expected Rand to be three weeks gone at this point and asks him why he has tarried. At first, Rand tells the Warder that he does not wish to leave while Mat, Perrin, Egwene, and Nynaeve still remain at Fal Dara. But when Lan presses him further on the matter, Rand admits that it is Moiraine's behavior that has troubled him. He expected Moiraine to provide him with more information about what he is to do.

As they speak, a trumpet blast announces the arrival of a long procession approaching the city. Lan's sharp eyes make out the banner of Tar Valon, and as the procession nears, Rand is dismayed to see many Aes Sedai riding together. Aes Sedai are a sect of people, now exclusively women, trained to wield the One Power. Lan says that the Amyrlin Seat, their leader, has come in person, and that it would be better if Rand was a week gone already. Rand packs his bags to leave, taking care to bring along Thom Merrill's cloak, harp, and flute.

Deciding to take the shortest route to the stables, Rand passes through the large central courtyard. Packed with onlookers, the courtyard becomes the scene of the ritual greeting of the Amyrlin Seat by the royal family of Fal Dara. Along with the Amyrlin Seat, Rand spots fourteen Aes Sedai, together with sixteen Warders, trained guardians that bond with an Aes Sedai and protect her with their lives. His uneasiness increases, and he sets off toward the stables to make a quick exit.

When Rand arrives at the stables, the stable hand Tema informs him that an order has just arrived forbidding the release of any mounts to leave the city. Tema further tells Rand that all the gates of the fortress have been closed and the guards have orders not to allow anyone out until further notice.

Hoping one of the lesser gates out of the fortress has been left unlocked and unguarded, Rand travels to each, but finds guards posted at every exit. Rand is trapped. In increasing agitation, he wanders the keep, looking vaguely for another method of escape or at least a hiding place. Rand is by now in a paranoid state and is certain he is being watched.

Rand then encounters Egwene, who decides to hide him in the dungeons, but, after an unpleasant encounter with Padan Fain, they decide to leave. Believing it the last place they will think to look for Rand, Egwene decides to hide him in the women's apartments.

Chapters 1-3 Analysis

Rand's hesitation to leave his friends is a manifestation of his desire to deny what has happened to him. That he is a man who can channel, that he may be the incarnation of



Lews Therin Telamon, the Dragon, and that the final battle, Tarmon Gai'don, may be approaching, all are facts he will work hard to suppress throughout his search for the Horn of Valere. The Horn of Valere is a powerful, magical object from the Age of Legends, said to be able to call back the army of Artur Hawkwing to fight against the dark forces. If Moiraine is correct, and Rand is ta'veren, a thread that weaves others around it in the pattern made by the Wheel of Time, then he may have little choice. The fate that awaits him is unavoidable.

His immediate problem is the Aes Sedai, many of whom will gentle any man who can touch the One Source, whether he is the Dragon Reborn or not. Gentling cuts a man off from the One Source, making him able to sense its presence, but not able to use it. As the delegation from Tar Valon, the home city of the Aes Sedai, approaches, Rand's initial reaction is fear, and he attempts to break his ties with his friends and leave Fal Dara.

The first section of the book is primarily a reintroduction to the main characters of the epic. They each make their appearance and the reader is reminded of the major changes that have occurred in their lives. Perrin with his golden eyes, can now converse with wolves. Mat, who Jordan hinted in the first book had strong ties to the ancient line of Manetheren rulers, is bound to the dagger he took from Shadar Lagoth. Nynaeve and Egwene are women who can channel the One Source, and their path lies on the road to the White Tower.



Chapters 4-6

Chapters 4-6 Summary

When Moiraine enters the Amyrlin Seat's chambers, she finds the chest of the Horn of Valere, which she had found in the Eye of the World, on the Amyrlin Seat's desk. The Amyrlin Seat, a strong-willed woman named Sivan Sanches from Tear, tells Moiraine that Elayne, the daughter-heir of Queen Morgase of Caerlyn, who is being trained to use the One Power in Tar Valon, is strong, and that the sisters of the Red Ajah are grooming her to join them. The Aes Sedai divide themselves into sects, identified by the colors blue, red, white, green, brown, yellow, and gray. The sect of the Red Ajah is notorious for its hostility toward men, especially those that can channel. Moiraine tells the Amyrlin Seat that Egwene is just as strong as Elayne and that Nynaeve may be stronger than all of them, and that neither of them would ever join the Red.

After dismissing her Keeper, Leane, the Amyrlin Seat embraces Moiraine, telling her that if anyone finds out what the two of them are up to, they will both end up being stilled. An Aes Sedai who has been stilled can no longer wield the One Power.

The Amyrlin Seat and Moiraine discuss the finding of the Horn of Valere, something which is only supposed to occur when the final battle is near, and Moiraine shows Sivan the broken seal, made out of Cuendillar, or Heart Stone, that they removed from the Eye of the World. It is one of the seven seals of the Dark One's prison. Heart Stone is an indestructible substance made with the One Power.

Moiraine intends to induce Rand, Mat, and Perrin to escort the Horn to Illiam, where Rand would, in one fell swoop, gain an army by presenting the Horn and raising the banner of the Dragon Reborn.

Meanwhile, in Tarabon, under orders from the Lord Captain Commander Pedron Niall, Geofram Bornhald leads two thousand Children of the Light toward Toman Head. The Children of the Light believe themselves to be the only force guarding against the return of the dark forces, though in reality they are in many ways a dark force themselves, tyrannous and cruel. There Bornhald meets Einor Saren of the Questioners, a special sect of the Children, who act as inquisitors of supposed darkfriends. Einor tells Geofram Bornhald that the large gathering of strangers on Toman Head must be pacified. When Geofram Bornhald asks if the horde might be Arthur Hawkwing's army returned, Saren tells him pointedly that they are just "strangers."

Rand and Nynaeve are speaking in Egwene's apartment when an alarm sounds. The stronghold of Fal Dara is under attack. Ignoring Nynaeve's warnings, Rand tears off toward the basement in search of Egwene, who was visiting the Darkfriend Padan Fain. On the way, he encounters both Trollocs and Fades. The scene in the dungeon is grisly. The guards are dead and the walls are covered in a message, written in blood and in the Trolloc tongue. There is also a message from Padan Fain to Rand, telling him that



they would meet again on Toman's Head. Liandrin arrives and begins using the One Power to torture Rand for information, but she ceases when Moiraine arrives. Together they find Egwene and Mat outside Fain's cell, unconscious. Moiraine determines that while Egwene will be fine, Mat's life is in danger. The dagger he removed from Shadar Lagoth, which Moiraine had already said must not leave his side until it can be safely removed with the One Power, is gone.

Ingvar tells Rand that the attack was clearly aided from the inside. Two guards are missing along with the Horn of Valere. Lan suggests that Rand perhaps take his leave as, despite the attack, he is now exempted from the order to deny anyone in the keep to leave.

Chapters 4-6 Analysis

One of the major themes of the book is Rand's inability to escape the circumstances that continue to bind him to the prophecies regarding the Dragon Reborn. In this section, Padan Fain steals the Horn of Valere, but it is the additional item he takes, Mat's dagger from Shadar Lagoth, that ties Rand's hands. His decision to aid Mat halts any chance of extricating himself from the events. For much of the rest of the book, Rand's focus is on the dagger. He believes that if he can restore it to Mat, he will be able to sever his ties to the White Tower.

The message Padan Fain leaves on the dungeon walls is one of several he will leave for Rand over the course of events. The theft also begins the journey of the Horn of Valere, a journey which will take it across the world from Fal Dara to Falme. It will ironically be carried there entirely by people inside Fal Dara at the time of its theft. This interchange of the horn, which occurs no less than four times, drives the geographical setting of the book.



Chapters 7-9

Chapters 7-9 Summary

The Aes Sedai in the keep manage to prolong Mat's life, but they say he will not survive unless the dagger is found and he can be truly severed from it. Because the dagger will taint anyone who carries it, Mat is the only person who can safely retrieve it.

The Amyrlin Seat meets with Moiraine and an Aes Sedai of the brown Ajah named Verin. Verin is a scholar, and she briefs the other two on the messages written on the walls of the prison. The verses speak of the coming of Lanfear, a follower of the Dark One, who, along with the other Unforgiven, supporters of the Dark One from the Age of Legends, is suppose to be bound in Shayol Gul, the prison built to contain Ba'alzamon and his followers, for eternity. During her interpretation of the message, Verin blurts out that the Dragon Reborn must refer to one of Moiraine's three young men, and Suan and Moiraine are forced to take Verin into their confidence about their plans.

Lan brings Rand to a meeting with the Amyrlin Seat. She tells him plainly that she knows he can channel the One Power. When Rand tells her he will not do it again, she tells him that they do not want him to stop, and that he must continue because he is the Dragon Reborn. When Rand denies this, Suan and Moiraine tell him about a prophecy made more than twenty years ago, foretelling of the birth of the Dragon on the slopes of Dragonmount, fulfilling the Karaethon Cycle. They tell him of an Aeil woman who is likely his mother. The Aeil are a fierce race of people living in the Blight to the east of the Spine of the World. Rand's father, finding him abandoned on the mountain, spirited him away to the Two Rivers and raised him as a son.

Rand wishes to accompany Ingtar, Mat, and Perrin, who are setting off to find the dagger and the Horn of Valere. The three Aes Sedai, Suan, Moiraine, and Verin, make no effort to stop him, believing it part of the prophecy to allow him to retrieve the horn. Unsure when he will see her again, Lan gives Nynaeve his signet ring.

During the ceremony marking the departure of both Ingtar's party and the Amyrlin Seat's party, an assassin fires an arrow at Suan, grazing her arm. The assassin escapes and the parties depart. Outside the city, Ingtar's party is joined by Hurin, who is a "sniffer," a man who can track those who commit violence. Ingtar, expecting his tracker to take them north into the Blight, the land controlled by the dark forces, is surprised when Hurin turns them south.

In Illian, Mayle Domon, the captain of the Sea Spray, meets with a wealthy man in Cairhien attire, who wishes him to travel east to Mayene to escort an unknown personage back to Illian. Domon takes their gold, but, sensing a trap, sails west instead. He is a collector of rare objects, and suspects that something he has recently acquired has drawn him unwanted attention, namely a large piece of rare Cuendillar, or Heartstone.



Chapters 7-9 Analysis

Mat's projected deterioration sets a time limit on events, increasing the pace of the action and adding to the suspense. The urgency of their quest is added to by Ingtar's obsession with the Horn of Valere, which will become stronger throughout the journey.

During his meeting with the Amyrlin Seat, Rand begins to temper his fear with both the resolve to save Mat and his growing anger at the White Tower. The White Tower in Tar Valon, is the stronghold of the Aes Sedai. Throughout the book Rand repeats his insistence that he will not be used, to both the Aes Sedai and to Ba'alzamon. He still sees himself as the shepherd whose life has been torn apart by powerful factions, and he still believes that if he can simply jump clear of the forces trying to manipulate him, he can return to his former life.

When the Amyrlin Seat ambushes him with the story of his birth, he is forced to remember the words his father Tam muttered in his delirium after the battle of Bell Tine in Emond's Field, the town in which he believes he was born. Through all the trials of the journey to the Eye of the World and his subsequent standoff against the Dark One, Rand has looked to his former life in Emond's Field for determination and resolve. He has used the promise of return for strength, just as he has used Tam's sword to defend himself. Now the forces around him, personified by the Amyrlin Seat before him and the White Tower she represents, are attempting to cut the strongest thread he has to his past, the thread to his father Tam.

But just as Rand's past is called into doubt, Rand is also introduced to a new home and a new people. Rand's relationship with the people who call themselves the Aiel, will become a major theme in the series. Though their role in this book is minimal, the Aiel will prove to have a large impact on the entire epic series.

There is a great deal of information imparted to the reader in this section, most of it in the form of prophetic verse. Much of the verse will remain mysterious even at the end of the book and provide prophetic material for subsequent books.



Chapters 10-12

Chapters 10-12 Summary

Hurin finds their quarry leaving an erratic trail, often turning back northeast toward the Blight, before returning to the southern course. In a tree just past the River Erinin, they find the bodies of two Fal Dara guards, possibly the traitors that facilitated the attack, strung up and skinned alive. While passing through an abandoned village, Rand experiences a vision of the panic-stricken villages fleeing their homes as the dark force arrives. Even more ominous, they find a Myrdraal, a powerful dark creature, nailed to the door of the inn, and Rand, Mat, Perrin and Loian wonder at the power or control it would take to do such a thing to such a creature that, on the battlefield, can kill hundreds of men. One of Ingtar's soldiers insists that he has spotted a mysterious woman in a white dress at each of the abandoned villages through which they have traveled.

When they have made camp that night, Ingtar pulls Rand aside and hands him a bundle that Moiraine wanted him to have at their first stop past the River Erinin. He also, to Rand's chagrin, tells him that all of the soldiers have been told that Rand is second in command of the party and will take over leadership if Ingtar falls.

Once alone, Rand opens the bundle to find the banner of Lews Therin Kinslayer, the Dragon, which they had found in the Eye of the World. Mat and Perrin track him down outside of the camp and find him with the banner. Rand finally admits that he can channel, and he tells them of his fears that he is being used by the Aes Sedai.

Padan Fain has been in control of the party that freed him. Against their will, he has driven the Trollocs and the Myrdraal south with the Horn of Valere, and it was he who nailed the Myrdraal to the door. This explains their erratic movement, for the occasional retreats north occurred when Fain briefly lost control. Traveling with Fain and the dark soldiers are a group of Darkfriends, humans who support the Dark One, from Fal Dara.

The Amyrlin Seat's entourage leaves Fal Dara for Tar Valon. Traveling with the Aes Sedai, Egwene and Nynaeve receive lessons on how to use the One Power each night of the journey, and Nynaeve learns that as a wilder, a woman who learns to gain control over the power without instruction, she is among the minority who do not go insane from the experience, or kill themselves or others.

After Egwene tells one of the sisters that she is having seemingly prophetic dreams about Rand, they believe that she might be a dreamer, a person capable of using the One Power to gain insight and even communicate through dreams. She asks to speak to Moiraine about it, but is told that Moiraine and Lan left the convoy, followed by Liandrin and then Verin.



Chapters 10-12 Analysis

The horrors encountered on the trail of Padan Fain and his small band of trollocs and darkfriends are quite gruesome, but typical of dark creatures used in stories of this genre. The appearance and disappearance of Lanfear, the mysterious woman in the white dress, who will call herself Selene for much of the book, begins in the villages through which Ingtar's party travels.

Moiraine's manipulation of Rand from a distance—including providing him with the clothes typical of a Lord, telling Ingtar that Rand is second in command of the mission, and leaving the banner of the Dragon, Lews Therin Telamon, with Rand—has him in an increasingly agitated state, angry with both her and all Aes Sedai.

Nynaeve is infuriated with the Aes Sedai as well. Her motivation to become one is at this point still based on a hope for avenging herself against Moiraine for everything she did to Emond's Field. Several times in the book, various Aes Sedai including Moiraine and Sivan Sanche, hint that Nynaeve's ability to manipulate the One Power may be unrivaled and already a theme is developing tying her to Rand.

Egwene's ability to see visions and even communicate in dreams becomes telling later on in the series, but its appearance in this book is a bit clumsy and serves little purpose other than to make sure that when the ability does become important in subsequent books, it is not a surprise to the reader.



Chapters 13-17

Chapters 13-17 Summary

Having camped in a hollow filled with ruined stone Loial believe both familiar and manmade, Rand, Loial and Hurin awaken to find the rest of the party gone and the ruins strangely rebuilt around them, with an intricately carved column of stone rising from the center. Loial then recognizes it as a portal stone, a gateway that those capable of using correctly with the One Power, can access to transport between possible worlds.

Fearing he may have accidentally triggered the portal while asleep, Rand attempts to use the One Power to reactivate it, but fails to return them to their own world. During the attempt, he experiences, for the first time, the taint the Dark One left on saidin, the male half of the One Power.

Hurin tells Rand that he can still smell the trail of Padan Fain and the other Darkfriends. Rand decides that they should continue to follow the trail, as it is critical that they find the dagger needed to save Mat's life.

Ingtar's party awakens to find Rand, Loial, and Hurin missing. Having lost their means of tracking the Darkfriends with Hurin gone, Perrin is forced to open himself up to communication with any nearby wolves. He makes contact with the wolves and learns that they have come to know him as Young Bull, because, with his half-moon axe, he attacked and killed several Whitecloaks, a derogatory name for the Children of the Light, to defend a wolf, Hopper.

Verin catches up to them, saying that Moiraine had sent her to help, but she is perturbed to find that Rand is no longer with them. Rand, Loial and Hurin ride through a land that is blackened and burned. While taking his turn at watch the first night, Rand meet Ba'alzamon in a vision. The Dark One calls Rand Lews Therin and tells him that their next battle will be their last. Everything seems to catch on fire and Rand drops his sword in pain. Awakening from the vision, Rand finds the heron mark of his sword pommel burned into his hand.

Eventually, Rand, Loial and Hurin find what is, in their world, the monument to Artur Hawkwing, but in this world is a shrine to the Dark One. Loial speculates that in this reality, the dark forces have won. Rand rescues a woman named Selene from a creature she calls a grolm. She claims to be a Cairhienan noble who wandered into this world by mistake. With a pack of grolm in pursuit, she guides them to a nearby portal stone.

On the way to the portal stone, Rand assumes the void to concentrate as he shoots at the pursuing grolm. Rand's father Tam taught him how to assume the void to concentrate to improve his archery, and Lan had told him that it would aid him in battle.



This time Rand finds that when he assumes the void, the warmth and energy of saidin, the male source of the One Power, awaits to tempt him.

After abandoning the effort to kill the approaching creatures, they make a break for the portal stone, where, after Selene shows Rand the symbol for their world, he succeeds in using the stone to return them to it. Because of the peculiar nature of the world they had traveled in, they found upon returning that they had covered several hundred leagues in a matter of days, and were now likely ahead of Padan Fain. After Rand lets slip to Selene that they are pursuing the Horn of Valere, she encourages him to set up an ambush for Fain.

Chapters 13-17 Analysis

Lanfear, calling herself Selene, becomes yet another force trying to move Rand in a direction he does not wish to go—in her case, toward fame and glory. It is easy to sympathize with Rand's exasperation, but at this point, his behavior begins understandably to veer into the irrational. Selene's identity is hardly a mystery to the careful reader, and if Jordan intended this secret, once revealed, to shock his reader, then on this one point at least, he has failed.

Verin's presence will eventually annoy Rand as a further sign of Moiraine's interference, but Verin has her own motives for catching up to them. Like Liandrin, she uses Moiraine as an excuse to manipulate the Emond's Fielders, though her true intentions are not made known in this book.

The grolm in the possible world Rand, Hurin, Loial, and Selene are trapped in, foreshadow their appearance as war beasts of the Seanchan army on Toman Head.

The heron brand is the first of many marks Rand will receive in the book and indeed throughout the series. Physical imperfections, often sustained in encounters with the antagonist are frequently used as physical metaphors to emphasize the difference between the protagonist and ordinary people. Other examples include Harry Potter's lightning scare, in J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter series, and Frodo's missing ring finger, in J.R.R. Tolkien's Lord of the Rings series.



Chapters 18-21

Chapters 18-21 Summary

Each night, while on the road to Tar Valon, a different Aes Sedai conducts learning sessions with Egwene and Nynaeve. During a lesson conducted by the Amyrlin Seat herself, she succeeds in angering Nynaeve enough that Nynaeve uses the One Power to hurl the Amyrlin Seat into the side of the tent. Sivan tells Nynaeve that she must overcome the block that requires her to be angry in order to channel the One Power. When they arrive at Tar Valon, Egwene begins her apprenticeship as a novice, but Nynaeve, whose powers are already well developed, if unpredictable, is allowed to attempt to ascend to the ranks of the Accepted, one step away from full sisterhood.

After lying in wait for several days, Rand's party spot Fain approaching from the north. Under cover of darkness, Rand and Loial sneak down into the darkfriend's camp and make off with the dagger and the horn. Fain senses Rand is near and sends the trollocs hunting for him, and Rand is forced to kill several, all the while resisting the temptation to channel.

Selene wants Rand to abandon the dagger and any hope of saving Mat and take the Horn of Valere to Tear, a city on the southern shore where the sounding of the horn is prophesied to occur, for glory and power. Refusing to believe the prophecies, Rand insists they head for nearby Cairhien, where they can return Selene to her home and await the arrival of Ingtar and the others, who Rand hopes will proceed to Cairhien to find them.

In a village outside of Cairhien, they find an excavation in progress. A large group of men are unearthing an enormous statue of a man, holding an intricate sphere of light. While standing on the lip of the excavation, Rand momentarily loses control and embraces saidin, feeling the strength of the One Power radiating from him to the statue. During this fit, he begins to recite several lines of Aiel verse.

In a tavern in the same village, a Cairhienan officer approaches them and offers to provide them with an escort to the city. Hurin and Loial caution Rand about Daes Dae'mar, the Great Game, a name the Cairhienan have given to the complicated quest for social status played by the nobles in the city. When they gather in the morning, to set off with their escort, they find that Selene has departed in the night, leaving a note that tells Rand that they will meet again.

Chapters 18-21 Analysis

In this segment, Rand becomes aware of yet another force attempting to affect him. In this case, the force is not an Aes Sedai, or Ba'alzamon, but is instead the force known as saidin, the male half of the One Power. Using the One Power is at odds with his intention to avoid contact with Aes Sedai and with his refusal to take on the mantle of



the Dragon Reborn. He will continue to resist throughout the book, but the seduction of saidin, which is described in almost narcotic terms, will become increasingly difficult for him to resist.

The discovery of the statue foreshadows its future use, though the reader is left ignorant about what that could possibly be. But it also gives Jordan an opportunity to tie Rand closer to the Aiel, by having him recite an Aiel saying while under duress. This hints at his true origin, in the same way that Mat's surprising use of the Manetheren battle cry in the first book hinted at his connection with that ancient and long destroyed empire.

Selene's first disappearance after meeting Rand will be repeated. Her mercurial nature and her insistence on leaving him again and again underscore her unreliability and deviousness.



Chapters 22-24

Chapters 22-24 Summary

Moiraine and Lan stay at the house of two retired Aes Sedai. Moiraine tells Lan that, should she die, she has made arrangements for his bond to pass, temporarily to another Aes Sedai, Myrelle of the Green Ajah. This unusual decision briefly angers Lan, but Moiraine says that the bond, being temporary, will break eventually unless Lan seeks to create a new bond of his choosing. Without mentioning her directly by name, Moiraine drops subtle hints about Lan's relationship with Nynaeve.

While in the garden, Moiraine is attacked by a dark creature called a Draghkar, and is saved by Lan. They speculate that the only way that it could have approached undetected by either of them is if it was bonded as a warder to an Aes Sedai, and that that suggests the presence of the Black Ajah, a name given by Aes Sedai to Aes Sedai sisters who become Darkfriends.

In the basement of the White Tower, the Aes Sedai test Nynaeve's fortitude by subjecting her to a series of visions. In the first, she is attacked by one of the forsaken, Aginor, she fights back, but is forced to break off her attack to escape the vision. In the second, she finds herself back in Emond's Field, which is suffering under the guidance of a new Wisdom, who has terrorized the townsfolk, even poisoning several. She decides to help expel the new Wisdom, but, when the archway back appears, she is again forced to leave them to their own devices. In the third vision, she is married to Lan, and they are King and Queen of his restored kingdom, Malkier. With great difficulty, she leaves the vision when the way back appears, and, still seething with anger, allows the Amyrlin Seat to bestow the tile of Accepted on her.

In one of her first days as a novice in the White Tower, Egwene meets Elayne, the daughter heir of Andor, who is also there to do her apprenticeship. Elayne introduces Egwene to Gawyn, her brother and the prince of Andor, and Galad, her half brother, who are both in Tar Valon to train with the Warders. Then it is Egwene's turn to introduce Elayne to Min, who has been asked to come to the White Tower so the Aes Sedai may study her unique ability to see images foretelling the future of some persons when she looks at them.

Chapters 22-24 Analysis

The conversation between Moiraine and Lan has more emotional depth than any other conversation in the book. Moiraine's instincts are as prescient as ever, and the reader will find it ironic that the Emond Fielder's like Nynaeve, who despises her, and Rand who distrusts her, could really have had no greater luck in having Moiraine Sedai as a protector and guide. The unusual use she puts Lan's bond to is perhaps more than just a further attempt to protect the Emond's Fielders, but also a chance to placate Nynaeve,



whose emotional attachment to Lan, an attachment which he shares, is no secret to Moiraine. Indeed, the Aes Sedai is even a little jealous of their developing relationship, even though Moiraine has never harbored romantic feelings for her warder.

The test Nynaeve must face to enter the ranks of the Accepted provides three unique looks into her mind. Though it was designed to confront her with her fears, the test also brings to the surface some of her desires, first for Lan, and then for the ability to control the One Power. Her perhaps unique ability to channel inside the vision, which others are warned not to attempt, and even to use the One Power to force the archway to reopen, hint again at her strength. When she emerges from the portal, it is once again anger that compels her. She must repay Moiraine for all the trouble she has brought them.

Min is perhaps the most delicate piece of the plotline, in that Jordan must be careful to only provide the reader with glimpses of her prophetic visions. This device, which allows Jordan to tantalize the reader with bits of future imagery, could easily become tiresome and distracting, but Jordan manages to keep its use to a minimum while at the same time making Min one of the more intriguing characters.



Chapters 25-29

Chapters 25-29 Summary

Rand, Loial, and Hurin arrive in Cairhien with the dagger and the horn. After being mistaken for an outland Lord, Rand begins to receive numerous invitations from noble families, which he unceremoniously, and without exception, throws into the fire. Hurin warns him that each invitation he burns earns him a new enemy, but Rand stubbornly continues, telling them he will not get caught up in Daes Dae'mar. Rand receives a shock when, while walking through the various bars in the forecastle area, he spots Thom Merrilin, who he had assumed dead, performing in front of a large crowd.

Rand brings Loial with him to meet Thom and return the harp and flute Thom left in his possession at Whitebridge. Rand tells Thom about the horn, but withholds the fact that he can channel and that Moiraine and the Amyrlin Seat believe him to be the Dragon Reborn. He then asks Thom to accompany them, but though Thom is tempted by the story he could make out of accompanying the horn, he turns Rand down. Rand asks Thom about the prophecies made about how to identify the Dragon. Thom says one verse speaks of the Dragon being marked twice by the heron, and twice by the dragon. Rand and Loial meet Dena, Thom's apprentice and lover.

On the way back from visiting Thom, Rand and Loial are ambushed by trollocs and encounter Selene. Together they slip into the quarter used by the Illuminators, fireworks makers. Again Rand must resist using the One Power as the trollocs follow them in and attack. Rand creates a diversion and they escape, only to find that Selene has once again disappeared. When they arrive back at their inn, there is a note from Selene telling Rand that they will meet again.

Ingтар's party is tracking Fain through Kinslayer's Dagger, a valley break in the Spine of the World, when a group of Aiel confront them. They speak of the search for He Who Comes With the Dawn, who will lead the Aiel out of their exile in the Blight. An Aiel named Urien tells Verin about the mysterious 13th clan, who draft their numbers from the young women and men of all the other clans. Verin suspects that this clan is pooling together those who can channel the One Power.

Meanwhile, on the Almoth Plain, Geofram Bornhald has discovered that the invaders on Toman's Head are indeed from across the Aryth Ocean. Calling themselves the Seanchan, "The Forerunners," they have conquered all of Toman's Head and hold the port city of Falme. The Questioner Einor had ordered Geofram to await further developments on the Almoth Plain, but Geofram decides to defy his orders and move his army to Falme as quietly as possible.

On his way to Falme, Bayle Domon is forced to surrender the Spray to a Seanchan vessel when they begin to use a leashed channeling woman, a damane to bombard the ship. After he arrives in Falme under escort, and the Seanchan search his ship, Domon



is brought before the High Lord Turak, who confiscates the piece of Heartstone, specifically a seal of the Dark One's prison in Shayol Gul. Domon is shocked to see that Turak already has a similar seal.

Chapters 25-29 Analysis

The social lives of the Cairhienan may remind the reader of Victorian novels, with its invitations, parties, and hint of debauchery and decadence. If Jordan intends any kind of social commentary with this rather standard satirical subject, then he barely scratches the surface, and is far more effective with his portrayal of the Seanchan society later in the book.

The appearance of Thom Merrill, who Rand thought had died defending him at Whitebridge, provides Rand with a brief ray of hope. Thom's refusal to get involved returns Rand to his state of denial and increasing agitation. In a way, Thom's decision is a parallel to Rand's. Events seem to be calling Thom to play his part in the important events unfolding around him, but like Rand he seeks to hide himself away, and like Rand, circumstances will not allow him to do so.

The role of the Questioners in the command structure of the Children of the Light, an organization created to defend against the threat of Darkfriends, is similar to the role the Inquisition played for the Catholic Church. This reference is obvious enough to be clearly intended by the writer. One of the strengths of the entire Wheel of Time saga is its insistence on placing its characters in the middle of a chaotic world. The Children of the Light serve as one of the most unpredictable elements in the story.



Chapters 30-34

Chapters 30-34 Summary

After burning invitations from houses of increasing power, Rand finally receives one from King Galdrian and one from the king's chief rival, Lord Barthanos. Rand and Loial scout the city, speculating on ways they could leave and slip past Fain. When they return to their inn, they discover the upper floors on fire. Braving the eminent collapse of the building, they go upstairs and rescue Hurin, who had been knocked unconscious. The dagger and the Horn of Valere have been stolen, but Rand manages to save the banner of the Dragon. They drag Hurin out of the building just as Ingtar's party arrives, lead by Perrin, who had used the wolves to track Rand's scent all the way to Cairhein.

Rand fills the rest in on their adventure, but conceals his use of the One Power to use the portal stone, saying that Selene knew how to use the stone to get them back. Hurin, after being healed by Verin, follows Fain's trail to the gates of the manor of Lord Barthanos. Rand shows Verin the invitations he received and she tells him to keep the one from Lord Barthanos and burn the one from the king. Verin also tells them that the statue Rand's party encountered is a powerful sa'angreal, an object that focuses the One Power. Constructed during the Age of Legends, it, along with its companion, is perhaps the most powerful of its kind ever built. The one near Cairhein can only be worked by a man, while its companion, which is on the island of Tremalking, can only be worked by a woman.

Using Rand's invitation, several of the party, including Rand, Mat and Perrin, go to a party hosted by Lord Barthanos. Once they are inside the manor, Loial whispers to Rand that he can feel the presence of a Waygate nearby, and that the manor is perhaps built on an old Ogier grove. Waygates are portals to the Ways, a special realm that connects to various places across the land and allows for fast travel between those places. Hurin follows Fain's trail into the garden, where he, Rand, and Loial discover that it leads to a closed Waygate. Rand opens the Waygate to find Machin Shin, the Black Wind, a force inside the Ways that can consume traveler's souls, waiting just inside. Rand is forced to hold the Machin Shin back, using the One Power, while Loial closes the gate.

As they leave the party, Lord Barthanos pulls Rand aside to give him a message left by Padan Fain. He tells Rand that if he wants the Horn of Valere, he will have to follow Fain to Toman Head. With the Waygate in Cairhein blocked, they decide to travel to a nearby Ogier steddin and use the Waygate there to journey quickly to the Almoth Plain.

After returning from Lord Barthanos's party, where he was one of the performers, Thom Merrilin discovers Dena dead in their bed, and is then assailed by two men. Thom survives the attack, and the innkeeper tells him that she recognizes the men as thugs of king Galdrian. She also tells him that Lord Barthanos has been found murdered in his bed, and that the streets are buzzing with talk of an impending Cairheinian civil war. No



doubt wanted by either the King's men or Lord Barathanos's, Thom decides to flee the city.

Padan Fain has left his force behind and walks alone into Falme to present himself before the Seanchan High Lord. Granted an audience with Turak, he gives the Seanchan the Horn of Valere and Mat's dagger, and encourages Turak to sound the horn and use the forces it will call to conquer the lands all the way to the Spine of the World. Turak says that he will not sound the horn, but will take it across the sea to his empress.

Chapters 30-34 Analysis

The horn and dagger change hands for a third time, signaling a change in location. With Cairhien descending into civil war from Rand's mere presence, the action shifts to the final locale of this volume, the Almoth Plain on the other side of the continent.

Fain's obsession with Rand, instilled in him by Ba'alzamon, is not the only force twisting his psyche. Fain, who was forced to follow the three ta'veren into Shadar Lagoth, was there touched and partially consumed by Mordeth, another dark force responsible in part for the taint that lies over that city. Like Mat, Fain is tied to the dagger, and, also like Mat, his soul is subject to the damage caused by the weapon's absence.

The sudden and rather callous murder of Dena brings Thom Merrilin back into the story, but he does not properly return until subsequent books. Thom serves a similar roll as Lan. They are both older, wiser men, who provide Rand with guidance that is, at least in Thom's case, completely free of ties to the White Tower.

Turak's explanation of why he will not sound the Horn of Valere gives the reader a first look at the complexity of the Seanchan social structure, where rank is earned, almost bought, and for the most part respected. Turak will not sound the horn because it is not an act appropriate to his rank, and the Seanchan social structure is so rigid and ingrained that he will not break rank, even for the glory that would inevitably come from sounding the horn.



Chapters 35-37

Chapters 35-37 Summary

Ingstar's party arrives at steddung Tsofu and asks for permission to see the elders. Steddings are the wooded sanctuaries of the Ogier, and the One Power does not work inside them. On the way through the steddung, they encounter three Aiel women who are also traveling through. Like the Aiel Perrin, Mat, and Ingstar met in *Kinslayer's Dagger*, the women are searching for He Who Comes with the Dawn. Rand's friends fill him in on their meeting with the Aiel Urien, but Rand does not yet associate himself with the Aiel savior.

The elders of the steddung agree to allow them to use the Waygate. Loial, who was fearful the elders would stop him from accompanying his friends because of his young age, is allowed to go. However, Rand is forced to swear an oath to return Loial safely to his own steddung when they are finished with their quest for the horn. Unfortunately, they open the Waygate in the steddung and once again find Machin Shin waiting for them. Their only hope now is Rand, who must somehow correctly use a nearby Portal Stone to transport them all to the Almoth Plain.

After Verin examines the stone, she tells Rand which symbols she recognizes, including the symbol for the stone on the Almoth Plain. Rand then attempts to use the stone, but a surge in the One Power causes him to cycle all of them between possible worlds, and each member of the party lives out hundreds of variations of his or her life. In each of his lives, Rand is killed by Ba'alzamon. Rand at last manages to return them to their own reality and, surprisingly, to the stone on Almoth Plain, but Verin tells him that, judging the time of year from their surroundings, the cycle they were caught in lasted four months, and that their chances of tracking down Padan Fain may have greatly decreased.

Chapters 35-37 Analysis

Jordan's use of the word Ogier may confuse some readers, who will naturally associate it with the word ogre. Like ogres in most fantasy novels, Jordan's Ogier are large creatures, but there the similarities end. Jordan describes his Ogier as though they are simply giants. The only exaggerated features he mentions specifically are their wide noses, long ears, and dangling eyebrows. Their social lives and their temperament are very different from the brutish, evil ogre, and perhaps the closest parallel would be to Tolkien's Ents, who, like the Ogier, are long lived, deliberate, and associate themselves with trees.

Rand again uses the Portal Stone, exposing himself to the seduction of saidin and to the dangerous taint that lies on the male half of the One Power. His use of the One Power in Chapter 37 marks the first time he has intentionally channeled in front of an



Aes Sedai, in this case Verin. Rand had already informed Mat and Perrin of his ability to channel, but he must feel certain that his other traveling companions, particularly Hurin and Loial, have guessed it as well. Verin makes a show of placing her hands on the stone, as though she were the one making the attempt, but when he asks her why she does not use the stone herself, she tells him in private that her ability with the One Power falls far short of what the task requires. Rand's remarkable strength, and the natural and even inadvertent way he wields the One Power make it clear to the reader that his potential strength far outstrips that of perhaps a great many Aes Sedai working together. It is also one more thing that he will find hard to deny. Men who can channel come and go, but only the Dragon Reborn is supposed to possess the kind of power that Rand is beginning to demonstrate.



Chapters 38-40

Chapters 38-40 Summary

Nynaeve is visiting Egwene, Elayne and Min in the novice chambers when Liandrin of the Red Ajah barges in. After dismissing Elayne and Min, Liandrin tells Nynaeve and Egwene that Moiraine has sent word that they must accompany Liandrin to Toman Head to help Rand, who is in danger. Elayne and Min, who were eavesdropping on the conversation, come back after Liandrin has left. They tell Nynaeve that they will not be left behind if Rand is in trouble, and Min notices that the auras around all of them have shifted, and include the likelihood of danger in the near future. They meet up with Liandrin in the Ogier grove outside of Tar Valon and enter its Waygate, and travel without incident through the Ways for two days.

They emerge from the gate on Toman Head to find themselves surrounded by Seanchan commanded by the High Lady Suroth. Two women with lightning patches on their uniforms approach and attempt to put collars around Egwene and Nynaeve. Egwene and Min are captured by the Seanchan, and when Egwene tries to hit the woman holding the leash she feels the blow herself, only magnified. Nynaeve and Elayne flee the Seanchan as Nynaeve calls down lightning to cover their escape. After their pursuers abandon the effort to catch them, Nynaeve and Elayne decide to head toward Falme, where they will attempt to rescue Egwene and Min.

Liandrin holds a conversation with the High Lady Suroth, in which they discuss the wishes of their master, presumably the Dark One. It is clear that she has purposefully delivered Nynaeve, Egwene, Elayne and Min into their captivity. Liandrin reopens the Waygate and departs alone.

Renna, the woman holding Egwene captive, begins educating Egwene about the collar, or a'dam. It is a device that allows one woman, a sul'dam like Renna, to control a channeling woman, a damane.

Chapters 38-40 Analysis

The trap Liandrin sets for Nynaeve, Egwene, Elayne and Min, while perhaps not unexpected, is nonetheless the most costly betrayal in the book, and it further enforces Nynaeve's distrust of Aes Sedai. Her desire for revenge is now even stronger and, given her potential ability with the One Power, her wrath will be severe.

The function of the a'dam, and the relationship between the sul'dam and the damane provide Jordan with the opportunity for social commentary. The disturbing way in which the sul'dam regard damane is reminiscent of the attitude slave owners often had about slaves, namely that they are children who are dangerous if left to their own devices, and who must be monitored and controlled by the superior race or class. Aside from the

Children of the Light, the sul'dam and damane relationship is perhaps the strongest social commentary Jordan makes in the entire series.

Liandrin's actions suggest that she is not of the Red Ajah, but is in fact of the Black Ajah, and it is the third time in the book that members of the Black Ajah have appeared.

Jordan spends very little time describing the ways the Almoth Plain differs from the eastern plains in which the first half of the book takes place. This is in some ways a failing of the whole series, for while Jordan takes the time to describe the physical and social differences of the various races and peoples in his world, he spends far less time on the natural surroundings.



Chapters 41-44

Chapters 41-44 Summary

After much disagreement, especially between Ingтар and Rand, Ingтар's party decides to proceed to Falme. Ba'alzamon appears before Rand in a vision and once again promises him death if he is unwilling to serve.

After disguising themselves in local attire, Nynaeve and Elayne keep watch over the building in Falme that houses the damane. They spot Min, who because she is Egwene's friend, is allowed to come and go as she pleases. Egwene has impressed the sul'dam with her unusual abilities with the element of earth. While female Aes Sedai are capable of working with earth and fire to some extent, the two elements were always the specialty of channeling males, just as wind and water are the specialty of channeling females. Egwene's power with earth even allows her to locate and identify caches of rare alloys in surrounding rocks. Renna tells Egwene that her skill is rare and makes her a valuable damane, and that she will soon be taking Egwene across the ocean to present her to the Seanchan empress.

Egwene is left alone in a small room with the a'dam around her neck, its leash hanging from a peg in the wall. When Min asks Egwene why she does not take the opportunity to escape, Egwene demonstrates the power of the a'dam, which will make her violently ill if she even thinks about touching the leash or about channeling the One Power without the sul'dam's permission.

Nynaeve and Elayne meet up with Min on one of her frequent excursions from the damane building. Min tells them of a ship captain who might be willing to take them along as he makes his escape from Falme. They meet the ship captain in a bar. It is Bayle Domon. He is reluctant to sail with the Seanchan fleet guarding the harbor and damane on many of the ships, who are capable of reducing his ship to matchsticks from a distance. Nynaeve shows him her Aes Sedai ring and promises that she and the women she will bring can protect the ship. Domon agrees to keep Spray ready to sail at a moment's notice.

Perrin, Mat and Hurin scout ahead, toward Falme, looking for confirmation that Fain went to the city. While fleeing a village recently secured by whitecloaks, Perrin is spotted by Geofram Bornhald, who remembers him as the young man who fought alongside wolves and personally killed two Children of the Light near Whitebridge. Bornhald has quietly moved his army toward Falme, but, just after he spots Perrin, a Seanchan flying patrol is seen above the whitecloak's position.

After confirming that Fain's trail does indeed lead to Falme, Verin decides that only a small number of them will enter the city to try to take the horn and dagger by subterfuge. Ingтар volunteers immediately and is joined by Rand, Mat, Perrin, and Hurin.



Chapters 41-44 Analysis

The principle characters, who at times have been scattered throughout the book, are now brought into close proximity for the finale.

Though she is still far from broken, Egwene has been damaged by her experience wearing the a'dam. In many ways, she had retained her Emond's Field innocence and wonder throughout the ordeal at the Eye of the World, and even in her first few months as a novice in the White Tower. Her sul'dam, Renna, who had at first allowed her to retain her own name, has now changed her mind and will only refer to Egwene as Tulli. Egwene tells Min of an Aes Sedai, who was captured in the fall of the city and is now also in captivity. When describing the woman's heartache and misery, Egwene stops to chide herself for calling the woman by the name the sul'dam have given her, instead of calling her by her real name. This slipup shows that she is perhaps, because of the behavior modifying effects of the a'dam, beginning to sympathize with her captures.

Perrin's second run-in with Geofram Bornhald will cost him dearly in the future. Though Bornhald dies in the battle of Falme, he sends word back with a messenger, telling the leader of the Children of the Light, Pedron Niall, that the presence of Perrin of the Two Rivers could mean that the debacle on Toman Head was due to the presence of Darkfriends.



Chapters 45-46

Chapters 45-46 Summary

Nynaeve, Min and Elayne ambush a passing sul'dam by freeing her damane. Nynaeve uses the One Power to open the collar from a distance, an act that shocks both the sul'dam and the damane. Nynaeve puts on the sul'dam's outfit and fits the collar on the captive woman.

Rand's party tracks Fain to the house being used by High Lord Turak and sneaks into the building through the suspiciously unguarded garden. Making their way upstairs, they find the dagger and the Horn of Valere on a desk. They are then ambushed by Turak and a party of Seanchan soldiers who were lying in wait. Ingtar charges toward the exit but Rand remains behind to square off with Turak, who, to Rand's dismay, produces a sword like his own, marked with the heron of a blademaster.

Rand is reluctant to channel the One Power for fear of being detected by the many damane in the surrounding buildings. But in the end he has no choice, as his fight with Turak begins go poorly from the start and he is forced to assume the void to keep himself alive. Rand defeats Turak and rejoins the others as they flee the building. On the way out, Rand spots Egwene being walked by a sul'dam in an adjacent garden.

In the confusion created by Rand's party, Nynaeve, Elayne, and the leashed sul'dam enter the damane building and free Egwene. When Renna arrives, they manage to collar her as well. It is only then that they realize that the collars work on the sul'dam aslo, and, since the collars only work on women that can channel, they learn that the sul'dam are women who can channel who have hidden their ability by becoming sul'dam.

They leave the sul'dam leashed to the peg on the wall and exit the building only to find the soldiers carried to Falme by the Seanchan fleet converging on the center of the city. Still in a rage over her captivity, Egwene attacks the advancing troops, rending the earth all through their ranks. Upbraiding Egwene for her rash and dangerous attack, Nynaeve tells them all to flee the city.

Rand's party is pinned by the advancing Seanchan. Ingtar admits to Rand that he was the one who let the assassin into Fal Dara, and that he has in the past been a Darkfriend. He tells Rand that his obsession with finding the Horn of Valere was an attempt to redeem himself and come back to the light. Ingtar then holds the Seanchan back while the rest flee.

Chapters 45-46 Analysis

The Battle of Falme begins with the death of the High Lord Turak, who is in command of the occupying Seanchan army. Rand is once again tied down by events. Mere minutes



after recovering the dagger of Shadar Lagoth, which has been his focus throughout the book, he spots Egwene in captivity. He will be forced to turn back and face the battle, rather than fleeing the city with the dagger and the horn, and, though his intent will be on Egwene, he will end up fulfilling his role as the Dragon Reborn. Herodotus's famed quote, "Circumstances rule men; men do not rule circumstances," seems to apply strongly to Rand, whose status as both ta'veren and the Dragon Reborn, binds him perhaps more strongly than anyone else to the pattern weaved by the Wheel of Time.

The captured sul'dam are both terrified at being left to be found with a'dams on. Their fate is almost pitiable, but their ability to channel reminds the reader that those who bully and persecute the weak often do so because they sense the same weaknesses in themselves.

Though he redeems himself somewhat by giving up his life in an attempt to cover their escape, Ingtar's shocking news that he is a Darkfriend clearly stuns Rand. Ingtar's betrayal at Fal Dara is a bigger surprise to the reader than Liandrin's, and it impresses upon Rand an even greater desire to remove himself from all influences.



Chapters 47-50

Chapters 47-50 Summary

The Whitecloaks, led by Geofram Bornhald, invade Falme, pinning both Rand's party and Nynaeve's party between two armies, likely to clash. Rand tries to convince the others to take the horn to Verin while he alone returns and attempts to rescue Egwene.

Mat then sounds the Horn of Valere; fog descends on the city, and riding out of it is a small army of famous figures from the Age of Legends, led by Artur Hawkwing. They pledge their loyalty to Rand and, after Perrin cuts a branch and attaches to it the banner of the Dragon, they all join in the battle.

As he rides into battle, Rand finds that he is soon looking down on it from above, as if from the sky. Ba'alzamon appears before him and demands that Rand serve him. Rand refuses, telling the Dark One that he must save Egwene, and that nothing else matters to him. They begin to fight, Rand with his sword, Ba'alzamon with a quarterstaff. As Rand fights he watches the battle below and soon realizes that its outcome is tied to his fight with Ba'alzamon. Rand finds himself channeling the One Power into his sword as he and the Dark One clash. Rand then decides to execute a maneuver Lan taught him, which, though it will allow his enemy a clear strike, will ensure that Rand will deliver one in return. Ba'alzamon's staff strikes Rand in the ribs, and Rand strikes back and then passes out.

Despite the fact that they have become split up in the fighting, Nynaeve, Egwene, Elayne and Min all feel drawn toward one particular house in the city. Min arrives first and finds Rand unconscious in the garden and grievously injured. She takes him inside the house and, in an attempt to warm him, gets into a bed with him. Egwene arrives and finds Min nursing Rand, and then runs off to find Nynaeve to see if she can heal Rand. Selene appears in the room and tells Min that Rand will always be hers. Selene then identifies herself as Lanfear, one of the forsaken, and former lover of Lews Therin Telamon, the Dragon. She then disappears before Min's eyes.

Five days later, Rand awakens to find himself on the road back to Tar Valon with Moiraine. Fearing that Mat's time was running short, Moiraine had sent him ahead with the dagger in hopes of arriving in Tar Valon in time to be healed and separated from it. Rand tells Moiraine again that he will not be used, and that he has no wish to dance on the end of strings held by the White Tower. Moiraine tells him he may have no choice in the matter. His battle with Ba'alzamon had indeed taken place in the sky over Falme. He and the Dark One had been giant figures, clashing in the sky. Everyone in Falme had seen the spectacle and news of it, and the appearance of the banner of Lews Therin Telamon among a host of figures from the Age of Legends, was already spreading across the land.



Chapters 47-50 Analysis

Moiraine tells Rand that his face was clearly visible when he fought the Dark One in the sky over Falme. Rand's chances of slipping away into hiding have all but disappeared, though, if Moiraine is to be believed, his status as the Dragon Reborn precluded this possibility from the beginning.

By sounding the Horn of Valere, Mat has bound himself to it, and his role in the series will strengthen. Despite the extensive prophetic material available to them, Moiraine and Siuan Sanche have been, to some extent, hoodwinked by the events. The Horn of Valere was sounded by Mat, not Rand, the Dragon Reborn, and its use did not signal the last battle, for the struggle with Ba'alzamon continues. In addition, the horn was sounded in Falme, not in Tear, where it was supposed to be used.

Min has to have known all along that her fate is bound to Rand's. She likely saw as much the first time she viewed his aura in Baerlon. Rand and Egwene now both realize that circumstances have forced them apart, and Egwene, considering Min's vision of the white flame when viewing her aura, seems bound for the White Tower.

One of the surprises in the book climax is that Padan Fain plays no role in the battle. Indeed, he is barely mentioned after he presents the horn and the dagger to High Lord Turak. This omission seems wasteful, as Jordan has spent considerable time building up Fain's presence through the bulk of the book.

Rand is now left with a physically debilitating injury which will plague him through the epic. The reader is left in doubt about whether he will seize the mantle of the Dragon Reborn, or whether he will continue to attempt to avoid his fate.



Characters

Rand Al'Thor

One of three ta'veren found by Moiraine Sedai in Emond's Field of the Two Rivers, Rand Al'Thor is the principle protagonist of the Wheel of Time series. When Moiraine Sedai discovers him in Emond's Field, Rand believes himself to be the son of Tam Al'Thor, a local shepherd. Rand soon learns that he was not born in Emond's Field, but on the slope of the Dragonmount, at the end of the Aiel War, and that Tam, who was a soldier fighting for Andor, discovered Rand and brought him back to Emond's Field and raised him as a son. The prophecies about the Dragon Reborn say that he will be born on the slope of the Dragonmount, and this is one of the attributes Moiraine Sedai looked for in her quest to find the Dragon Reborn.

After Moiraine helps Rand escape from a dark force that is trying to track him down, he journeys to the Eye of the World and has his first encounter with Ba'alzamon, the Dark One, whose imprisonment in Shayol Ghul has protected the world from evil since the Age of Legends.

Rand learns that he is a male who can channel the One Power, another one of the attributes of the Dragon. Aes Sedai usually gentle, that is remove the power of, any man who can channel, because the Dark One set a curse on saidin, the male half of the One Power. Any man who channels will eventually be driven insane by the taint on saidin, and could potentially do damage to himself and those around him.

But Moiraine, after finding out Rand can channel, does not seek to have him gentled. She believes he is the Dragon Reborn and must be able to fight against the Dark One in the last battle, which she believes is rapidly approaching.

Perrin Ay'bara

The second of three ta'veren found by Moiraine Sedai in Emond's Field, Perrin is the son of the local blacksmith. Large and powerful in stature, he is used to moving slowly and deliberately so as to not inadvertently harm those around him. After the Battle of Bell Tine, Perrin begins to carry a half-moon shaped axe. Like Rand, he travels with Moiraine Sedai to the Eye of the World, but unlike Rand, he is not a man who can channel the one power.

Perrin does have a unique ability, which he discovers when he becomes separated from Rand and Moiraine in their initial journey. After meeting a man named Elyas Machera, Perrin discovers he can communicate and shares a special affinity with wolves. After his initial contact with wolves, his eyes turn yellow.

Moiraine says that Perrin's is an old ability that has nothing to do with the One Power, though many, including the Children of the Light, consider it a dark force, and mark



Perrin as a dangerous Darkfriend, and his yellow eyes always make him a suspicious person to strangers.

The wolves know Perrin as Young Bull, because he tried to defend a dying wolf from an attack by whitecloaks, by killing two with his half-moon axe.

Mat Cauthon

The last of the three ta'veren found by Moiraine Sedai, Mat was a clown and something of a trickster in Emond's Field. His whimsical nature is soon distorted by an encounter with Mordeth in the abandoned city of Shadar Lagoth. Mat unwisely removed a dagger from the cache of riches he, Rand, and Perrin found in a building in the forsaken city. He carried the dagger with him as they traveled to the Eye of the World, and it began to affect him. He became paranoid and ill-tempered, and eventually tried to harm Moiraine.

The Aes Sedai believe they can safely sever Mat's connection to the dagger and restore him to health, and much of the action in the book revolves around the quest to save Mat.

In various places, Mat's connection with the rulers of the ancient kingdom of Manetheren causes him to recite Manetheren battle cries. Moiraine says the old blood of Manetheren sings in Emond's Field, and Mat may indeed be a direct descendant of the last king. His eventual role as a leader of men in the battle against the Dark One is reinforced when, during the battle of Falme, he sounds the Horn of Valere, and binds himself forever to the horn.

Nynaeve Al'Meara

The former Wisdom of Emond's Field is a "wilder," a woman who learned to control the One Power without help from a teacher. Wilders who survive this experience are rare, but it is likely that her role as Wisdom helped her to slowly build a safe connection with saidar, the female half of the one power, which she was unwittingly using to perform her duties.

After Moiraine leaves Emond's Field with Rand, Mat, Perrin, and Egwene, Nynaeve takes it upon herself to follow them and rescue the foolish young people from the meddling of Moiraine Sedai. She ends up coming with them all the way to the Eye of the World and falling in love with Moiraine's warder Lan along the way.

After Moiraine tells her that she has been channeling the One Power without knowing it, Nynaeve grudgingly agrees to come to Tar Valon for training, though she tells Moiraine that she is making the effort mostly so that she may keep an eye on Egwene.

In private, Moiraine Sedai tells Siuan Sanche, the Amyrlin Seat, that Nynaeve could be the strongest Aes Sedai in existence.



Egwene Al'Vere

Egwene is Rand's childhood sweetheart, though she soon must abandon the idea of marrying him. While in Emond's Field to track down Rand, Mat, and Perrin, Moiraine spots Egwene and recognizes at once that she is capable of channeling the One Power. She brings Egwene along as they travel to the Eye of the World, giving her lessons on how to control the One Power along the way.

After the battle of Fal Dara, Egwene journeys to Tar Valon and becomes a novice in the White Tower, where Aes Sedai and warders are trained. There she befriends Elayne, the daughter-heir of Andor, a fellow novice, and due to inherit the throne from her mother Queen Morgase.

While a captive of the Seanchan, Egwene discovers she has a strong command of the element of earth, an unusual trait in a female Aes Sedai, as male Aes Sedai have always demonstrated better control of earth and fire.

Moiraine Sedai

An Aes Sedai of the Blue Ajah, Moiraine finds the three ta'veren, Rand, Mat, and Perrin, along with the channeling women Nynaeve and Egwene in the small town of Emond's Field in the Two Rivers. A Cairhien by birth, Moiraine's age is unknown and difficult to determine. Together with her old friend, Siuan Sanche, the Amyrlin Seat, she hatches a plan to conceal Rand's identity as the Dragon Reborn from the rest of the White Tower, allowing him, a man who can channel the One Power, to walk free.

Lan, al'Lan Mandragoran

An exceptionally skilled warder bonded to Moiraine, Lan is also the last surviving member of the royal family of the kingdom of Malkieri, which was overcome by dark forces and is now being consumed by the Blight. On their trip to the Eye of the World, Lan became enamored of Nynaeve. In Fal Dara, just before going their separate ways, Lan gives Nynaeve his Malkieri signet ring, which she wears on a chain around her neck.

Siuan Sanche, The Amyrlin Seat

The head of the Aes Sedai order is formally of the Blue Ajah, like her friend Moiraine. After correctly reading the fulfilling of the prophecies announcing the coming of the Dragon Reborn, Siuan hatches an elaborate plan with her friend Moiraine to keep the other sisters in the White Tower, and especially those of the Red Ajah, from gentling Rand before the last battle with the Dark One. Unlike Moiraine, who is of noble birth, Siuan is born to a poor Tairen fishing family.



Loial

An Ogier from Stedding Shangtai, Loial met Rand in an inn in Caemlyn. After learning that Rand, Mat, and Perrin were all ta'veren, Loial resolves to accompany them, taking notes along the way for a book he intends to write on his travels.

Lord Ing'tar

Ing'tar is a Shienaran warrior warrior from the house of Shinowa. He is the leader of the party sent to retrieve the Horn of Valere after it is stolen from Fal Dara. He later admits to being a darkfriend but wants to redeem himself, which he does to some extent by sacrificing his life to delay a force chasing Rand and others.

Hurin

A "sniffer," Hurin has the unique ability to smell violence and track those who commit it. Ing'tar employs him to track the thieves who stole the Horn of Valere from Fal Dara.

Padan Fain

Fain is a Darkfriend, originally tapped by the Ba'alzamon to track Rand, Mat, and Perrin, but, after being compelled to follow his quarry into the cursed City of Shadar Logoth, Fain encounters the dark force Mordeth, which further twists Fain, making him far more vicious and cruel. He follows the Emond's Fielders to Fal Dara and is captured and imprisoned, but he is freed by the dark force that raided the keep to steal the Horn of Valere.

Liandrin Sedai

Liandrin is a blond, doll-faced Aes Sedai of the Red Ajah. An enemy of Moiraine and Suan Sanche, Liandrin betrays Nynaeve, Egwene, and Elayne to the Seanchan. She is, by implication, a Darkfriend, a member of the Black Ajah.

Verin Sedai

A studious Aes Sedai of the Brown Ajah, Verin, after reading the prophecies scrawled on the wall by the invaders of Fal Dara, correctly guesses that the prophecies about the Dragon Reborn refer to Rand. Suan and Moiraine are thus forced to take Verin into their confidence as they continue to hide Rand's identity from the rest of the White Tower.



Thom Merrilin

Thom is a gleeman, a professional entertainer, who met the Emond's Fielders at the battle of Bel Tine. He journeyed with them until he was separated from Rand and Mat in the city of Whitebridge.

Sheriam Sedai

Sheriam is the mistress of novices at the White Tower in Tar Valon.

Domon Bayle

The captain of the Seaspray, Domon is also a collector of rare objects.

Lanfear, Selene

One of the Forsaken, wielders of the One Power who fought for the dark forces in the Age of Legends, Lanfear was the lover of Lews Therin, the Dragon, and was imprisoned at Shayol Gul along with the Dark One and the rest of the Forsaken. The weakening of the seals on the prison has freed her, and she is now seeking to influence Rand.

Elayne of the House Trakand

A novice at the White Tower and friend of Egwene, Elayne is also the daughter-heir of the kingdom of Andor.

Min

Min is a young woman who met the Emond's Fielders in the city of Baerlon. She has, when she looks at someone, the unique ability to see iconic visions of their personality, or their past and future.



Objects/Places

The Horn of Valere

A mythical object said to have belonged to Artur Hawkwing, the horn will call forth an army from the Age of Legends to fight for whoever sounds it.

The Dagger of Shadar Lagoth

The dagger Mat Cauthon removes from the abandoned city of Shadar Lagoth; the dagger must be found and restored to Mat if he is to survive.

The One Power

The source of energy used by those who can channel it to manipulate the world.

Saidin

The male half of the One Power.

Saidar

The female half of the One Power.

Fal Dara

The principle city of the kingdom of Shienar, which lies in the extreme northeast, just before the Blight.

Tar Valon

The home of the White Tower, which is the headquarters of the sect of channelers, now all women, who call themselves Aes Sedai

Dragonmount

The mountain just outside of Tar Valon created when the Dragon, Lews Therin Telamon, broke the world at the end of the Age of Legends.



Cairhein

A city and kingdom lying just to the west of the Spine of the World.

The Almoth Plain

An expansive peninsula on the eastern shores.

Falme

The principle city on the Almoth Plain.

The Ways (Waygates)

A world of ancient pathways, constructed by male Aes Sedai during the Age of Legends. The Ways allow for fast travel to various distant points throughout the known world, but they have been corrupted by the taint on saidin and are now dangerous to travel.

Manetheren

The ancient kingdom, long ago destroyed by dark forces, that used to encompass the land of the Two Rivers, where Rand, Mat, Perrin, Egwene, and Nynaeve are from.

The Eye of the World

A well of power made by the Aes Sedai at the end of the Age of Legends. It served as a hiding place for the Horn of Valere and the banner of Lews Therin Telamon, the Dragon, until its emptying by Rand at the end of the first book.

Darkfriends

Supporters of Dark One, Darkfriends are citizens who help the dark cause in whatever way they can.

The Spine of the World

A large section of mountains along the eastern edge of the world, the Spine of the World separates the major cities of the central plains from the eastern edge of the Blight and, to the south of it, the lands of the Aiel.

Trollocs

The trollocs are footsoldiers of the Dark One. They are composite creatures, humanoid in shape of often constructed of mismatched animal features like horns, muzzles, and hooves.



Themes

Denial of Identity

One of the principle themes of the second book is the inability of several of the characters, most notably Rand, to refuse their role in the events taking place around them. When Moiraine and Sivan Sanche tell Rand he is the Dragon Reborn, his denial takes the form of anger. He convinces himself that they are being duplicitous. He tells himself that they do not really believe he is the Dragon Reborn, but that they are simply trying to confuse him to make him easier to manipulate. He is uncertain. His circumstances repeatedly confirm what they have told him, and he must work increasingly harder to deny what is happening to him and what he is.

To some extent this is true of several of the other principle characters. Perrin, who like Rand would rather return to the Two Rivers and become a blacksmith, must instead face the fact that he is a ta'veren with an unusual ability that will perhaps forever alienate him from normal life. Nynaeve, who wants to despise Moiraine and everything connected with her, including Tar Valon and the One Power, finds herself in love with Moiraine's warder, and envious of the control that trained Aes Sedai possess over the One Power.

Rand's plight is also mirrored by the fate of Thom Merrilin, whose determination to sever his ties to Rand and the upheaval Rand brings, is thwarted by the murder of his lover Dena. His time with Rand has bound his fate to the Dragon Reborn, and he is brought back into the story against his will. Thom Merrilin has good reasons to be reluctant to help Rand and get involved in the events unfolding, and the past he is seeking to escape will become increasingly important. Like Rand, he will be forced to stop running, and to turn and face what will come.

Slavery

With the introduction of the Seanchan and their system for controlling channeling women, Jordan highlights the injustice and immorality of slavery. With each cooing praise and pat on the head, the sul'dam seeks to remove the humanity of her collared damane, turning her into an obedient animal.

Egwene's sul'dam Renna even allows her to break rules she does not know about in order to teach her the boundaries of her imprisonment. The act of training the damane, with its reliance on brutal, aversion techniques, begins to make Egwene dehumanize herself. She begins to sympathize with her captures, as a mechanism to keep herself from fighting, and thus, from being punished.

The extreme nature of this captivity could even be applied to the area of animal rights. Is it right to imprison anything in a cage of a collar and force it to do as it is commanded?



Jordan then turns the matter on its head by revealing that the sul'dam themselves are women who can channel. This reminds the reader that those in power, who are oppressing the weak for their own ends, often have the same faults and imperfections that they point to as inferior in those they oppress. The apologist for oppression will often cite what he considers inherent differences between the strong and the weak, but his argument is often irrational when it can be proved that he himself is blessed or afflicted with the defect he decries in his so-called inferiors.

Fanaticism

The role of the Questioners in the organization known as the Children of the Light is clearly a reference to the time of the Inquisition in the Catholic Church, but the Children of Light, as a whole, are themselves an example of the corrupting effect of power. As an organization created after the imprisonment of the Dark One in Shayol Ghul, the Children of the Light were supposed to be the vigilant defenders of those that walk in the light. Instead, they became enemies of the Darkfriends, and, once they developed a taste for power and cruelty, began to see Darkfriends everywhere so they might exercise that power and cruelty.

The concept was expressed in the famous quote from Lord Acton: "Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely." This tendency is common in affairs of state, and modern examples include both the Red Scare in the United States, also known as the McCarthy era, and the great purges of the ruling party before and after the rise of the communist party in Russia. History is replete with further examples, but the pattern is similar in all cases. A person or an organization seizes power for the greater good, but often ends up being as oppressive as those replaced, and, like the Children of the Light in the story, believe throughout that their cause remains noble, and that they continue to act for the greater good.



Style

Point of View

Jordan writes exclusively in third person. The breadth of his narrator's knowledge varies from time to time, but, for the most part, it is limited to the character whose point of view he has taken. He will stick with one character through each chapter most of the time. If he does jump to a new perspective, he will often announce the change with a line break. His style is conducive to dramatic popular fiction writing, as the shifting perspectives allow him to reveal or conceal knowledge as needed. Most of the story is told through the eyes of the central characters, particularly Rand, Perrin, and Egwene. The perspective of the antagonists is scant, and limited almost exclusively to two individuals, Geofram Bornhald and Padan Fain.

As he is the primary protagonist, Rand's perspective dominates the book, and his escalating emotional state is central to the storyline. Rand's internal dialogue becomes more frantic at those points in the storyline where he does not have a clear action to take. When he is focused on chasing after the dagger, or rescuing Egwene, he can temper his emotional conflicts, but when his path is divided, his emotional equilibrium dissolves.

In the first book of the series, *The Eye of the World*, Ba'alzamon invaded the dreams of all three young men, Rand, Perrin, and Mat. In the second book, Ba'alzamon, who has learned which of the boys is the Dragon Reborn, visits only Rand. It is thus through Rand's eyes that the reader gains any direct knowledge of the antagonist.

Setting

The book takes place largely on the eastern plains, from Fal Dara down to Cairhein, with some time spent in nearby Tar Valon. In the last few chapters, the book jumps across to the western shore, to Almoth Plain and the city of Falme. Jordan spends almost no time describing the physical elements of the world around the characters in any distinguishing detail. It is perhaps one of the weaknesses of the series that the physical surroundings are overly generic, a plain, a forest, a main road, etc. and only the cities make any sort of distinguishing mark on the reader's mind.

There are several excursions into less mundane environments. When Rand accidentally uses a portal stone, he takes Loial, Hurin, and himself to an alternate reality, a world where the dark forces long ago won the battle. Jordan indicates this by extending the Blight across the whole of the land. Thus the world has become a blasted land, with almost no sign of animal life, and ironically, no sign of trollocs or other dark creatures. Loial surmises that after their triumph, the trollocs likely slaughter each other.

Liandrin takes Nynaeve, Egwene, Min, and Elayne through the Ways to get to the Almoth Plain. The Ways are a world unto themselves, where time and space seem at



odds with reality. Built by male Aes Sedai in the Age of Legends, and given to the Ogier as repayment for the construction of the great cities, the Ways are a series of islands, hanging, as though without support, in nothingness. Elaborate bridges span the distance between each of the islands, which are not arranged in a plain, but vary in location so much that some islands seem to float directly above previous ones. The Ways are deteriorating because of the taint on the male half of the One Power. The islands are devoid of their once thriving foliage, and the bridges are pockmarked and, in some cases, destroyed. At the ends of certain, marked bridges are Waygates, which allow travelers to exit into the real world. A few days travel inside the Ways and a party can cover hundreds or even thousands of leagues in the real world.

Language and Meaning

His writing is simple and straightforward, the language never straying beyond early secondary school level. The character development and the pace of the plot are both quite strong and compel the reader from section to section. The characters are alive, and believable, and Jordan spends a good deal of time describing their emotional states, though it should be said that in these segments, he suffers from a rather distracting tendency to over-italicize.

The series is driven by plot and emotion, not by the intricacy of the environment, and Jordan is far better at winding together complicated storylines than he is at writing in elaborative detail. Despite the size of the books and of the entire series itself, the writing is direct and economical, sticking to the details of the story, not the details of the environment. His most indulgent sections are the emotional, internal monologues, but even here the writing is raw and direct, almost completely devoid of any metaphoric complications.

Structure

The chapters are not broken up by scene, but are instead used to heighten the tension or suspense of whatever it occurring. There are fifty chapters, each rather short. This brevity allows Jordan to jump around from perspective to perspective, further increasing the tension of the story. This is one book in a series of over ten; therefore, there are quite a few subplots running through the story, and even more details injected into the text whose purpose will only become apparent later.

The action can be divided into three parts, with the middle, the search for the horn, taking up most of the book. The first part encompasses both the attack on Fal Dara, including the theft of the Horn of Valere and the dagger of Shadar Lagoth, and Rand's confrontation with the Amrylin Seat, where he is given the information that will set up the future conflict both in his mind and in the world around him. The last section concerns the Battle of Falme. Mat sounds the Horn of Valere, the pursuit of which has taken almost the whole book and all the principle characters from one side of the continent to the other, and Rand battles the Dark One Ba'alzamon.



Quotes

"As long as I keep it, I have the right to call Tam father. He gave it to me, and it gives me the right."

Rand about his heron marked sword, Chap. 2, *The Flame of Tar Valon*, p. 5.

"I didn't mean to channel the Power, ' he whispered. 'It was an accident! Light, I don't want anything to do with it. I swear I'll never touch it again! I swear it!'"

Chap. 2, *The Flame of Tar Valon*, p. 11.

"I will be dangerous just to be around. Blood and ashes, I'm going to go mad, and...No! No, I won't! I will not use the Power, and then I won't go mad, and...But I can't risk it. I can't, don't you see?"

Chap. 3, *Friends and Enemies*, p. 36

"The Prophecies must be fulfilled. We let you walk free, knowing what you are, because otherwise the world we know will die, and the Dark One will cover the earth with fire and death."

Chap. 8, *The Dragon Reborn*, p. 131.

"I will not be used,' he told them. There was a long silence as he turned and left.

Chap. 8, *The Dragon Reborn*, p. 131.

"I charge you, Lord Ingtar of the House Shinowa, I charge all of you, find the Horn of Valere, and let nothing bar your way.'

Ingtar whipped his sword from his back and kissed the blade. 'By my life and soul, by my House and honor, I swear it, Mother.'"

Chap. 9, *Leavetakings*, p. 151.

"Rand, can you channel?' Mat gave a strangled gasp.

Rand let the banner drop; he hesitated only a moment before nodding wearily. 'I did not ask for it. I don't want it. But...But (sic) I do not think I know how to stop it.'"

Chap. 11, *Glimmers of the Pattern*, p. 193.

"Did it really happen? Am I going mad already? Do I run, or do I stay? I have to stay. I have to help Mat find the dagger."

Chap. 11, *Glimmers of the Pattern*, p. 196

"He gripped his sword hilt till his knuckles hurt. 'I deny you, and I deny your power. I walk in the Light. The Light preserves us, and we shelter in the palm of the Creator's hand.'"

Chap. 15, *Kinslayer*, p. 243.

"Suddenly—a drifting, distant thought—he realized that the void surrounded him. Saidin sang, and the sphere pulsed—even without looking, he could feel it—and the thought came that if he sang the song saidin sang, that huge stone face would open its mouth



and sing with him. With him and with saidin. All one."
Chap. 20, Saidin, p. 304.

"The time comes closer, Lews Therin. A thousand threads draw tight, and soon you will be tied and trapped, set to a course you cannot change. Madness. Death. Before you die, will you once more kill everything you love?"
Chap. 41, Disagreements, p. 587.

"Damane have no possessions, it had been explained to her. The dress a damane wears, the food she eats, the bed she sleeps in, are all gifts from her sul'dam. If a sul'dam chooses that a damane sleep on the floor instead of in a bed, or in a stall in a stable, it is purely the choice of the sul'dam."
Chap. 42, Falme, p. 596.

"Perrin, ' he muttered. 'That was his name. Perrin, from the Two Rivers.'
'The Darkfriend, my Lord Captain?'
'Perhaps, Byar.'
Chap. 44, Five Will Ride Forth, p. 616.

"Ba'alzamon's voice rode over his thoughts. 'You have only one salvation, Rand al'Thor, Lews Therin Kinslayer. I am your only salvation. Serve me, and I will give you the world. Resist, and I will destroy you as I have so often before. But this time I will destroy you to your very soul, destroy you utterly and forever.'
Chap. 47, The Grave Is No Bar to My Call, p. 665.



Topics for Discussion

At times Rand seems to behave with a reckless abandon. When does acting too impulsively hurt his cause? When does it help? Is his impulsiveness more helpful or hurtful to his cause?

Discuss Slavery. How does the Seanchan sul'dam treatment of their damane illustrate the evils of slavery?

Discuss the psychological reasons a person held in captivity might begin to sympathize with his or her captive. What methods used by the sul'dam in the book could bring this about?

Perrin seems to be more comfortable being around Rand than Mat does after Rand reveals to both of them that he can channel. Is Mat right to be cautious? Is Perrin right to be more trusting?

Discuss how power may corrupt institutions that begin with noble intentions. How does the history of the Children of the Light illustrate this? What other examples can you think of in human history that illustrate this tendency?

Discuss the ethical implications of the Aes Sedai/Warder bond.

Does Nynaeve have just cause in her quest for revenge against Moiraine? How could her relationship with Lan help mollify her?

Does the Ogier philosophy of detachment from political intrigues and withdrawal into nature have any parallels in the real world?

Could the description of the seductive power of saidin and saidar be compared to drugs or alcohol?

Male Aes Sedai are generally better at wielding the elements of earth and fire. Female Aes Sedai are stronger with Wind and Water. Discuss other famous divisions of the elements in both fictional works and in religious or metaphysical lore.