

Lord Foul's Bane Study Guide

Lord Foul's Bane by Stephen R. Donaldson

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Contents

Lord Foul's Bane Study Guide.....	1
Contents.....	2
Plot Summary.....	3
chapter 1-4.....	4
chapter 5-7.....	6
chapter 8-9.....	8
chapter 10-11.....	11
Chapter 12-14.....	13
Chapter 15-16.....	15
Chapter 17-18.....	17
Chapter 19-21.....	19
Chapter 22-23.....	21
chapter 24-25.....	23
Characters.....	25
Objects/Places.....	28
Themes.....	30
Style.....	32
Quotes.....	34
Topics for Discussion.....	35



Plot Summary

The story starts out with Thomas Covenant walking down the street. People are moving out of his path as he heads to the light and phone company. Thomas Covenant has leprosy and the entire town is scared of catching it. The story is about his unbelief that he can make a difference in the world to which he is taken. He is supposed to help stop the evil Lord Foul and Drool Rockworm.

Thomas has a wedding ring that the people of the land believe to be white gold that holds wild powers that will destroy peace. He is missing part of his fingers because of his leprosy and they believe that he is the reincarnated Berek Halfhand who had his fingers cut off during battle. He has been told to deliver a message to the Lords by Lord Foul concerning Drool Rockworm and the destruction of the Land.

The story is about the journey to the Lords to deliver the message and the quest that is undertaken to stop Drool Rockworm. A Stonedowner named Atiaran helps Thomas make most of the Journey to take the message to the Lords. They stop along the way and stay with the Woodhelvens for a night. Once Thomas has delivered the message to the Lords, they decide to take several Lords, Thomas, and warriors and stop Drool Rockworm.

Along the way they encounter many ur-viles, cavewighths and other creatures they must fight. They even head back to Woodhelven to find that it has been destroyed and almost everyone killed. Thomas is beginning to struggle with what decision he will make when it is time to decide what to do. When they get to the mountain they face unfathomable odds but know that they must continue. They manage to get the staff from Drool Rockworm and lose several of their warriors and Lords along the way. When the Fire Lions kill Drool Rockworm, Thomas is instantly transported back to his own time and place.

He decides the whole thing was a dream but can't help thinking about the quest and all the people he left behind. He is still a leper, but the anger that was in him at the beginning is now gone. He spent so much time learning to live with his disease and felt like the whole world cut him off and tried to act as if he were dead. He found an entire land that wanted to act as if he were the only thing that gave them hope. In the end he is thankful that those on the quest survived and that he was able to go home.



chapter 1-4

chapter 1-4 Summary

The story starts out with Thomas Covenant walking down the street. People are moving out of his path as he heads to the light and phone company. Thomas Covenant has leprosy and the entire town is scared that they will catch it. He normally doesn't come into town but is making his way to pay the phone bill and going to the light company to straighten out his account. When he mailed his bill to the light company they sent him a letter back telling him that someone took care of his account for an entire year. Thomas is worried that the community is trying to push him out of their society by taking away his reasons for coming to town.

On his way to town he thinks about the things that brought him to this point. He wrote a best selling book and he and his wife decided to have a baby. After their child she goes away to visit family and while she is gone he tries to write on his next book but begins to have trouble with his hands and his feet feeling funny. He ignores it until his wife gets home and smells a foul odor and sees his finger. She takes him straight to the hospital and he gets fingers removed and the doctors diagnose him with leprosy. His wife is scared their child will get it and so while he is still in the hospital she tells him she is leaving.

Thomas spent time in a leprosy facility learning about his disease and to check himself for cuts and other things since he doesn't have feeling in his extremities. For a time he isn't that worried but the doctors introduce him to a man that has had the same disease he has but lived as a hermit for years until the army tried to find him to tell him his son died in the war. When Thomas sees him he throws up and the stump of a man with flesh rotting off tells Thomas that killing himself will be better than living this way. Thomas gets diligent about checking himself and living a life that protects him from his disease.

While he is walking down the street he stops at a cross walk and a little boy pulls his sleeve and hands him a piece of paper he shoves in his pocket. The boy says a man on the corner is holding a sign saying "Beware" gave him the paper and told Thomas to read it.

The girl behind the counter says that his bill has been paid up for several months. This makes him even madder and the girl leaves to see if she can find any information. He looks at the paper while waiting. The paper had an old printing on it but Thomas doesn't understand it's meaning. When he leaves the phone company there is a man that is begging for money. When he talks to Thomas he has an odd effect on him.

When he is trying to cross the street a cop car comes and Thomas doesn't move but doesn't get hit. He is pulled to a cave with a strange creature that claims it brought him there. He says he is going to kill Thomas but something talks and interferes and takes



Thomas away. He tells Thomas that he will kill him later but not before Thomas does what he wants him to do. Thomas is sure that he is dreaming. He falls asleep and wakes on top of a mountain. A young girl helps him down and tells him about the land he is in but he insists to himself that he is dreaming.

She shows him the land that he is at but has never heard of leprosy before and thinks him to be a man that prophesy has spoken of named Berek Halfhand because of his missing fingers. He tells her he isn't that person. He wonders if the cop car that hit him hurt him badly. The girl helps him down the mountain steep steps.

chapter 1-4 Analysis

Thomas Covenant was hurt initially when his wife Joan left with their infant son Roger. After he went to the leprosy hospital he learned that he had to stay strong to survive. He turned to hate and bitterness. It shows up when he goes to town. A lot of the people in the town treat him like he is a leper and in his head he says the words unclean and outcast. When he goes to the post office to talk try and pay his bill he isn't friendly to the lady and before he leaves he tells her that he isn't contagious and she is safe.

The odd man on the street doesn't move at all when Thomas walks by. He simply says "Give." And then tells him that he has warned him. When he says that Thomas takes off his wedding ring and gives it to the man. The man tells Thomas to wait and Thomas finds the man has something about him that grabs his attention. He is angry with the man just for talking with him but answers his questions. After a while the old man asks Thomas why he doesn't kill himself and Thomas tells him that would be too easy. The man acts like this is almost the right answer to the quiz and hands Thomas back his ring and tells him that he need not fail.

Thomas is confused and goes on his way as if nothing had happened. When he tried to cross the street he feels as if he can't move. He tries desperately to get his fee to move but they wont and that's when he gets pulled to the cave by the strange creature. Once in this other world the stronger being takes Thomas and tells him to pray to him. He offers Thomas health and Thomas wants the health but has been so prideful that when the voice commands him Thomas begins to resist. That is when he is dropped on the mountain and meets the young girl. He is even harsh in his manners to her as she tries to help him.



chapter 5-7

chapter 5-7 Summary

After Thomas is safely down the mountain he looks himself over and realizes that he has multiple scrapes and tears in his skin. The scrapes on his hands are bleeding but have dirt up inside the wounds. He finally explains to Lena that he has to wash himself and get his wounds clean or the leprosy will eat away at his wounds. She is still confused about the leprosy and thinks that the Lords would have some medicines to fix him. Finally she takes him to a stream and puts large handfuls of mud on all his wounds. He is irritated at first but lets her and once done when he washes in the stream he realizes that his wounds are completely healed. He even feels tingling in his hands and in his legs.

She takes him on toward her village and they eat berries along the way as she explains to him how some of the land and healing things work. He gets very tired and falls asleep almost instantly and she tells him to lie down that the mud will make you exhaustively tired if your wounds are serious. When he wakes up she is singing a beautiful song. He tells her how much he likes it but she tells him that her mother sings much better than she does.

After he wakes up they continue their journey and when they get to her home it is night already and she takes him in to meet her father. Her father is named Trell and he is a strong looking man but is kind to Thomas. He is a strong Stonedowner. He can manipulate stone with his bare hands. He leaves the house and soon her mother comes in named Atiaran. She knows many of the lore of her people and looks Thomas over and tells him the prophesy of Berek Halfhand. Berek was a champion for the queen and he destroyed the evil king and all that rode with him. They believe Thomas to be Berek reborn. Thomas decides it might be in his best interest to let them think so for a time. Atiaran also tells him that his wedding ring that he wears is made of a metal they do not have in their world and it has a legend to go along with it. The person who can wield it will either save or damn the Earth.

They go to the center of the town so that all the Stonedowners can hear Atiaran tell stories and sing. This is how they pass down stories and knowledge. He feels cut off since he is a leper and begins to feel as if he shouldn't be here.

After the story and song are over Thomas realizes that he can't let everyone think that he is the reincarnated Berek. He becomes angry and hurt and Lena offers to take him somewhere he can be alone. She takes him a long way from the Stonedowner village to the western mountains. The Stonedowner people say they are not friendly but Lena has never met any harm. They get to a place near the water to camp and he says his wife is gone and Lena wants to know if she died. After a moment of talking about his wife he slaps Lena hard and then rapes her. Just moments before that she told him that she had a boy wanting to marry her but she didn't want to marry him and she was more or



less telling Thomas she had feelings for him. She leaves bloodied and her clothing torn from her body. He rolls over and falls asleep on the shore of the river.

chapter 5-7 Analysis

After Thomas gets down the mountain he is filled with anger but scared realizing he has hurt himself in more than one spot. The mountain is so steep that he cut his shins up and the palm of his hands as well as his knees. He knows that the leprosy will begin to eat away at his wounds and since Lena doesn't understand how leprosy works he is frantic to get her to understand that he has to get them cleaned up.

Since Thomas thinks this is still a dream it is odd that he gets so excited but she takes him to a stream close by to get washed and tend to his wounds. While he is washing she brings him a pile of mud to putt on his wounds. He argues with her but she is able to convince him that she knows what is good in her land. Once she puts the mud on his wounds he can see gold flecks in the mud and it dries quickly. He washes it off and finds that the wounds are completely healed on his hands and his legs are almost as good.

After he gets up she gives him some berries but he suddenly gets so tired he can't control his actions and falls asleep. She tells him that the mud will do that if you have a wound that is life threatening. After he wakes up they make their way to her village. Her people are called Stonedowners. They work stones with their hands. Her entire village lives in stone houses and they eat from stone plates and bowls.

He meets her parents and the mother is knowledgeable about the prophecy concerning Berek Halfhand. She tells him all she can but says he is going to have to go to the Lords to learn the rest. It's easy to see that Lena really cares for Thomas and is hopeful that he is the one that will save them. At nightfall Thomas is confused about what to do and knows he has to get to the end of the dream to wake up but might go crazy in the process. Lena opens up to Thomas and wants him to care for her but he gets angry when she asks about his wife and he slaps her hard and then rapes her.



chapter 8-9

chapter 8-9 Summary

Thomas woke on the rocks by the river that Lena had taken him to. It took him a moment after waking up to remember what had happened and what he had done to Lena. After he remembered everything that happened he got up and expected to find the Sundowners coming after him. He remembered how strong Trell looked and worried that he would be killed but realized that the morning had come already and no one was after him.

He decided that going back to the village would get him killed and he needed to get as far away from the Sundowners as he could so he washed himself in the river planning to leave soon. When he came up out of the water Atiaran. He was worried for a moment that she knew what he had done to her daughter but she told him that they needed to head off to the Lords to deliver his message and they didn't have anytime to spare.

Thomas doesn't tell Atiaran what happened and he is eager to start on his journey. He decides that the reason that Lena remained quiet about what happened is because she doesn't want to hurt the only hope her people has. They still believe that he may be Berek Halfhand reincarnated. They walk for a while and he asks Atiaran a lot of questions about the Lords and other things. She accuses him of wanting to know just how ignorant she is. After a time he loses his temper again and tells her that he cannot possibly be Berek reincarnated and he doesn't know anything about the land he has found himself.

After a time Atiaran begins tells Thomas that they are being followed. Later someone jumps out of the bush to attack Thomas and it is a young man from the village who wants to marry Lena named Triock. He found her and made her tell him what had happened. He intends to kill Thomas. He has cut Thomas' fingers already at this point and he is surprised to find that his fingers that have no feeling hurt very much. He is so shocked by his finger that he doesn't even talk to Atiaran or to the young man that has just attacked him.

Atiaran says that she understands why her daughter didn't say anything and that she has sacrificed a great price for the hope of her people and she can sacrifice it to. She refuses to let the young man kill Thomas Covenant. He demands to know if Thomas will go unpunished and she tells him that the Lords will decide his punishment. Triock drops his knife into the ground and leaves to go back to the village. Atiaran bandages Thomas' wounds but doesn't talk to him as they move on. She quickens her pace and tells him they are most likely being followed already by spies of the Gray Slayer.

After all this Thomas tells Atiaran that he will not go to her Lords to deliver the message that this is all a dream and he doesn't care what happens to her world. She tells him that she will drag him the entire way if she has to. He takes her as being very serious and



they continue on their journey. As he walks past Triock's knife he pulls it out of the ground and puts it in his belt.

The first two days of the trip he hurt all over from walking so quickly to keep up with Atiaran. He has blisters on his feet and his muscles ache. He feels his feet getting tougher each day. The third night she finds a place to stay called a Waymeet. It is meant for travelers and is hidden to protect them. Inside there is food, drink and a place to sleep. The Lords caused them to be made to help travelers. Some Demondim-spawn wanted a service to provide to the Lords to prove themselves worthy and so they came up with a pact between the two. Demondim-spawn don't care for humans and aren't seen.

The next day while they are walking a storm comes from the north. Atiaran tells him that is not normal and it is the staff that is causing the storm. The storm becomes bad and lightning strikes Thomas on his ring. He can tell something changed. The next day he has heightened senses. They both smell something in the air and on their way find a Demondim-spawn that has been murdered. Atiaran fears the Demondim-spawn may break with the Lords because of the murder.

In a couple of days they come to Woodhelven. They are captured when they arrive. Some of the people there remember Atiaran and release her but give Thomas a staff that he drops and they announce the wood has rejected him.

chapter 8-9 Analysis

When Thomas awakes on the riverbank his first impulse is to run. He doesn't worry about Lena or even think about her past his own life being in trouble. He knows that her close community would want revenge for what he did to her. Perhaps this is because he still fully believes it must be a dream.

When Atiaran shows up to lead him on to the Lords he is feeling very worried that she will find out but not necessarily guilty. As they travel and talk he feels better getting away from the village but lets her know that he is not the Berek they are all waiting for but she is unconvinced and they travel on.

Atiaran knows they are being followed and thinks it is someone to stop their mission but it turns out to be Triock. Triock tries to kill Thomas and cuts his fingers deeply. Triock loves Lena and he found her and she told him what had happened. Atiaran knows why Lena didn't tell anyone. Because Thomas is their only hope to saving their land and she weeps that she cannot be with her daughter. Even when faced with what happened Thomas says nothing. He concentrates on his fingers and the fact that he can feel what has happened to them.

As they travel Atiaran works to get him there safely but doesn't treat him the same as she did. Thomas senses also heighten as he goes along to the point that he can smell evil in the air. He is excited but hurt at the thought of these things because he knows



this is a dream and when he wakes up it will all be gone and he will be left with his useless body.

He convinces himself that if he doesn't survive the dream he won't wake up. When they get to Woodhelven they test him and announce he has failed the test.



chapter 10-11

chapter 10-11 Summary

One of the Woodhelven moved toward Thomas and Thomas picked up the stick he had previously dropped and hit the Woodhelven with it. They decide at that point that he can stay with Atiaran. They spend the night with the Woodhelven and the next morning they start their journey again being fully rested and with food and drink.

During the next few days he realizes that he can feel something with his feet as he walks. Occasionally when he takes a step he feels like he has stepped on acid or quicksand. It starts off subtle but begins to be more violent. Atiaran cannot feel it. Thomas begins to realize that if he were to walk barefoot he would not feel it either and he realizes that Lord Foul is trying to reach his weakness through his new found senses and he refuses to take his shoes off.

Atiaran gets excited that they have made such good time to a place she was looking for but Thomas can't see anything. When night comes there are Wraiths that come to do a dance. Once they start their dance they cannot quit. It is beautiful until ur-viles come to eat every Wraith. Since they cannot stop their dance it eats them one at a time without them leaving. Atiaran begs Thomas to stop them and save the Wraith but he doesn't know what to do. The monster eats a large portion of the Wraith before they can get it stopped but it kills a man that came to help them.

Atiaran is very angry with Thomas for not using his power to stop the Wraith from being murdered even though he doesn't know what to do for them. Thomas begins to argue with himself about whether or not this is a dream. He keeps reminding himself that nothing matter. That when he wakes up he won't have feeling in his appendages and he will be a leper again.

They walk for days after the Wraith were attacked without much rest. Thomas is tired and has trouble sleeping. When the moon comes out it is blood red. On the fourth day since the Wraith were murdered he keeps Atiaran up to see the moon and she is desperate saying there is no time but doesn't explain it to Thomas. They continue their journey hurriedly.

They come to water and Atiaran sees a boat on the water and calls to him asking him to come back to them. She is begging under her breath that the boat come back. When it gets to them the pilot of the boat is a giant. Atiaran begs him to take Thomas to the Lords. Thomas is surprised that she isn't going with him to see that he get punished for his crimes against her daughter. When he begs her not to give up she tells him that she is strong enough to stop there because she wants him dead. Not for her daughter as much as for the Wraith. She tells the giant that she has already caused their cause to fail but Thomas doesn't fully understand anything.



Atiaran drops the knife she was carrying to kill Thomas with and walks away. Thomas boards the boat with the friendly giant and he begins to tell Thomas the Legend of the giant people and why they so few and what happened to those that are gone. His name is Salthart Foamfollower. He gives Thomas food and drink and Thomas falls fast asleep on the boat. While he sleeps he dreams that he is back in his own world and own time with his leprosy eating away at his body. He has been struck by the police car and the people of the town are talking about him being dead because no one cares about him and thankful that he will be gone from their town and community. He hears the giant's voice in his dream and falls out of the ambulance.

chapter 10-11 Analysis

The Woodhelven that challenges Thomas apologizes after Thomas strikes him down. Thomas doesn't know how to take these people. The anger in him still rises up until he realizes they are truly sorry. He is invited to stay with Baradakas who attacked him during the challenge. Thomas can't help but feel that something more is going on and so once in his home Thomas asks him very direct questions.

Baradakas is odd with his answers and actions. Thomas tells him that he believes he is still being tested and Baradakas tells him that is possible. Baradakas gives him a wooden staff that he had been making telling him he knows it was made to help Thomas on his way. They give Thomas and Atiaran rest for the night and bless them before they leave the next morning.

Atiaran seems to have hope as they head out and seems to almost have forgiven Thomas. As they go along he finds that his feet have more feeling than before. In a few days he begins to feel pain in his feet at certain points. He cannot feel the pain with his hands and when he calls Atiaran she cannot feel the pain either. The pain is the same pain of death that he felt when he found the creature murdered earlier on. As the pains become more intense he takes off his boots trying to realize what the sensations are exactly but can't feel them without his shoes. He realizes that this is the way Lord Bane intends to get to him is by the senses he has learned to live without. He can't travel without shoes.

They travel on to a place and Atiaran shows him the Wraith. They are attacked and she feels Thomas should save them but he doesn't know how. She doesn't forgive this and when they come to a river she gives him as a charge to a giant to take to the Lords. Thomas doesn't want her to go even if it is just to make sure he is punished. She tells him she wants to kill him and leaves the knife she was going to kill him with.

The giant takes Thomas on his boat and they start their trip. Thomas falls asleep and dreams of the towns people happily watching him die.



Chapter 12-14

Chapter 12-14 Summary

When Thomas wakes up he is on the boat and Foamfollower is steering the boat but looks very sickly. He talks to Thomas for a time and explains to Thomas how the steering of the boat works in a short story. Foamfollower is steering the boat. Thomas is surprised that one night of steering the boat did that to the giant but then he learns that the drink he took made him sleep for two nights and a day. Thomas is surprised and offers to help Foamfollower with the boat but there is nothing he can do.

Thomas and the giant become friends and Thomas explains a little about the ring and his pains and Foamfollower hands him a piece of sticky tape to conceal the ring that holds the white magic power so that he will not be judged so quickly for it. They continue on their way for a long time further till the giant is nearly dead and then they encounter Warwards and they help to pull the boat to Revelstone. The giant tries to tell them to assemble the Lords but they had a prophecy that it would be needed and the next day the Lords will meet.

Thomas is taken to a room by one of the bloodguard to his room. The bloodguard have been in service for thousands of years. The one that is guiding Thomas, who is several thousand years old, makes him feel more like a prisoner than a guest and his room has no door that he can open to get out. When Thomas complains to the guard he is told that until the Lords have met with him he is not permitted to roam the grounds alone.

When the Lords meet Thomas tells them about part of the things that happen. He doesn't tell them about Lena or Baradakas. They want to know if the Woodhelven challenged Atiaran and he says no. They tell him he knows just enough for them to find distrust in his story and want to know what token that he may be trusted. He finally pulls out his ring and shows them the thing that made Baradakas challenge him and the thing that made Atiaran hate that he didn't save the Wraith from their murders.

He tells them they don't understand his world and they want him to explain and he tells them that in his world they are nothing more than a dreamed reality that cannot possibly exist. That if he fully trusts what is going on that he will go crazy. They are understandably hurt and offended. He demands for them to tell him how to use the ring but they don't have that knowledge. He explains to them that in his land the ring is nothing but they are convinced that he was pulled to their world for a reason. Thomas points out that perhaps Lord Bane only wants them to think that there was a reason that perhaps he is nothing.

The counsel decides to make him ur-Lord which means he will share in their matters while he is at Revelstone. They provide him with a different room since they feel that they can trust him but when he leaves the bloodguard lets him know he is still unsure about him. The bloodguard is under a vow to protect the Lords first and foremost but



since they have put Thomas under the guidance of the bloodgaurd he must lay down his life to protect Thomas. Thomas has his sincere doubts about this.

Chapter 12-14 Analysis

When Thomas awakens from his bad dream he finds that the water is rough and that the humorous giant in charge of the boat is looking ragged. Even though he is tired he still sings a song to steer the boat and he explains to Thomas that it is him that steers the boat.

Thomas becomes friends with Foamfollower. Thomas seems irritated by the fact that when things are irritable or unhappy Foamfollower laughs a hearty laugh and can do it with tears streaming down his face. Thomas has denied himself these simple emotions for so long learning to cope with the harsh conditions of his leprosy. Foamfollower let Thomas sleep for two nights and a day, which Thomas need but now the giant is beginning to weaken.

After much more travel they encounter riders from Revelstone that secure the boat and pull it into the city where they are able to get rooms for Thomas and Foamfollower. Thomas wants to belong to something so wonderful as Revelstone but lets bitterness shut out the feelings he is afraid of. Thomas is put in a room with no exit and told that until he can be trusted he will not be allowed to roam freely.

Later when Thomas and Foamfollower talk to the Lords they find Thomas' story to be missing pieces. He didn't tell them about the ring or why Atiaran was so angry with him or why the Woodhelven challenged him. After being questioned repeatedly Foamfollower urges him to tell them the truth and he reveals the ring but exhaustedly tells them he can't use it and explains that he believes all this to be a dream and that he is simply going mad. The thoughts among the Lords is mixed but they make him an ur-Lord that is allowed to partake in everything going on until his departure. He thinks he will not make it out sanity intact.



Chapter 15-16

Chapter 15-16 Summary

Thomas doesn't sleep the night after he is given the title of ur-Lord. When he is called to a meeting of the Lords to discuss what is to be done about the coming battle he is tired and irritable. The High Lord Prothal tries to step down and asks Thomas Covenant to take his place. Thomas tells him no and then he asks if anyone else wants to claim his seat. He tells everyone to not fear to follow him or blame him if he is wrong in his choices. As the Lords discuss what is going on Lord Osondrea tells everyone that Drool Rockworm has already found the evil bane he was looking for. They decide that Covenant, the High Lord, and several others will go to try and take the staff from Drool Rockworm.

Covenant tells them that Foul explained to him that he had been chosen by someone that Foul only called his enemy. The counsel doesn't know who it is but Thomas Covenant remembers the old man that talked to him on the street and gave him back him ring. They tell him about someone called the creator but don't have much information on him. One of the elder Lords tells Thomas that the creator trapped Despair on the earth to protect the universe but can't help the earth unless he goes about it in indirect ways because he might release the Despair again.

They ready themselves to leave to confront Drool Rockworm. The Bloodgaurd calls for the horses they are going to ride that are mystical beasts called Ranyhyn. The Ranyhyn pick their riders and that is the only way you can ride one. They contain a special connection with the rider and will lay down their life for the one they choose. The Ranyhyn have a special connection with the Bloodgaurd and there is not a Bloodgaurd that is not chosen. The Bloodgaurd that is to protect Thomas, Bannor, continues to stay with Thomas as ordered although he is still cautious of Thomas. The rest of the party rides on horses. At nightfall the moon is full and they wait to see if Drool Rockworm can keep control of the moon at that stage. When it turns red Thomas' ring turns red and hurts him but he hides it and doesn't say anything. Over the next day he begins to have the pains in his feet again. He tells the Lords about it and they are concerned that he didn't tell them before hand. They continue journeying and find a Waymeet. They shelter has been abandoned and unattended for some time and the Lords realize that the murder that Thomas and Atiaran discovered on their journey has caused the abandonment of the Waynhims.

The pain continues and is getting worse but Thomas refuses to take off his shoes until the High Lord says they have to figure out what is going on. He takes Thomas' hands until he feels another attack and then he realizes that the pain is caused because Drool Rockworm is looking for Thomas. He wants Thomas' ring and the only way he can find Thomas is the boots he wears because the material they are made out of is unique to the land.



Thomas reluctantly takes off his boots. The High Lord tells Thomas that the reason he didn't feel the pains the first few days is because Rockworm expected them to take a different path and it took him a while to find the boots. That is the reason that Thomas can't feel the pains with his hands or his feet. By the time he agrees to take his boots off he has endured the extreme pain so long that he is weakened and is carried by Foamfollower. Thomas realizes that there is something in the giant's face that has made him look weary from watching Thomas struggle with the pain and attacks along the journey.

Chapter 15-16 Analysis

When Bannor comes into Thomas' room to take him to the meeting of the Lords, Thomas has questions for Bannor. Bannor tells him he has no use for white gold because it is a weapon and his people have no use for weapons. Thomas doesn't understand completely and remains sure that Bannor doesn't trust him.

At the meeting of the Lords, High Lord Prothall tries to step down as High Lord because he has doubts about his ability to meet the challenges he faces in the position. He asks Covenant to take his place because of the white gold but Thomas tells him no. The rest of the council refuses to take his spot either and so Prothall remains. As the meeting continues they discuss Rockworm and that he gotten much more power at his side besides the staff. They get a party ready to ride to take the power from Rockworm even though they have decided that whatever is happening that Lord Foul is using them to save him while they damn themselves. They are all worried about how to act to the message that Covenant gave them but know that they must act in one way or another.

They begin their journey with a few Lords and some of the Bloodguard and Thomas Covenant. When the moon shows itself Thomas' gold ring begins to taint itself red and it causes him to hide it from his companions. He also begins to feel the pain in the ground again. He refuses to take off his shoes and doesn't want any help from his fellow traveler although they offer it again and again. The pain grows to the point that he passes out and so the High Lord offers to find out what it is that hurts Thomas. They hold hands and Thomas sees himself reflected in Prothall's eyes. He is ashamed of it but they find that Rockworm is hunting Thomas down through the material in his shoes. He is so scared that in this dream he has lost the things that keep him protected from his disease but is beginning to feel like a part of the dream he is in. Like there is something bigger than him. He gets wrapped up in the dream but then assures himself that it is just a dream and he has to keep from going insane.



Chapter 17-18

Chapter 17-18 Summary

Thomas changes clothes so that he is no longer wearing the things that Drool Rockworm can find. They are sleeping and Foamfollower waked Thomas up to tell him that the Ranyhyn have seen the wolves that are hunting them as they travel. The travelers get up to go but leave a small group of the Eoman to lay an ambush. The Eoman left behind are supposed to disperse the wolves and lead a trail going the wrong way. They are thinking that Drool doesn't know what they are doing will loose them if he looses the fresh trail. As they travel the Eoman left behind don't catch up to them. Covenant talks to one of the Lords and asks what Foul is doing during Drool's plans but he says that no one know but in his dream, because this Lord is a seer, Lord Foul is laughing.

Many days later the Eoman catch up with the rest of the travelers and tell them that they lost one member of the party to a griffin. They were able to lead the rest off trail and had no other loses. The Eoman had made it ahead of the traveling party and had shot a hawk that was following them. It had only one eye and a mad orb centered on its forehead. They realize it is Drool's doing. As the days give way to the nights the red shade on Thomas' ring becomes stronger but he says nothing because he is ashamed of Drool's hold on him.

They sense something wrong on their journey and smell something burning. It is Woodhelven. When they reach Woodhelven it is completely destroyed and the people that lived in the great massive tree are scattered on the ground dead. Thomas is sick to his stomach and knows that they died because Drool wants his ring. They send two scouts out to look for survivors. Running from the Woodhelven they find a woman and a small boy. The woman is Llaura who had been in charge before when he was there with Atiaran. She has trouble speaking at times because she has had something done to her. They manage to heal her and she tells him they have set a trap for them. By this time there is no way out and they must make a plan to protect themselves.

During the attack several people traveling with them die. Thomas is supposed to stay safe with his Bloodguard but sees those with him being attacked and he gets up and begins to fight. He picks up a staff belonging to one of the dead Lords and when he strikes urviles with it there is a red blast of light and they are crushed. He kills five of them and after a time the urviles retreat. Foamfollower is wounded from fighting. There are several members of their party that require healing. Foamfollower wants to give the small boy with Llaura some of the mud that will heal what the urviles have done to him but there is a Cavewight that is hurt. Even thought they attacked and killed so many Foamfollower uses the last of the mud to heal the cavewights pain rather than help the child.



While they travel toward Drool, Thomas begins to feel the pull of Drool on the ring and realizes he has serious decisions to make. He swears off food until he makes his decision. They travel through a forest and the Lords warn that if you show your sword or axe then the forest will come to life and kill you because it has been harmed so much. While they go through the forest Thomas and one of the Lords get their clothes marked with the moss of the trees but no one else does. When they are through the forest they meet Manethrall Lithe and she has had people spying on them for sometime. People stand up out of the grass that no one had seen. They offer help and kill off a wolf pack on their way to their home. These people serve the Ranyhyn.

Chapter 17-18 Analysis

There is a constant difference between Thomas and the others. They do their best to keep their spirits up when Thomas finds it to be useless. When they realize that Woodhelven is burning and the people have been slaughtered Thomas spends much time thinking about the fact that it is his entire fault. He is certain that they were killed because Drool wants the ring he wears. During the day the ring is normal but during the night it turns the same color as the moon and he feels Drool's power on it.

The people he rides with hold different values than his own. He refuses to share with them the things that are happening to his ring. When they go to Woodhelven to try and help they are ambushed and Thomas battles with his companions. He kills five of the beings attacking them and announces that they are no different from Drool and the ones that he sends to attack. The small child has been afflicted by a spell. Thomas feels the child himself is a sign to him from Lord Foul about what will happen. That no matter what, what they try to save will wind up tainted.

Foamfollower battles and kills with hatred when they are attacked and even follows the fleeing beasts and kills more of them as they try to escape. When he comes back he forgoes his own injuries to heal one of the monsters that is in pain and sets it free. After this Foamfollower stops singing and telling stories. Thomas vows to never murder again and feels the deep push of the ring from Drool and decides he won't eat until he has made the hard decisions he has to make. They are aided by hunters from the Plains of Ra. They are the best hunters and three of them kill a pack of wolves on their journey.



Chapter 19-21

Chapter 19-21 Summary

The Cords led them to their village. They lived on the land but tried to be servants to the land. Even though they had lived there for generations there were few signs of it. Thomas has been having dreams that he is being controlled. He is still struggling to make his decision and hasn't eaten for a long time. When nightfall comes after they have reached the village they have a feast. There is a member of the village to welcome each member of the travelers. The one that welcomes and is to tend to Thomas is a young girl that reminds him a of Lena.

When they eat she tries to give him food and he finally stands up and demands that the leader of the people that met them outside the woods call the Ranyhyn. She refuses at first but he insists and finally she calls. There are many of them that come and he makes a pact with them. He believes that they are angry with him at first and then he realizes that they are not angry that they are frightened of him. He tells them he won't choose one of them to ride but makes a pact that when he needs them that they will give aid to him. He told them of Lena and where to find her and that they must go there and let her ride one of them once a year since she wanted so badly to see the Ranyhyn.

The people in the village have never seen so many Ranyhyn come when someone called. And all of them came to be offered and so they offer Thomas servitude if he wishes it. He refuses but some of the Cords that had led them to the village go with them on their journey to tend the horses and speed their trip. As they start their journey out the group seems to be in much higher spirits, although Thomas is worried that they are putting to much trust in the fact that he is able to save them with his wild magic.

They leave Llaura and the boy in the village. Llaura wants to go to get revenge for what was done to her people. Thomas tells her the boy needs her. Something was done to the boy and she believes him to be evil now trapped in the frame of a child.

When they reach the mountain they see the troops of Drool marching out to war and hope that when they are gone that there will be less opposition and they will be able to take the staff from him easily. As they wait one of the Lords tries to convince Thomas to fight with them. He tells him that he has made a type of peace and will kill no more. Foamfollower cannot go into the mountain and one of the Cords decides she will go in to help where she can. The High Lord offers anyone to stay behind. They prepare to go inside and Thomas realizes that he has no choice but to go in. That his dream would only release him by means of the staff that Drool has or by death. As they march in Foamfollower stays outside to ensure that they are not trapped in the mountain by any of drools troops. The High Lord tells Foamfollower to leave if they are not back soon and go warn his people of the coming danger. The giant tells them that hope misleads, but that hate corrupts and he has been corrupted by his hate.



There are twenty-nine of the group now that go into the cave to find Drool and take the staff. The giant and three of the Cords remain outside the cave.

Chapter 19-21 Analysis

As they travel we see the first glimpse that his feelings are returning with the tears that occasionally come that before were unable. Thomas and the group of travelers go toward the village. As Thomas travels everything he smells makes him almost nauseous. Even the things that the horses eat. When they get to the village he is dreading the time when they will eat dinner. They have a feast for the guests and each of the travelers have their own person to tend to their needs. The person that Thomas got is a girl that reminds him of Lena. This is the first time that he has thought of Lena and the fact that he raped her and he has become a monster.

He makes a connection between his illness that makes him a monster and the things he has done that makes him a monster and he tells them to call the Ranyhyn. So many of the Ranyhyn come that the people are in awe and believe that Thomas has power. He realizes the horses are scared of him so much that they are willing to serve him because of their fear. He makes a pact with them that he won't choose one of them if they aid him in his quest. This is the first time he has thought steadily about what he has done to Lena and calls himself a servant of Lord Foul in his mind. He doesn't tell anyone about what is going on in his head because he is ashamed of himself. He tells the Ranyhyn that one of them must go once a year to Lena and let her ride them because she has always wanted to ride one. The thought of Lena is what pulls him to the point of reconciling with himself to some degree.

After the scene with the Ranyhyn he tries harder to get along with everyone and curb his anger. He still believes that Lord Foul has tricked them by sending him to them but they don't listen and one of the Lords shows him the land in hopes that he will decide to fight with them. He thinks constantly of the fact that this is a dream and when he nears the cave to face drool he knows that he has to go in to end the dream either with getting the staff or by dying.



Chapter 22-23

Chapter 22-23 Summary

As the group entered into the mountain Thomas goes over the items in his possession. He has the staff that the Woodhelven had given to him and the knife that Atiaran gave him but has forgotten something and doesn't know what it is. The High Lord is arguing with one of the other Lords about who is going to lead the way. The High Lord wants to be first to protect the others but his staff is much brighter and they will be able to hide easier if the way is lead by Lord Birinair. Finally High Lord Prothall agrees. It isn't long before they find two sentries guarding Warrenbridge. They take the two beasts out with arrows quietly and while beginning to cross the bridge Thomas' ring begins to make him feel odd and he can suddenly see things the others can't. Everyone becomes see through except for the Bloodguards and the ring. High Lord Prothall knows that there is some ancient danger there but can't figure out what it is.

Because of the ring when they are going past some of the spells within the mountain they ask Covenant to go last so that when his ring is close to it it won't cut the group off from part of the people. They travel on till they are hungry and stop to eat but Thomas knows that night hasn't come yet because the ring has yet to turn the red color. They do their best to choose paths that are older and will have less chance of them being discovered.

They have traveled a long way into the mountain but are discovered and ur-viles begin approaching after seeing the light. Birinair tells some to follow him and when they do he is still in the lead and is attacked and killed. Thomas grasps at the fire that killed Birinair and it turns into a different light when it hits his ring and the ur-viles flee. There are some that have died and others that have gotten hurt. Prothall lays beside the ashes of Birinair saying that he had taken Prothall's place. The room the fire was protecting was a room that holds a scroll that is one that the High Lord Kevin hid during the first battle thousands of years ago but finding it may be just as good as bad.

They stop to sleep realizing that there is no safe past this point. When they awaken to continue on their trip they put the dead in the room that had contained the scroll since they could not bury them. As they continue on their trip Thomas is attacked by a lone ur-vile. It sniffs Thomas all over looking for something and then tries to put his finger with the ring in his mouth to bite it off. In the wrestling they both fall over the side of a cliff into darkness and the ur-vile is killed on impact. He hears something coming and manages to get his staff lit and sees cavewights coming at him. They don't attack him and usher him on. He goes with them since he is separated from his group. They take him to Drool Rockworm.

Drool Rockworm looks much older since he has been using the staff so harshly. Thomas hits Rockworm when he tries to take the ring but his staff just shatters. Drool orders his cavewights to attack and at that moment Bannor appeared. He had waited to



make sure that Thomas wasn't working with Drool before he acted. Soon after the rest of the group enters Drool's cave and Prothall begins the battle for the staff. Prothall doesn't kill Drool. After Prothall has the staff they can hear the laugh of Lord Foul but he doesn't show himself. Drool remains on the floor crying for the staff to be returned and then tells them that he has other powers and commands the cavewights to attack.

Chapter 22-23 Analysis

They begin trekking toward the cave and Prothall is arguing with Birinair about who is going to go first. Prothall is sure that it is his job to lead since the burden is his to bear. He worries more about the others than his own safety even though they depend on his leadership. He continues to show signs that he would like to step down if one would take control.

Thomas can't help but feel as he makes mental note of everything that he has forgotten something he needs. Most of the trip is over high places and Thomas has such intense fear of heights he can't help but be frightened to the point of needing physical help of those around him. The darkness is intense. The ring that Thomas wears is beginning to change the way he sees things. He is able to see things the others cannot but the sensation messes with his ability to walk and move. They realize the ring is being called by Drool and have Thomas at the last so that if the ring is felt by the spells that Drool and Lord Foul have along the way they won't have part of the group cut off from the rest. Thomas understands this but the act itself causes him to think about being forsaken or left behind. The theme in his life was that he didn't want to be cut off and left out. The symbolism in that is serious for him as a leper that has been shunned.

When the ur-viles attack them and Birinair is killed Thomas tries to step into the same flame that killed Birinair. It changes color and its intensity scares the monsters off. They want to know how Thomas knew what to do with the flame, but Thomas admits that he saw a way out. That if he died the dream would be over.

They find a scroll that was locked away thousands of years ago and Thomas wants to know if the knowledge can be used to send him home but they tell him no. Even in the darkness his thoughts return to his world. Thomas is captured and led to Drool's lair. When he is attacked his Bloodguard Bannor shows up to help him and Thomas is grateful for the first time to have him around. Bannor admits to him during the fighting that he waited until he was sure that Thomas wasn't aiding Drool.

Drool kills one of the members of their group and Thomas stays by his side. Until he breathes his last breathe. He asks Thomas as he lay dying "True?" Thomas doesn't understand but tells him yes because he knows it is his dying breath.



chapter 24-25

chapter 24-25 Summary

The staff has been taken away from Drool but the cavewights begins to attack. They can hear Lord Foul laughing at them still. The Cord rushes in and says she knows the way out and they begin to fight their way out of the cave. Thomas doesn't want to leave the Bloodguard that died. Bannor pulls him away from the body. They fight their way through the cave but then a large loremaster attacks. They try to run but are forced to stand and fight. More of their company is killed. Lord Mhoram tells Thomas to raise his ring. Thomas does what he is told and he is able to shoot the large loremaster with his ring though he doesn't know how it happened. Prothal is able to cast a spell to hold the monsters back for a very short period of time while they attempt to find their way out. They have to stop and rest for a moment and Prothal begins to cough. He tells them he doesn't want his old bones to be the reason they fail and to take the staff and leave him behind. Mhoram laughs at him and refuses. They continue on desperately.

They reach daylight and for a moment they are relieved but realize that they cavewights and ur-viles are in pursuit and will be able to over take them easily. They find a spot to make a last stand. The Lords command the Bloodguard to save themselves on their Ranyhyns but they refuse. They try to get one of them to take the staff to safety but they refuse to leave the Lords unprotected. Thomas and the two Lords stand behind what is left of their guards. Lord Prothall and Lord Mhoram tell Thomas they don't know how to use the staff but that with his white gold magic and the staff together he can call the Fire Lions. Thomas refuses at first but then when they are attacked he is finally convinced that killing a few will be the better good.

When the Fire Lions begin to attack the cavewights begin to retreat. Droll appears at the head of the mountain with a green stone of power commanding the cavewights to attack. They stand scared equally of the Lions and the power Drool holds. The band of comrades manage to make it past the bridge that brought them to the mountain and they all feel that they will surely die here. Thomas whistles loudly for the Ranyhyn. They all say that the horses will not come but they all keep their bargain and show up to help Thomas. Then he begins to fade and things become blurred. He doesn't understand what is happening to him but Prothall tells him that since Droll is dead the spell he cast dies with him and tells him goodbye.

Thomas opens his eyes and he can't feel his fingers or toes once again. He is in a hospital bed and the doctor tells him that the policeman driving the car swears he didn't hit Thomas. The policeman says he stopped in time and Thomas just fell to the ground. The doctor explains that his staff is unsure of Thomas' disease and tells him that he is sure it will be fine if Thomas goes on home since he knows how to take care of his leprosy.



As the doctor is explaining these things to him Thomas is thinking about the quest and the fact that he is still a leper and was never healed. He has been in the hospital only a few hours. He gets his clothes and tries to make sense of what has happened. The doctor drives Thomas home and as he walks up the steps to his house he thinks to himself about the fact that he had survived.

chapter 24-25 Analysis

They struggle to get out of the cave and Thomas is able to use the ring to shoot at a loremaster with the help of the Lords. He still doesn't understand how. Prothall isn't doing well and finally tells them to leave him behind. Mhoram laughs at him, which causes everyone to laugh at him. Thomas is unable to laugh and he wants desperately to laugh with them at this moment. When they reach the outside of the mountain they are forced to make a stand. They realize here they will die. Thomas understands now why Lord Foul let them leave with the staff. Lord Foul knew that it would hurt much more to be able to put your hands on it and then realize you couldn't get away.

The Lords convince Thomas to use the staff and his ring to call the Fire Lions. With the Fire Lions attacking the ur-viles and cavewights the company is able to go down the mountain to the ravine. Thomas tries to go back to help Drool since he is so out of his mind that the Fire Lions will kill him. Thomas feels that he is just another victim that Lord Foul has taken. He is unable to make his way back to help Drool but finds for the first time that his rage is gone. Once at the bottom of the ravine Thomas calls the Ranyhyn. They come to help him and the Fire Lions kill Drool which sends Thomas back to his world since Drool is the one that had summoned him.

Thomas awakens to find himself in a hospital bed and he can't feel his fingers. He tells himself over and over again that nerves don't regenerate. He keeps thinking that it was all a dream and yet it was very important to him. He thinks of Prothall and Mhoram and the quest. That alone makes him feel as if he is sane for some reason. He has been in the hospital for only a short period of time and they give him his clothes and he goes home. As he walks up the steps to his home he keeps thinking that they had survived.



Characters

Thomas Covenant

Thomas Covenant is a writer. He is the main character of the novel but at the beginning you have trouble feeling a connection with him because of all his hate and anger and the mean things that he does. He was diagnosed with leprosy and has lost some of his fingers on one hand. His wife took their son and left him so that they wouldn't get sick and don't have any contact with him. He gets transported to a magic land and is forced to go on a journey to save the land but along the way finds that he may need just as much saving as the land does.

When our story takes place he is in a current day town and everywhere he goes he says inside his head that he is unclean and an outcast. He does constant checks on himself to make sure that he doesn't have any cuts that the leprosy can affect. He meets a man on the street that tells him strange things. He tries to give the man his wedding ring because he doesn't have any change to give the beggar and the man talks with Thomas for a time then gives the ring back to him. Thomas gets pulled to a magic land and meets the evil powers at work then is told to take a message to the Lords of the land. He meets a young girl and that girl's mother takes him to the lords.

Thomas struggles with himself along the way feeling that if he lets emotions other than anger in his leprosy will destroy him. He makes friends even though he tries not to and in the end helps to save the land. He tells himself through the whole encounter that it is just a dream. When it is over he wakes up in a hospital bed and decides it must have been a dream but finds that the most important thing was that he was able to help the quest.

Lord Foul

Lord Foul is the name for the enemy of the land. He doesn't take shape and so you are left with a voice. He shows Drool Rockworm how to use the Staff that pulls Thomas into their world. Drool is under Fouls control to a great extent. Foul gives Thomas the message to bring before the Lords. He tells Thomas that Drool Rockworm has found the Staff of Law and looks for evil banes in the mountain. He tries to get Thomas to work for him and has Thomas interested in doing it because he said he could give Thomas health.

Lord Foul becomes insulting and Thomas has spent so much time being easily insulted that he begins to fight back against the will of Lord Foul. Lord Foul tells Thomas that willing or unwilling that all will serve him and lets Thomas go on top of a mountain.

Lord Foul doesn't appear again until the end of the book when they confront Drool Rockworm but throughout the story there are things that have been put in place by what



the people call the Gray Slayer or Lord Foul. His servants go and kill people and the Lords traveling with Thomas have visions of him laughing at them.

Bannor

The bloodguard assigned to Thomas. He is several thousand years old as are all the bloodguard. He is cautious of Thomas until he is sure that he is not working for Lord Foul, and saves Thomas' life many times.

Lena

The young girl that Thomas finds on the mountain when he first gets pulled to the land. Lena and her family show him great kindness but he is easily angered still and rapes Lena.

High Lord Prothal

Prothal is the current High Lord and is older. He feels strongly about his pledge to the land and wants to keep all with him safe. He tries to hand his title to Covenant or any of the other Lords but no one will take it.

Atiaran

Atiaran Trell-mate is Lena's mother. She seems to forgive Thomas for her daughter but when the time comes to save people from the ur-viles Thomas can't do it and Atiaran can't forgive him for that. She tells Thomas when she leaves him that she has carried a knife with the intent of killing him with it but she has mastered her rage and simply walks away.

Seasalt Foamfollower

A giant that takes Thomas up the river when Atiaran leaves him. He is jolly and becomes friends with Thomas despite his spiteful remarks. Helps them on their quest.

Drool Rockworm

Rather stupid cavewight that Lord Foul uses to bring Thomas to the land. He becomes mad with power because he uses the staff of Law for evil purposes. When he dies Thomas is sent back to his own world.



Berek Halfhand

Founder of the line of lords. He lost part of his hand in combat and there is a prophesy describing his return. Many people say that Thomas has his similarity because the leprosy has taken the same part of his hand.

Laura

She is a Heer of Soaring Woodhelven. She gives Thomas and Atiaran rest at one point. When her village is attacked she is one of the two survivors left.

Lord Mhoram

He is part of the quest. He helps Thomas use his ring though Thomas isn't sure how. Very powerful Lord.



Objects/Places

Kevins Watch

Where Thomas Covenant is dropped by Lord Foul when he first arrives. This is where he first meets Lena.

White Gold Ring

Thomas' wedding ring is made of white gold which is not found in their land. They believe it is a type of wild magic that destroys peace.

Staff of Law

They have to get it back from Drool Rockworm. It holds great power and was fabricated by Berek from the One Tree.

Stonedown

A village made out of stone. Lena lives there and they practice suru-pa-maerl which is a stone craft.

Woodhelvn

A village in a large tree. Thomas and Atiaran receive shelter here at one point but it is destroyed later on by Drool Rockworm's ur-viles.

Revelstone

The home of the Lords keep where Thomas is to take his message. It is the mountain city of the Lords built by the giants.

Waymeet

Resting place hidden along the land. Tended to by the Waynhim. Atiaran and Thomas stay in one but later on find one that has a murdered Waynhim in it.



Mount Thunder

Where Drool Rockworm is at with the Staff of Law. The last battle occurs here. Also where the Fire Lions are called from.

Ranyhyn

Horse that run the plains of Ra. They are free horse that choose a rider and once chosen hear that riders call no matter where they are.

Diamondraught

Foamfollower carries it. It is a type of whiskey used by giants. In humans it causes very deep sleep.

Hurtloam

A powerful healing mud. Lena puts it on Thomas at the beginning and it heals his Leprosy while in the land.

Illearth Stone

Source of Eveil power that is found in banes under the earth. Drool Rockworm finds one that he uses along with the power of the Staff of Law.

Aliantha

These are called treasure berries. They are very nourishing fruit that is found plentiful through the Land

Oath of Peace

It is an oath that the people of the Land take against needless violence. Even in battle if possible you are to let your enemy retreat rather than fight.



Themes

Good Versus Evil

The people in the Land that Thomas Covenant is taken to speak of a person called the Creator. While no one can describe with any certainty what he is or where they do say that he created the earth and is the enemy of Lord Foul. The creator is described as someone who cares for the earth but can't take out Lord Foul directly because if he does then he will release him from the confines he has. The creator is essentially described as the good.

The evil is Lord Foul. The plains people call him the gray slayer, giants call him soulcrusher, Bloodguards call him corruption, the Ramen call him Fangthane the Render, some call him the Despiser, and his power of Evil they call despise. In the story they haven't given Lord Foul a body or a description of what he looks like. He has servants called Ravers that can take on any form they want. It is a type of evil body possession, during which the Raver has complete control over the person. Lord Foul also has others that serve him and Drool Rockworm that are called ur-viles, cavewights and kresh. These are all described as very ugly and enjoy killing. Some have no eyes at all and others have eyes that glow lava red such as Drool Rockworm. When they destroy Woodhelven they kill almost everyone. They leave Llaura and one boy alive. They have unearthly powers that allow them to put a spell of some type on the boy and after that he enjoys the taste of blood and is not right.

When Thomas arrives it isn't entirely clear what he will do. He has the choice of right or wrong and doesn't always choose right. There is a war raging inside of him that he has to fight to decide what he wants more. The ring shows the struggle going on inside him when it changes color. The red and the darkness signify the fight going on between the good side of the creator and the red signifies the blood mood that Drool controls.

The Need for Friendship

Thomas' leprosy has driven away the people in his life. He convinces himself that he doesn't need anyone around and when he goes into town to pay his bills he thinks in his mind unclean and outcast. He fills himself with hate and rage and cuts himself off from the world thinking on nothing but his disease. When he is taken to the Land by Drool and Lord Foul he tells everyone he meets that he is unclean and not to touch him that he is a leper. He has nightmares about being cut off from everyone. If no one remembers you than you are dead.

He pushes everyone away and has pushed himself to hate and anger so long that he has no ability to cry. A piece of his humanity is gone. He feels sure that he can't survive if he loses his hate because that is the thing that has kept him safe for so long. The hope that a person has kills someone with leprosy. He tells a story of a man who had



leprosy and couldn't stand being alone and being exiled and so he went to the bathroom and killed himself. Thomas is certain that when you allow yourself to hope that all you let in is weakness.

He has done unspeakable things to Lena and doesn't think her name again until they are near the destination in their quest. When he thinks about her he breaks down and is able to produce tears. At this point a piece of his humanity comes back and he has made a decision. He tells the giant Foamfollower that he needs friends. He hasn't let himself admit that till this point. The giant laughs and tells him he has friends.

The Quest for Understanding

There are so many things that Thomas has to figure out. He doesn't know why he has found himself in this land, what Lord Foul wants, if it is a dream or not and what decision he is going to make in the end. To damn the Land or to save the Land.

Thomas tells himself throughout the entire journey and even after he is back home that it was all just a dream and that none of it was real, yet he finds himself very serious about the things that happened and thankful that the Quest was successful but still wondering what Lord Foul had planned that required their going to confront Drool. He struggles to understand how to deal with his disease and his humanity in the same place at the same time. The quest for understanding what is inside himself controls the things that he tells the members of the Quest. He is ashamed of what he is and what he has done and the fact that the ring burns red at night makes him feel as if he has few choices left. That Drool and Lord Foul are calling to him and it is only a matter of time before he has to answer. Thomas also struggles to understand why here he is able to have feeling and why the disease is under control in this Land.

The quest for understanding isn't the same as the quest for knowledge. They have scrolls left to them from before the first battle with Lord Keven but don't understand how to use them yet. If they try to use the knowledge before they understand it there is a chance they will be destroyed.



Style

Point of View

The story is written in first person limited point of view. It is written in past tense which makes you feel as if the story is being retold. The point of view in the story helps a lot because the main character is so flawed. It isn't like he is doing the awful things while you watch like when he rapes Lena. It is like you are being told about it and then you learn later on how much he hates himself for it.

The fact that Lena's mother Atiaran is the one that leads him toward the Lords to deliver the message makes the trip interesting with a limited point of view. You know that she decides the hope of saving the land is more important than revenge for what was done to her daughter but she isn't easily read. Every time she says or does something you are left wondering and taking in her actions trying to deduct what purpose was behind them.

She even seems to warm back up to Thomas at one point until the Wraith are attacked. When she leaves Thomas and he begs her not to go she produces the knife with which she intended to kill him. The reader is just as dumbfounded as Thomas, not knowing what she had planned.

Setting

The story starts and ends in a generic current time and place. The town that he lives in has a telephone company, courthouse, light company and finding a beggar on the street doesn't surprise anyone. When Drool Rockworm takes Thomas to the Land, he is certain that it must be a dream because it is so odd. Lord Foul never takes a physical form but argues with him on a cloud and Lena takes him to a river and heals his wounds with mud.

The people in the Land look like normal people but they have abilities and crafts they have mastered that make them unbelievable to Thomas. The Stonedowners can manipulate stone by singing a song and Woodhelvens can manipulate wood by singing a song. He finds Giants and Lords that possess knowledge and power and the Bloodguard look like regular men but each are thousands of years old.

Even the Land changes how Thomas looks at things. He can tell something is sick by looking at it and smell evil in the air. There are magics in the food and soil and power in words differing greatly to the place he is from. Throughout the tale he finds contrast in each aspect of this new world from his home.



Language and Meaning

The language in the story is easily read. Thomas puts everything in rather simple terms. When the other characters in the Land are talking it almost has an old English feel to. It compliments the fact that they are Lords and in the land they live in small villages with spears for weapons and wear dresses and tunics. Thomas is an excitable character and so his language to is excitable even in his head. He screams at himself about being unclean and a leper and when he gets aggravated he curses at himself or whomever his is upset with even if only where he can hear it.

The language become very important for the people of the Land because they have Lore that they practice and it requires songs and words. Thomas even manages to get his ring to work with the help of the Lords. They have words of power they use. Thomas first sees the working that the people do with Lena's father Trel in the Stonedowner village. He sings a song while he takes a broken stone bowl and the cracks disappear and form back together. He doesn't understand the power of words yet. The difference between his words and theirs hold a defining contrast for the reader.

Corrupt to him means leprosy but Corrupt to the Bloodguard means Lord Foul. The language is well thought out and utilized.

Structure

The book is broken into twenty-five chapters. The pages vary in length from 8 pages in a chapter to 35 pages in a chapter. The chapters deal more with the story line and where it should end rather than the number of pages involved. The first two chapters he is in his own world and own time. It gives you background on what has happened. When he got his leprosy, his wife left, how people have reacted and very important, how he has reacted. It is also in this time period he meets the beggar that gives him a prophecy. When the second chapter ends he has just begun the decent to the Land and Drool Rockworm but doesn't yet understand what is happening. The beginning of the next chapter explains it.

The chapters end on a high note with the climax at a point that you are waiting for what is next. The chapter markers are solely dependent on the speed the writer takes to get from one scene to the next. The chapters are numbered and named with names that don't leave any explanation until you have started the chapter. It is backwards in respects to the fact that chapter number four is called Kevin's watch but you don't know what that is until you are a good length of the way into chapter number four. Once you know what Kevin's watch is you are no longer confused but it takes looking back to understand the direction of the name.

The book is the first in the chronicle of Thomas Covenant but does not leave the reader in the middle of a battle or a struggle to wonder what happens.



Quotes

"In rage at his outcasting, he sought to defy it, to assert the right of his common mortal blood." Chapter 1: page 4

"The jolt broke Covenant's momentum, and he almost shouted aloud, Leper outcast unclean!" Chapter 2: page 9

"You have might-wild magic which preserves your life at this moment-but you will never know what it is." Chapter 3: page 35

"In a leap on insight, he realized that he was as exciting to her as if he had in fact been Berek Halfhand— That to her yearning toward mysteries and powers, all-knowing Lords and battles in the clouds, his strangeness and his unexplained appearance on the Watch made him seem that personification of great events out of a heroic past."
Chapter 6: page 65

"A leper's claustrophobia was on him, a leper's fear of crowds, of unpredictable behavior." Chapter 7: page 83

"It's just a ring, To remind me of everything I have to live without." Chapter 8: page 108

"Lepers could not afford grief." Chapter 8: page 113

"Thomas Covenant, you must give us some token that your take is true." Chapter 14: page 256

"Drool Rockworm has already found his bane-the Illearth Stone or some other deadly evil." Chapter 15: page 267

"So Lord Foul relies upon us to save him and damn ourselves." Chapter 15: page 268

"Covertly, he studied his ring, and found the same occasional orange cast under the dominating blood." Chapter 17: page 309

"Despite the tacit dishonesty of allowing his companions to believe what they wished of him, he held himself still." Chapter 20: page 389

"It may be that hope misleads. But hate-hate corrupts." Chapter 21: page 408

"They had done exactly what Lord Foul wanted them to do-but they had survived."
Chapter 25: page 471



Topics for Discussion

Who was the old beggar that spoke to Thomas Covenant in the town streets?

Was Thomas simply dreaming? Why do you believe that?

If Thomas wasn't dreaming, was he the reincarnation of Berek Halfhand?

Why did Thomas have Lord Tamarantha's staff burned after the battle?

Atiaran tells Thomas she has intended to kill him. Does she want revenge for her daughter or the Wraith that Thomas didn't save?

Does Lord Foul truly believe that Thomas won't be able to learn to use the ring or is he planting seeds of doubt?

Should Thomas have told the High Lord about the White Gold turning colors in the moonlight during their journey?

Has Thomas hurt himself by letting his emotions come back to life? Will he be able to survive now back in his own world?

If it was a dream, why does he care so much about the members of the Quest?