René Kaiser

Julian and the Guardians of the Elements

Book 6

The Mountain of Four Bowls



Book 6 · English edition

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Earth · Water · Fire · Air

Four Forces Need One Another

Dear children and everyone reading aloud,

a little stone rolls to the side of its bowl. At the Mountain of Four Bowls, earth, water, fire and air meet. But the return routes are blocked, and each Guardian is thinking first of their own element.

Julian and Lio already know the four realms. A pebble, shell, clay shard and feather travel with them as little rune echoes. After their woodland adventure, the reminder ribbon records connected paths; the grey centre remains unfinished.

This time, Nela, Maris, Timo and Edda bring their different experiences together. They practise signals, ask for breaks and discover that helping does not mean carrying everything themselves.

The 25 chapters tell a complete mountain adventure and continue the series. Reading in order is recommended; important connections are explained here too. Pictures and conversation questions invite you to think together.

Enjoy the Mountain of Four Bowls!

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CHAPTER 1

The Crooked Breakfast Table



The little stone lay in its wooden bowl. Julian turned it to the left. The stone still rolled back to the right-hand rim.

“Perhaps it likes the view there,” Lio said.

The large dish from the night before stood on the desk. It had tilted a little although the surface underneath was level. Julian moved the jam to the kitchen table, just in case.

Then he spread out the map. The reminder ribbon showed four connected paths and a grey centre. A little picture appeared between the rune echoes: a mountain with four bowls on its slopes.

One held water. Embers glowed in another. The third was full of stones. Above the fourth, a pale spiral of air turned.

“Borun's message,” Julian said. “Today, we'll look together.”

He packed bread, water, the map and the four echoes. The wooden bowl received its lid. Lio checked the bread bag.

Nela opened the enlarged door in the cup tree from the other side. She had fastened a green ribbon to the checked forest path.

Julian placed his button at the beginning. Then they followed her towards the mountain.

Even from the first firm landing, the horizon looked slightly crooked.

CHAPTER 2

Four Voices and Nowhere to Sit



Borun waved from the slope. Beside the great stone Earth Guardian stood Sira, Ember and Aeris. For the first time, Julian saw all four together.

“The earth is too heavy,” Aeris said.

“The air moves too fast,” Borun replied.

“Without warmth, it wouldn't move at all,” Ember said.

Sira pointed towards the water. “And without cooling, it becomes too hot here.”

Lio sat on a smooth stone. At once, he slid a little way down it.

“Without a level seat,” he said clearly, “this conversation becomes rather tiring for a fox.”

Everyone fell silent.

Nela came from the little tent. Timo followed with Fenn, the hand-sized red dragon, on his shoulder. Maris and Edda brought baskets from the other slope.

“The loose things are secured,” Nela said. “But we keep talking about whose fault it is.”

Julian opened the wooden bowl. The stone rolled towards the earth basin.

“Could we start with what we can see?”

Borun knelt down. Sira placed a shallow bowl of water beside him. Its surface showed the slope too.

Ember stepped back to give everyone room.

This time, they all looked at the same two observations.

CHAPTER 3

What the Channels Say



Beneath dry moss lay an old drawing in the rock. Four bowls stood around a centre. Each had an inlet and a return route.

Borun followed the lines with his stone finger.

“Not a pair of scales that needs the same weight everywhere. A distributor.”

Sira showed them a narrow channel. “Water cools the embers. Slowly, in the right place.”

“Warmth moves the air,” Ember added.

Aeris traced the next curve. “Air keeps spaces open.”

Nela pointed to the final route. “And earth gives water support and direction.”

Julian copied the order. He did not draw the bowls the same size. They had different jobs.

Lio sniffed at the edge of a return channel.

“Damp dust. And something that doesn't belong there.”

Grey glass gleamed between two stones. Edda examined it from a distance. She did not pull it.

“If the way back is closed, more and more gathers at the top.”

The mountain creaked. A tent pole leaned sideways.

Julian held the map firmly. This time, they did not begin with the blockage. They needed somewhere nobody had to catch the supplies while thinking.