

5. Broken Spears

The chapter opens with Kaladin and his Windrunners poised defensively in the sky, their motionless formation drawing awe from refugees below. The Heavenly Ones, ancient Fused warriors, advance with unnatural grace, their flowing robes and lances marking them as formidable foes. Kaladin reflects on their origins—ordinary singers sacrificed to host these ancient souls—and envies their innate mastery of the winds, which contrasts with his own hard-won skills. The stage is set for a confrontation, with Kaladin hoping to face Leshwi, a Fused leader he has battled before.

Kaladin organizes his Windrunners, sending less experienced squires to guard civilians while seasoned knights prepare for combat. He notes the growth of his forces, with many original members now bonded to spren, but laments the scarcity of honorspren for new recruits. The Windrunners and Fused engage in one-on-one duels, a practice Kaladin has come to respect despite its archaic nature. The battlefield becomes a chaotic dance of paired combatants, leaving a few Fused unengaged—among them, Kaladin spots Leshwi.

Leshwi, recognizable by her distinctive skin pattern and demeanor, signals Kaladin for a duel. As they ascend, a surge of Stormlight from Dalinar's perpendicularity revitalizes the Radiants, granting them a tactical advantage. Kaladin pursues Leshwi, their spears leveled, as the chapter highlights the Windrunners' superior speed and maneuverability. The clash between the two leaders symbolizes the broader conflict, blending honor and brutality in the skies above the battlefield.

The chapter underscores the evolving dynamics between Kaladin and the Fused, particularly his grudging respect for their combat traditions. Leshwi's reappearance adds personal stakes to the battle, while the strategic use of Stormlight emphasizes the Radiants' growing prowess. Kaladin's leadership and the Windrunners' discipline shine through, even as they face an enemy that seems born to the skies. The tension

between ancient honor and modern warfare drives the narrative forward, leaving readers anticipating the outcome of this high-stakes duel.

