

3. Momentum

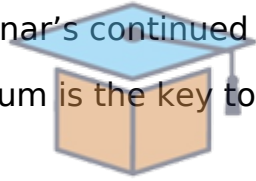
The chapter opens with a vivid flashback to a battle fought thirty-four years prior, highlighting Dalinar's leadership and combat prowess. He leads a diverse elite force across a scorched battlefield, demonstrating confidence and strategic acumen. The environment is chaotic, filled with smoldering rockbuds and flamespren, emphasizing the intensity of the conflict. Dalinar's tactical approach involves a classic hammer-and-anvil formation, aiming to trap and crush the enemy. His readiness to engage directly and push forward exemplifies his aggressive and fearless nature, setting the tone for understanding his combat philosophy rooted in momentum and relentless pursuit of victory.

Dalinar's combat style is characterized by raw physicality and a focus on maintaining momentum. As he charges into the enemy ranks, he relies on instinct, strength, and overwhelming force rather than finesse or hesitation. His actions are brutal but calculated, designed to intimidate and break the enemy's morale quickly. The scene captures the chaos of close-quarters combat, with Dalinar smashing through enemy lines, killing with primal ferocity, and disregarding fear or mercy. His approach underscores a belief that in battle, relentless forward motion is essential to destabilize foes and secure victory, emphasizing the importance of not stopping or overthinking in the heat of combat.

The narrative then shifts to a specific engagement where Dalinar encounters a group of enemy soldiers led by a commanding officer on a horse, who appears to be a high-ranking lighteyes. Dalinar's desire for a challenge drives him to attack fiercely, seeking to test his strength and resolve. The fight is depicted as brutal and unrelenting, with Dalinar using quick, powerful strikes to dominate his opponent. The scene underscores his need for adrenaline and the thrill of combat, illustrating how momentum and aggression are central to his fighting style. This confrontation also hints at political or

social tensions, as Dalinar considers the significance of his opponent's status.

In the climax of the chapter, Dalinar demonstrates tactical ingenuity by using a shortbow to shoot the horse, causing chaos and creating an opening to engage the enemy leader directly. His focus remains on maintaining momentum, pushing forward with relentless energy. The battle becomes a frantic, life-or-death contest, with Dalinar fighting fiercely to control the fight's flow. His physical and mental resilience shine through, as he refuses to yield or be turned aside by the storm of combat. The chapter concludes with Dalinar's continued drive to dominate his opponent, illustrating his core belief that momentum is the key to victory in war and life alike.



Summary