

60. Winds and Oaths

The chapter opens with Kaladin reflecting on his concerns for his fellow Truthwatchers, highlighting a sense of unease within the group. The storm, although powerful and awe-inspiring, is not directly associated with Kaladin's personal domain, emphasizing his lack of authority over natural forces like the highstorm. His recent experience fighting the Assassin in White has taken him close to the stormclouds, giving him a heightened awareness of its presence and significance. The storm's swirling chaos below contrasts with the calm of the sky above, underscoring the duality of nature's beauty and danger that Kaladin must navigate as he journeys toward Kholinar.

As they traverse the skies, the group is depicted flying amidst the storm's turbulent patterns, with the vast stormwall receding behind them. Kaladin's focus remains on his charges, especially King Elhokar and Shallan, whose contrasting attitudes toward the storm reveal their differing personalities. Shallan's carefree joy and fascination with the wind serve as a stark contrast to Kaladin's more serious demeanor. Her exuberance, despite her hidden wounds, demonstrates her resilience and ability to find happiness amid chaos. Kaladin's internal struggle with his duties and his inability to fully embrace such carefree moments is subtly underscored, revealing his inner conflict and sense of responsibility.

The narrative delves into the technical aspects of flying and Stormlight use, illustrating Kaladin's mastery in manipulating the wind and Lashings. His precise adjustments allow the group to stay coordinated and close, even as they approach Kholinar. Syl's mental communication and her observations about Shallan's affinity for the sky add a touch of levity and insight, emphasizing the bond between spren and humans. Kaladin's efforts to maintain control and safety reflect his leadership and skill, even as he grapples with scientific mysteries like partial Lashings and their effects on weight and movement.

In the final moments, the group nears Kholinar, with the storm visibly receding and their connection to the stormlight diminishing. The characters' banter about mundane concerns like shoes and lunch injects humor into the scene, contrasting the grandeur of their journey with everyday worries. Shallan's musings on art and failure serve as a philosophical reflection on the nature of creativity and growth, tying back to her resilience and the broader theme of perseverance amid adversity. The chapter concludes with a sense of anticipation and the acknowledgment of the storm's power, both natural and symbolic, as the group prepares to face the challenges ahead.



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