

TUMANBAY

Episode 1.10 - "Sword of Faith"

by

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AL-GHURI sits at the top of a sand dune under an awning watching the battle progress. It's not going well. His AIDES tend to him.

AL-GHURI

Why isn't General Qulan ordering the advance? And where's the cavalry - they were meant to attack from the side...

AIDE

(nervously)

Yes, Your Majesty, I'm... I'm sure there is a reason.

GREGOR (V.O.)

There are moments in life when everything you believe is certain evaporates like mist in the morning sun. In the harsh light of the desert, the Sultan sees his army shrinking in size while Queen Maya's is growing and that his future is... well, that he doesn't have one.

Horses' hooves across the sand. A Group of OFFICERS RIDE UP to Al-Ghuri's position.

AL-GHURI

(getting up)

Ah... What news?

The riders DISMOUNT. An Officer APPROACHES, with the others close behind.

OFFICER

I'm sorry, Your Majesty. He was betrayed.

AL-GHURI

Who?

OFFICER

General Qulan. He has been captured. His army is with Maya now. All is lost.

AL-GHURI

So what do we do? What is the strategy?

The Officer braces himself to deliver more bad news. This is awkward.

OFFICER
Your Majesty, the time has come.

AL-GHURI
What do you mean? Time for what?

The other Officers SHUFFLE uncomfortably looking down at their feet.

OFFICER
We can't allow the enemy to capture you. They will...

Officer 2 can no longer bare the tension. He STEPS FORWARD to help.

OFFICER 2
They will abuse you, Majesty. Even in death.

AL-GHURI
Even in death?

OFFICER
You will be a used as a symbol of Maya's triumph. They will hang you from the gates.

Al-Ghuri thinks about this for a moment.

AL-GHURI
So what now?

OFFICER
We need to cut off your head and bury it.

The Officers watch Al-Ghuri intently, waiting for a reaction.

OFFICER 2
There is no choice, Your Majesty.

AL-GHURI
No. No, of course... No choice.

OFFICER
We must do it for Tumanbay.

OFFICER 2
Yes.

AL-GHURI
Yes, I suppose... Now?

OFFICER
I'm afraid so, Your Majesty.
(to a subordinate)
Bring the Hafiz.

AL-GHURI

Yes, yes, I need my spiritual advisor.

OFFICER 3

I'll go.

He RUNS off.

OFFICER

Rest assured, Majesty, it will be a clean cut. We will bury your head well. And when this is all over, we will come and retrieve it and you will have pride of place in the mausoleum of the martyrs.

OFFICER 2

Yes.

Officer 3 RETURNS.

OFFICER 3

He isn't there.

OFFICER

Who?

OFFICER 3

The Hafiz.

OFFICER

Where is he?

OFFICER 3

He's run away. He was seen with his people riding back to Tumanbay.

The Officer takes a deep BREATH. This is getting more and more uncomfortable.

OFFICER

I am sorry, Your Majesty, we need to act quickly.

OFFICER 3

You need to... get down.

A sword is PULLED out of a sheath as al-Ghuri KNEELS.

OFFICER 2

Try to relax, Your Majesty. Bow your head.

OFFICER

Are you ready?

AL-GHURI

Just do it.

As the Officer prepares, we hear Al-Ghuri's BREATHING. He's a brave man but fearful nonetheless.

OFFICER

A little lower...

AL-GHURI

What?

OFFICER

Your head. Just bow-

AL-GHURI

Get on with it!

And... suddenly a flock of birds FLAP away into the clear blue sky.

AL-GHURI (CONT'D)

(looking up)

What's that? What's that?

OFFICER

Just a flock of birds... A flock of starlings.

AL-GHURI

In the heat of the day?

OFFICER

Your Majesty, we need to move on...

AL-GHURI

But the child, the prophecy, he told me: when the birds gather, it will be the hour that you will lead your armies. Enough!

He GETS UP and STEPS forward, viewing the plains below.

AL-GHURI (CONT'D)

We can still win. Now I understand.

OFFICER

Understand what Your Majesty?

AL-GHURI

I will marry her. I have no chief wife. I will offer her marriage, which will legitimize her. We can rule Tumanbay together...

He STRIDES away purposefully.

10.2 **OPENING TITLES - MUSIC** 10.2**ANNOUNCER**

Tumanbay, Episode 10. "Sword of Faith", by John Dryden.

10.3 **EXT. TUMANBAY. PALACE. WAR ROOM - DAY** 10.3

CADALI is presiding over a meeting of COURTIERS, Palace Guard Officers and Ministers. It's been going on for some time. GREGOR is preoccupied.

CADALI

Why isn't it here?

COURTIER

There's been a problem with-

CADALI

If there's a problem you come to me. I am the Grand Vizier, the voice of the Sultan in his absence.

GREGOR (V.O.)

It's been five days since the army marched out of Tumanbay...

CADALI

What other business?

COURTIER

The port, Your Excellency...

GREGOR (V.O.)

... and already Cadali has wasted no time making the palace his.

CADALI

Yes, I've decided we are going to close the port for now. Except navel vessels. We don't want any infiltration...

GREGOR (V.O.)

Somehow the scrolls don't seem so important any more. All I can think of is the slave-girl, Sarah. She's got into my head.

(beat)

I need to get back underground and find her...

CADALI

Gregor, what do you think?

GREGOR
(snapping out of it)
What?

CADALI
We continue the lock-down of the
palace...? Until news of the
Sultan's victory arrives?

GREGOR
Yes, yes... Good idea.

10.4 EXT. TUMANBAY. CORRIDOR - DAY 10.4

Gregor WALKS along a corridor.

GREGOR (V.O.)
Everywhere I go, I'm being watched.
With Tumanbay on a war-footing,
absence from the palace is not so
easy...

10.5 EXT. TUMANBAY. TRAITORS GATE - NIGHT 10.5

Gregor WALKS up to a GUARD at the palace gate.

GREGOR
You!

GUARD
Excellency.

GREGOR
Anything to report?

GUARD
No, Excellency.

GREGOR
Good. Are you watching the gates of
the Eastern Wing as well?

GUARD
No, we've got five other guards
there, Excellency.

GREGOR
So who's watching them?

GUARD
Your Excellency?

GREGOR
I suggest you go over there right
now and make sure they haven't
fallen asleep.

GUARD

But my responsibility is here,
keeping a watch of-

GREGOR

No, that's *my* responsibility. Come
back in... in a short while. Go on.

The Guard GOES off reluctantly. Gregor UNLOCKS the gate and
LEAVES.

10.6 EXT. TEMPLE OF SOLACE - EARLY MORNING

10.6

Gregor RIDES slowly across the empty square in front of the
temple. The OLD MAN is there, sleeping.

GREGOR (V.O.)

**The Temple of Solace, gateway to
the passages and sewers that are
the city underneath the city...**

GREGOR

Old man... Wake up, wake up.

OLD MAN

What is it?

GREGOR

Remember me?

OLD MAN

I do. From the palace.

GREGOR

(getting off his horse)
Indeed. I need to go back down the
winding stairs to the-

OLD MAN

(laughing)
It's not possible.

GREGOR

Don't worry. I have my offering.

He DROPS some coins into a bowl.

OLD MAN

Thank you. But it is still not
possible. It's closed. You will not
find the key.

GREGOR

And why would that be?

OLD MAN

Tumanbay is at war. The people down below, they wish to protect themselves.

GREGOR

There's going to be a great victory. As above, so below.

OLD MAN

(laughs)

They will destroy this place when they come. These old temples, these old beliefs... Come again tomorrow morning. Who knows? Everything might be different by then.

GREGOR

Why you obstinate, old man.

OLD MAN

Peace, brother, peace.

GREGOR

Do you not know that I am-

SLAVE

Gregor... Gregor!

Gregor sees the SLAVE APPROACHING with a beaming smile.

SLAVE (CONT'D)

Akiba. We met at the slave trader's house. The shipwreck?

GREGOR

Of course. The champion swimmer.

SLAVE

Yes, you were telling me about your time in the Kingdom of Bornu.

GREGOR

Oh. Was I?

SLAVE

You were governor there, I believe.

GREGOR

Yes. Forgive me, I have important business to attend.

SLAVE

And now you are Master of the Palace Guard I understand?.

Silence.

GREGOR

Good to see you. Please excuse me.

He starts to GO.

SLAVE

I have a confession to make. I said I had never been there. To the Kingdom of Bornu. But I have.

GREGOR

(walking away)

I see.

SLAVE

Don't you recognise me?

GREGOR

There are many people in Bornu. I didn't meet everyone there.

SLAVE

Of course you wouldn't, would you? You're the governor, an important man. You're not going to meet everyone.

GREGOR

I'm sorry, I have to go-

SLAVE

But kings... Even kings of these places are but insignificant, dirty wretches to be kicked and abused like stray dogs...

Gregor's PACE QUICKENS. They are now in a street with some activity. People starting their day, horses, carts moving about.

SLAVE (CONT'D)

Did you meet any kings?

GREGOR

I would love to stay and talk. But I have work to do. Maybe next time.

SLAVE

Of course. Can I... Can I just-

He BENDS down. It's not at first clear what he is trying to do.

GREGOR

I'd rather you didn't.

SLAVE

No, I mean I'd like to touch the feet of the great Governor of Bornu. The man who brought civilization to our lands, who cared for my people, who converted us savages to the truth...

GREGOR

Get off me. Take your hands off me!

Gregor DRAWS a sword and ATTACKS Slave.

SLAVE

You cut me. I am bleeding.

GREGOR

Who are you?

SLAVE

I'm the one who's going to kill you.

A cart is COMING along the road AT SPEED. It SHOOTs PAST and SEPARATES them. After it passes, the Slave is nowhere to be seen and Gregor is left alone standing in the middle of the road.

GREGOR

Where are you? Where are you? I'm not finished with you.

10.7 INT. TUMANBAY. MADU'S ROOM - DAY

10.7

DANIEL gently SHAKES MADU who is asleep in bed.

DANIEL

Wake up.

Madu STIRS.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Wake up...

MADU

Why should I?

DANIEL

You are the Sultan.

MADU

Exactly. I am the Sultan. I can do what I like. And what I like is to sleep.

DANIEL

No, you need to show everyone you are in charge. Or you won't be the Sultan for very long.

MADU

I'm only the temporary sultan. Let Cadali deal with things.

DANIEL

No, you need to deal with Cadali. He...

(Daniel leans in and kisses Madu)
... needs to be dealt with. Before he deals with you.

MADU

He'd like to deal with me?

DANIEL

I'm sure of it. While the Sultan, while the armies are away fighting...

There is loud KNOCKING on the door.

MADU

Don't answer. Come back to bed. It's only the slave.

Daniel GOES to the outer room towards the door.

MADU (CONT'D)

I order you. I am the Sultan.

Daniel OPENS the door and is surprised to Cadali standing there.

DANIEL

Yes?

CADALI

Oh. I'm looking for our young sultan. Is he here?

MADU

(from the other room)
Tell him he can have the day off...

DANIEL

(calling back)
Your Majesty...

MADU

(coming through)
...Or better still invite him to join us. He can be our toy.

(MORE)

MADU (CONT'D)

I've always wanted to-
(sees Cadali)
Cadali. Good morning. What are you-
(doing here)?

CADALI

I hope I'm not interrupting
anything.

MADU

You are actually.

CADALI

Well, I'm so sorry.

MADU

What do you want, Cadali?

CADALI

I thought you'd want to be the
first to welcome him back.

MADU

Welcome who back?

CADALI

Your uncle, the Sultan.

MADU

What are you talking about?

CADALI

The army has returned.

MADU

Already? Maya defeated?

CADALI

Yes. Sorry your reign has been cut
so short. I'll go to the Imperial
Gate. You follow when you have...
finished.

He GOES.

DANIEL

Come on, get dressed. We can't let
Cadali welcome back the Sultan on
his own...

10.8 EXT. TUMANBAY. IMPERIAL GATE - DAY

10.8

Cadali waits with Madu and Daniel at the main gates of the
city. They gaze out into the desert.

CADALI

Can you see...?

DANIEL

It's definitely him. Riding at the head.

CADALI

He's leading his troops, just as the vision foretold.

DANIEL

There should have been scouts sent ahead. There's something wrong.

They gaze into the desert. The sound of distant thudding as the huge army APPROACHES Tumanbay.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

He's not moving. In his horse. He's not moving.

CADALI

Look, the banner is upside down!

MADU

Shut the gates. Shut the gates...

(to Guards)

You! Why isn't anyone listening? I order you to shut the gates. Can you not hear me?

He RUNS up to someone and starts SHAKING them violently.

MADU (CONT'D)

I am the Sultan. And I order you to shut the-

Off, a soldier LAUGHS.

CADALI

They are not going to do it.

MADU

What? What's going on?

CADALI

Don't you understand? They are already inside. They've been here all along. They aren't going to shut the gates. They've been waiting for her. We have to get back to the palace.

MADU

Why?

CADALI

Because... because we have to make her welcome.

MADU

But...

They are silent for a moment as their utter vulnerability becomes apparent.

MADU (CONT'D)

Daniel...?

DANIEL

Cadali is right. We don't have enough men here and we can't trust the ones we have. If there is a siege they will massacre everybody. But if we let them in... well...

CUT TO:

10.9 EXT. TUMANBAY. STREETS - DAY 10.9

Horses' hooves on cobblestones as Maya's huge army moves through the streets. There are no spectators. Everyone has locked their doors. Apart from the horses, there is deathly silence.

10.10 INT. TUMANBAY. PALACE. CORRIDOR - DAY 10.10

Cadali WADDLES along the corridor to the throne room.

10.11 INT. TUMANBAY. PALACE. THRONE ROOM - DAY 10.11

Cadali HURRIES through a corridor.

CADALI

They're here! They're inside the palace grounds. Where is everyone?

He CRASHES through the large wooden doors where Madu, Daniel, and a collection of Servants and Slaves wait.

CADALI (CONT'D)

Madu, you go out. You're the regent, the Sultan's chosen one. You have to show her that we never wanted this war.

(to assembled Servants)

You! Gifts, we need gifts to present to our new queen. And you, got to the kitchens... she must be hungry after - Why are you all just standing there?

(beat)

What are you looking at? What is it?

Silence. Then a voice from out in the courtyard shouting up to them. It is Maya's GENERAL.

GENERAL
(from outside)
People of Tumanbay...

DANIEL
They have placed a throne in the courtyard. They are putting Al-Ghuri on it.

Cadali MOVES to the window and GASPS.

GENERAL
Here is your Sultan. The most revered ruler of the most powerful empire in the world.

CADALI
What... what have they done to him?

GENERAL
Cast your eyes on him now... You have much to fear.

MADU
What do we do?

CADALI
You need to go out there.

Off, Maya's General can be heard continuing to shout under this:

MADU
No... No.

CADALI
Right. You decline my advice. I must order the Palace Guard to throw open the doors.

MADU
You will do no such thing!

CADALI
We need to surrender ourselves up to Maya. Yes.

10.12 INT. TUMANBAY. PALACE. CORRIDOR - DAY

10.12

A door OPENS. Gregor ASCENDS some stone steps and WALKS along a corridor. In the distance there are shrieks and people CRYING.

GREGOR (V.O.)
**During my brief absence from the
palace everything has changed...**

A courtier RUNS towards him.

GREGOR
You! Stop... What's going on?

COURTIER
Maya - she has come. She is in the
palace. Run... Run!

He RUNS past him.

GREGOR (V.O.)
**When panic sets in, fear numbs the
mind. There is nowhere to run...**

Gregor MOVES towards an open door. He looks in to see WOMEN
of the palace CRYING.

WOMAN 1
Help us.

GREGOR (V.O.)
**The wives and children of the
palace, their short lives about to
expire.**

WOMAN
Please, we have nowhere to go.

GREGOR
Then you need to wait.

WOMAN
No! Our children. She will take her
revenge on our children.

GREGOR
Wait.

Gregor PROCEEDS through a door and along a corridor.

Another Courtier RUNS past.

COURTIER 2
Turn back, turn back.

GREGOR (V.O.)
**I need to keep my head, I need to
find out what has happened. I need
to find Cadali...**

10.13 INT. TUMANBAY. PALACE. THRONE ROOM - DAY

10.13

A door crashes OPEN. Gregor stands there. Cadali greets him.

CADALI

Gregor! Where the hell have you been? You're supposed to be in charge of the Palace Guard. Where are they? Why aren't they protecting us?

Gregor STEPS INTO the room, GOES over to the window and briefly observes the spectacle with Madu and Daniel.

Outside, Maya's General continues his address. His voice echoes across the vast expanse of the palace grounds.

GENERAL

(from outside)

How the walls and towers and palaces of Tumanbay have crumbled before the simple belief of the faithful...

The General is heard under this:

GREGOR

Is that the Sultan?

MADU

(watching)

He's just sitting there, staring up at us.

GREGOR

What have they done to him?

DANIEL

They've skinned him and stuffed him with straw. It stops the body from stinking in the heat. They call it the punishment of the caterpillars.

GENERAL

(from outside)

How have all your riches, your merchants, your whores saved you? Where are they now?

Cadali turns and RUNS to the door.

GREGOR

What are you doing, Cadali?

CADALI

What do you think I'm doing? I'm preparing for our... for... I'm preparing...

GREGOR

There's a trail of piss behind you.

CADALI

No one will do as I say. I'm the Grand Vizier and no one will... This palace is riddled with spies. That's your failure, Gregor.

GREGOR

At least I'm not pissing myself like a little girl. You're scared aren't you?

CADALI

And you are not?

MADU

(watching through window)
It's General Qulan.

Gregor COMES FORWARD and watches intently.

*GENERAL**(from outside)*

And here is your great protector. A prisoner in a cage. He cannot help you now...

CADALI

So, Gregor, it seems that your brother has failed the Empire as much as you have.

*GENERAL**(from outside)*

Where are your armies now, General? Where are your tactics, your plans?

MADU

What are they doing to him?

DANIEL

They are pouring oil on him.

*GENERAL**(from outside)*

Where are these cannons you thought would destroy us now? All gone...

Gregor STRIDES out of the room.

CADALI

Gregor where are you going?

GREGOR

We still have something.

CADALI

What? You think they will negotiate with you? Nothing will save your brother now.

GENERAL

(from outside)

All consumed - as you will now be consumed - by the fire of Maya's vengeance.

CADALI

Wait. You can't-

The door SLAMS as Gregor LEAVES.

10.14 OMITTED 10.14

10.15 INT. TUMANBAY. DUNGEON - DAY 10.15

Gregor COMES DOWN some stone steps.

GREGOR (V.O.)

If only I had spent more time cultivating my friendship with Maya's envoy. But I don't believe in "if onlys"...

He looks into a cell. The door creaks OPEN into an empty cell.

GREGOR

So where is he?

GUARD

Who, Your Excellency?

GREGOR

The prisoner you are supposed to guard? What have you done with him?

GUARD

(nervous)

I moved him. To that cell there over there. It's a thicker door. He kept talking to me. Now I can't hear him.

GREGOR

(impressed)

What's your name boy?

GUARD

Dera...

GREGOR

Right, Dera, good job. I'll remember you. Remember me.

GUARD

Yes, Sir.

GREGOR

Now open it...

GUARD

Yes, Sir.

The Guard UNLOCKS it and the heavy wooden door swings OPEN. The ENVOY is sitting inside.

ENVOY

Is she here already?

GREGOR

Yes, she's here. Get up.

ENVOY

I'll do whatever you like.

As the Envoy GETS UP. His legs and arms are chained. Gregor HOLDS his sword to the Envoy's throat.

GREGOR

Come with me.

Gregor GRABS the Envoy and PUSHES him out of the cell, his chains dragging along the stone floor.

10.16 EXT. TUMANBAY. PALACE. COURTYARD - DAY

10.16

The palace doors swing OPEN. Gregor APPEARS with the Envoy, in chains, on the end of his sword.

GREGOR

Maya, Queen of the Ossali, are you there?

His voice echoes off the walls. But there is no reply. Just silence.

GREGOR (CONT'D)

I have here your trusted envoy. He's going to die now, in front of you, if you set fire to General Qulan.

ENVOY

(to Gregor)

Why would Maya care if I live or die? She has many envoys. And I'm not afraid of death. Kill me.

(MORE)

ENVOY (CONT'D)

Go on. Kill me! I can think of no greater honour than to die in the service -

GREGOR

Shut up! Shut up!

He HITS him with the flat side of his sword. The Envoy FALLS to the ground CRYING OUT in pain.

Gregor MOVES forward towards the cage where QULAN stands awaiting his fate.

GREGOR (CONT'D)

(to Qulan)

I think this is the end.

Qulan REACHES out through the bars.

QULAN

We have... We have come a long way, brother. I suppose we got most of what we wanted as boys.

GREGOR

No. Wait...

He GOES back to the Envoy and KNEELS down beside him.

GREGOR (CONT'D)

Effendi Red... what we talked about, the scrolls...

ENVOY

Yes?

GREGOR

If I had them.

ENVOY

If you had them, everything would be different.

GREGOR

I can get them.

ENVOY

Lower your sword.

GREGOR

No, I'm not lowering it until you give me your word that they will not light the fire.

ENVOY

I am your prisoner. The fate of the General - that's not in my hands.

GREGOR

Then neither will the scrolls be,
ever. Not in yours or hers. They
will be cast into a chasm where
they will be lost for ever. Come...

He PULLS the Envoy back up onto his feet and DRAGS him back towards the palace.

GREGOR (CONT'D)

You can die alone in a dungeon and
no one will ever know-

ENVOY

Wait. Wait. I'll see. I'll see...
what I can... Unchain me. Unchain
me?

Gregor UNLOCKS the shackles holding the Envoy's hands together. The Envoy stretches and looks around.

GREGOR

Where is she, your queen? Can you
see her?

ENVOY

Oh yes, she's here.

GREGOR

Where? I can't-

ENVOY

Unlock the chains. On my feet.

GREGOR

If I do you will run.

ENVOY

And you will have a chance to save
your brother.

Gregor KNEELS down and cautiously UNLOCKS the chains.

ENVOY (CONT'D)

Good, good...

He suddenly SCREAMS and JERKS his legs. Gregor JOLTS back.

ENVOY (CONT'D)

Did I scare you?

He starts to LAUGH.

ENVOY (CONT'D)

Don't look so startled. I am a mere
man, just like you, not nearly as
strong.

He takes a few STEPS, SNIFFING the air.

GREGOR

I have shown you mercy. Now, what do you have for me?

ENVOY

You have until sunset to bring me the scrolls. Or it won't just be the General, the whole city will be consumed in flames.

Gregor GOES over to the cage.

GREGOR

We will meet again, brother. In this world, I promise.

QULAN

Gregor, you always knew what to do.

GREGOR

No. I only ever looked after myself. You watched over me, you stopped me from falling, but I never thought of you, not once. I never-

ENVOY

You are running out of time.

QULAN

Goodbye, Brother.

GREGOR

I won't let you down... this time, brother.

Gregor KISSES his brother through the bars, then turns and WALKS back to the palace.

10.17 INT. TUMANBAY. PALACE CORRIDOR - DAY

10.17

Gregor RUNS.

GREGOR (V.O.)

And like the courtiers and palace officials I run... Back through the palace...

10.18 EXT. TUMANBAY. TRAITOR'S GATE - DAY

10.18

Gregor TRIES to open the door.

GREGOR (V.O.)
... Back through the traitors'
gate.

It's locked. A Guard sits nearby, DRINKING...

GREGOR
 You! I command you to open it.

GUARD
 No one commands me to do anything
 now. We're all dead.
 (laughs)

Gregor MOVES along the wall. He RUNS, then STOPS by another gate which swings OPEN.

10.19 EXT. TUMANBAY. STREETS - DAY

10.19

Gregor MAKES HIS WAY along a street. He passes refugees going in the opposite direction.

GREGOR (V.O.)
And I'm out onto the streets...

A Citizen GRABS him.

CITIZEN
 Not this way, friend. There is
 trouble. Go back, go back...

Gregor PUSHES through the crowds determinedly.

GREGOR (V.O.)
I knew it all along. The slave-girl
is the key to everything. She has
the scrolls, she can save Qulan...
she can save me.

10.20 EXT. TUMANBAY. IBN'S HOUSE - DAY

10.20

The Slave KNOCKS on the door. A shutter slides OPEN.

SLAVE
 I'm back.

The door OPENS. IBN USHERS him in.

IBN
 Come, come through.

10.21 INT. TUMANBAY. IBN'S HOUSE - DAY

10.21

HEAVEN and BOY are waiting anxiously as Slave ENTERS with Ibn.

BOY

What happened?

SLAVE

There are queues along Maduk highway right through the city - People are desperate to get out.

HEAVEN

Sit, sit...

SLAVE

People, carts, all their belongings, fighting, pushing...

BOY

What happened to your arm?

HEAVEN

You're bleeding.

SLAVE

A small cut. I'm fine.

HEAVEN

How?

SLAVE

A scuffle, in the street. Nothing serious.

IBN

It's best we do as we have been told. We lock the door. We stay inside and we wait.

HEAVEN

You found him didn't you? The one who was here. You killed him.

IBN

What are you talking about? Killed who?

HEAVEN

It's better if you don't know, Father.

IBN

You mean Gregor?

SLAVE

He is alive. I give you my word.

IBN

What do you want with him?

SLAVE

He took something from me.

IBN

What, when he came here to the house?

SLAVE

No, a long time ago.

IBN

Your wife? Your family?

HEAVEN

It's better if you don't know, Father.

SLAVE

Yes. And my country too.

10.22 INT. TUMANBAY. QULAN'S HOUSE. FRONT DOOR - DAY 10.22
 MANEL, Qulan's daughter, OPENS the door to Daniel.

MANEL

Daniel, what's happening?

DANIEL

Everything. The city has fallen. Where are the servants?

MANEL

They've all run away. Who would want to be associated with the Commander of the Army at this time? Is there any news of my father?

Daniel's hesitation tells her it is not good news.

MANEL (CONT'D)

What is it?

DANIEL

Is your mother here?

MANEL

Of course. Come...

She CLOSES the door as she USHERS him in.

10.23 EXT. TUMANBAY. QULAN'S HOUSE. COURTYARD - DAY 10.23
 Manel leads Daniel through the house and into the courtyard. HODAH, Qulan's favourite wife, appears WEEPING. His SON, Pasha, is also there.

HODAH
Where is my husband?

DANIEL
Please sit, all of you.

SON
Do you have news of my father?

DANIEL
From what we know he was betrayed
by one of his trusted commanders
and taken captive.

HODAH
By Maya?

DANIEL
Yes, by, Maya.

Hodah lets out an anguished CRY. Manel tries to COMFORT her.

SON
So my father is dead. I swear I
will avenge him. I will never stop
until I have killed her!

Hodah HUSHES him.

DANIEL
No, he is not dead yet. And there
is hope. There is always hope. He
has many friends who are loyal, and
who are working to save him.

SON
You know that is stupid. They will
kill him. They will cut his head
off. Everyone knows what they do.

HODAH
(weeping)
God save us, God save us...

MANEL
(soothing)
Shhh, Mother.

DANIEL
That's what I have come to tell
you. I will return when I have more
news.

Manel LEADS him to the door.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Trust me, Manel. You are in my thoughts. You know I care about you very much.

MANEL

I feel like a traitor.

DANIEL

What do you mean?

MANEL

Because even now with my father in their hands, I can't stop thinking about you. Of us. Hold me.

He HOLDS her for a moment.

DANIEL

I must go.

MANEL

Why?

DANIEL

To fulfil my duties.

MANEL

To be with the Sultan's nephew?

DANIEL

Yes. Your father wanted me to stay close to him. These are uncertain times.

MANEL

(sadly)

Of course, of course...

DANIEL

Close the door behind me. Don't let anyone else in. Keep it locked.

He GOES. Manel watches him RUN away along the street. She CLOSES the door.

10.24 EXT. TUMANBAY. HOUSE OF PLEASURE - DAY

10.24

WOLF RIDES up the gate with a small group of his men and BANGS on the door.

WOLF

Open up. Open up!

He BANGS again.

WOLF (CONT'D)

We know you are inside. If you do not open up, we will smash in the door and take what we desire.

A window OPENS. The MADAM APPEARS.

MADAM

What do you want from us? We have no one from the palace here. We are a respectable house.

WOLF

I know what you are. You have nothing to fear. I am Commander Wolf.

MADAM

Commander Wolf? But the army was defeated.

WOLF

There was no defeat, because there was no battle. We are the servants of Queen Maya and Tumanbay is free at last.

He HAMMERS on the door again.

MADAM

(suspicious)

Then what do you want here? Why are you threatening to destroy my door?

WOLF

I am looking for Shamsi. Is she here?

MADAM

She may be.

WOLF

Good. And my men here need the comfort of your other fine ladies. We have gold, if gold is what you desire.

MADAM

Wait.

She SHUTS the window. Wolf TURNS to his men.

WOLF

My treat.

They LAUGH.

10.25 INT. TUMANBAY. HOUSE OF PLEASURE - DAY

10.25

Wolf lies in bed next to Shamsi. He KISSES her.

SHAMSI

Were you always on Maya's side?

WOLF

Yes, we were. Even before we heard of her. Palaces and riches mean nothing to us. We carry everything we possess on our horses. Gold weighs us down. We have been waiting to hear from her for centuries...

SHAMSI

How can that be?

WOLF

We are a people who live between the earth and the sky. When one of us departs this world we are offered to the sky. We don't cling to the world like the people of Tumanbay.

SHAMSI

But don't you feel something for the General? He trusted you.

WOLF

Yes.

SHAMSI

And you betrayed him.

WOLF

Sometimes betrayal is necessary.

SHAMSI

You made him trust you.

WOLF

Yes, I feel something for General Qulan. I feel... in another life, he would have believed too. He was an honest man and will die for it.

SHAMSI

What about me? Have you come to kill me? I'm a whore. I represent the corruption of Tumanbay. I am everything Maya and her followers despise.

He LAUGHS and PICKS her up.

WOLF

No, you are light - so light you can ride on my horse without me even noticing. Will you come with me?

SHAMSI

But how can I trust you?

WOLF

I have remained true to my beliefs, to my brothers, to my God, and will do until my death.

SHAMSI

Yes, I will.
(kissing him)
Yes, yes, yes...

10.26 INT. TUMANBAY. CORRIDOR - DAY

10.26

Daniel MAKES HIS WAY along a corridor. It's noisy - HAMMERING and glass being SMASHED - as if the whole palace is being dismantled.

He GOES up some stairs and KNOCKS on a door. Madu OPENS it.

MADU

Come in. Quickly.

DANIEL

What's happened?

MADU

They've been destroying the Sultan's great garden, his artworks...

DANIEL

I just passed the sculpture gallery. All smashed...

MADU

Come, we've got to get out of here. My mother's villa in the hills. There's still time. I've been informed that the gates are open along the traitors' wall.

DANIEL

No. Listen Madu, you've got to keep your head. Run now and you will lose it for sure. There is nothing against you.

MADU

I'm the Sultan! It's just a matter of time before they come-

DANIEL

No, you're not. Maya is not stupid. Al-Ghuri was a tyrant. He murdered your father and stole your mother. Maya has avenged you.

MADU

But I was complicit.

DANIEL

What?

MADU

I hated my father. I... I knew of the plan to kill him. I had a chance to tell him. But I didn't...

He starts to WEEP.

DANIEL

Do you remember in the army, when you stood up and spoke to General Qulan and you were fearless? You have to do that again.

MADU

I can't do it. I can't. Hold me.

DANIEL

You *can* do it.

MADU

Kiss me. This may be the last time.

They KISS.

MADU (CONT'D)

Is this the end?

DANIEL

Just live each moment, Madu. It's all we truly ever have...

10.27 EXT. OPEN ROAD. CHECKPOINT - DAY

10.27

The streets are busy. Guards are CONTROLLING the flow of people into the city.

The HAFIZ, disguised as a citizen, is on the back of a cart. He is feverishly clutching a bottle of Arak, DRINKING down his sorrows. BELLO accompanies him.

HAFIZ

Something's wrong. Why are they taking so long?

BELLO

There are lots of people, Your Holiness. It is normal in times of war.

HAFIZ

They are looking for us.

BELLO

No. No one suspects anything. Just keep your head covered, Your Holiness. There's no reason for them to suspect anything. They will just wave us through.

HAFIZ

All is lost. All is lost.

BELLO

What have you been drinking?

He SNIFFS and is overpowered by the smell of alcohol.

BELLO (CONT'D)

They mustn't smell it. Chew this...

The Hafiz TAKES it and GAGS.

HAFIZ

What is it?

BELLO

Garlic.

HAFIZ

Raw?

He SPITS it out. Bello UNCORKS a bottle.

BELLO

And perfume. The Sultan's own creation.

He POURS some of it onto the Hafiz who is disgusted and protests.

BELLO (CONT'D)

Once we get past this, we should make good speed and be in Mazoor by sunset. I have some friends there. They will take care of us.

(beat)

What are you doing? No!

The Hafiz has GOT OFF the back of the cart and starts WALKING away.

HAFIZ

All is lost. All is lost.

BELLO

(chasing after him)

No. You are drawing attention to us.

HAFIZ

I can't do it. I can't do it again. I'm too old.

BELLO

That is our fate. We travel from one land to the next. That is the journey we were destined to follow.

The Hafiz stands in the middle of the road.

HAFIZ

(sotto)

I am the Hafiz...

(shouting)

I am the Hafiz! I am God's messenger on earth. Take me! Do what you will to me!

Guards APPROACH and CONFRONT them. Bello tries to make light of it as the Hafiz shouts.

BELLO

He's crazy. Look at him. A crazy old drunkard. The Sun... Pay no attention, Officers...

10.28 INT. TUMANBAY. CITY UNDERGROUND - DAY

10.28

Gregor MAKES HIS WAY down an echoey passage. A VOICE and FROG await him.

GREGOR

Hello? Hello?

VOICE

We are here. Excellency. We are always here. But what brings you back down to the underworld?

GREGOR

The slave-girl, Sarah. I need to find her.

VOICE

She's gone.

GREGOR

What? Gone?

FROG

Hello Gregor. You have come back to us. But it's too late...

GREGOR

What happened to her?

FROG

She's gone to where she came from.

GREGOR

What?

FROG

But she is alive in your heart.

GREGOR

You mean she is...? No, no, no...

FROG

And now you must now live what is left of your life, full of regret...

GREGOR

(sobbing)

No, please no!

FROG

Or...

(beat)

... You may find her and her child in the city above.

GREGOR

What? She's there?

FROG

She's not here.

GREGOR

Where exactly?

FROG

Where she is safe.

GREGOR

Where she is safe...?

10.29 INT. TUMANBAY. PALACE. THRONE ROOM - DAY

10.29

Cadali PUFFS IN and APPROACHES the Envoy who is waiting with a large entourage of Maya's Officials. Maya may or may not be a silent presence in the room.

CADALI

Your Eminence, Effendi Red, I have them here - the record of all palace officials.

He LAYS a large ledger on a table in front of the Envoy.

CADALI (CONT'D)

All the names, who's in charge of Palace Guard, security, the courts, administration, a list of all senior public officials...

ENVOY

You appear to be a useful fellow, Cadali.

CADALI

Yes, Your Eminence. I have been waiting all my life for this opportunity to serve my queen.

ENVOY

So it seems.

CADALI

And...

He starts TAKING OFF his rings and bracelets. They jingle onto the stone floor.

ENVOY

What are you doing?

CADALI

My jewellery I offer up to Maya. I understand so well that riches mean nothing. I have no worldly goods of my own... I am a believer. I was a victim of my circumstances - Ah, see this is Madu, acting Sultan, the corrupt scion of the old school, a degenerate...

ENVOY

Maya wishes that he stay on the throne.

CADALI

What?

ENVOY

That he remain sultan of Tumanbay.

CADALI

And he can learn... under my supervision, the true path-

ENVOY

(to one of his retinue)
You! Come forward.

CADALI

Er... What?

ENVOY

This soldier is one of my finest.
He is young but he shows a lot of
promise. If encouraged in the right
way, he would make a great leader
one day. His father is a courtier
in Maya's court. His mother has
worked hard all her life in the
service of Maya. Lovely family...

CADALI

Oh, yes?

He doesn't get where this is going.

ENVOY

(to soldier)
Kill yourself.

The Soldier takes out a knife and THRUSTS it into his
stomach. Cadali GASPS, shocked. The Soldier FALLS to his
knees and SLUMPS to the ground, GURGLING strangely.

ENVOY (CONT'D)

If Maya has chosen you to serve
her, then you will serve her,
whatever her wishes. You understand
what I've shown you here?

CADALI

Yes, yes, yes...

ENVOY

When you serve, you serve. Life and
death. They are one. Do you Madu,
Sultan of Tumanbay... Do you
understand?

MADU

I understand.

The doors OPENS and the Hafiz is USHERED IN with Bello.

ENVOY

Ah, Your Holiness. How are you?

BELLO

His Holiness is a little unwell,
Your Eminence.

ENVOY

Please sit here. How was your journey?

He PLACES a chair in the centre of the room.

ENVOY (CONT'D)

That's right. Sit here. She wants to see you clearly.

The Hafiz SITS.

ENVOY (CONT'D)

You had to rush off from the heat of battle, I understand. Important business?

BELLO

It was, Your Eminence. You must remember that the Hafiz's responsibilities stretch far and wide. He has no political allegiances, he is not of this world-

ENVOY

Yes. Enough!

The Envoy WALKS towards the throne. WHISPERING can be heard. Perhaps a female whisper can be discerned. After a moment the Envoy WALKS back towards the Hafiz.

ENVOY (CONT'D)

Maya wishes to know something...

BELLO

Yes. Anything.

ENVOY

I am going to ask you a question. It's a simple question to which I need a simple yes or a no.

Bello listens with some apprehension.

BELLO

Yes, Your Eminence. What is the question?

ENVOY

Is she the Sword of the Faith under your spiritual guidance?

A silence. Then the Hafiz MUMBLES something.

ENVOY (CONT'D)

What did you say, Your Holiness?

Bello STEPS FORWARD.

BELLO

He says... yes, yes, yes!

10.30 INT. TUMANBAY. IBN'S HOUSE - DAY

10.30

Gregor HAMMERS on the door. Ibn OPENS it.

GREGOR

Where is she?

IBN

Who? There's no one-

GREGOR

The slave-girl. She's here isn't she?

IBN

Well she was here, but not-

GREGOR

(throwing him aside)

Get out of my way...

IBN

But... Excellency!

Ibn CHASES after Gregor, as he GOES to the courtyard. The BOY is there PLAYING with the baby.

GREGOR

You, Boy... Where is the mother of that child?

BOY

I don't know.

IBN

Look she came here to leave the child, but she's not here any longer. She said she needed to go to the palace. I tried to stop her-

GREGOR

You're lying. I want the truth...

Suddenly Slave GRABS him and PUTS a knife to his throat. He holds it there for a moment. We hear Gregor BREATHING.

SLAVE

(quietly in his ear)

Know this truth, this is your last moment on Earth...

HEAVEN

No Akiba! Not here. You promised.

IBN

I tried to warn you, Excellency.
I'm sorry, truly sorry...

GREGOR

(to Slave)

It will be yours too... The blade
you feel against your thigh is
poisoned. One cut and you're a dead
man.

SLAVE

What do I care? It makes no
difference to me as long as you are
dead.

HEAVEN

No Akiba, no!

SLAVE

I have no future, no desire to live
beyond this moment. I have nothing
except my desire for revenge.

HEAVEN

You do have something Akiba...
(beat)
... I am carrying your child.

IBN

What?

HEAVEN

It is true. It's right here,
growing inside me each day. Would
you have this child born fatherless
because of this? You have a future.
We have a future.

IBN

I... I have a suggestion. We can be
friends. I will count to three and
you will drop your knives at the
same time. Agreed?

We hear the tense BREATHING of both men.

IBN (CONT'D)

One... Two....
(beat)
Three...

Only one knife FALLS.

IBN (CONT'D)

Please, drop it, Excellency.

GREGOR

Why should I now? One nick and...
what future then?

HEAVEN

Please don't. Please don't kill
him. You can't, you can't...

Gregor DROPS the knife. It clangs to the floor. WEEPING,
Heaven HUGS Slave.

HEAVEN (CONT'D)

We have a future. We have a future!

IBN

Thank you, Your Excellency.

Gregor turns and STRIDES out into the street.

GREGOR (V.O.)

**Why did I let him live? What's
happening to me? Of all of the many
I have killed, why him? Why...
her...?**

10.31 INT. TUMANBAY. PALACE. RECEPTION ROOM - DAY

10.31

SARAH APPROACHES a Guard.

GUARD

What do you want, Girl? What do you
want?

SARAH

I've come to see the Envoy.

GUARD

Many people want to see the Envoy.

SARAH

I have something he wants.

She PLACES the reliquary on the table.

SARAH (CONT'D)

He will want to see me.

GUARD

Wait here...

He GETS UP and GOES through some doors.

Along the corridor another door OPENS and Gregor APPROACHES.

GREGOR

Sarah...? Sarah? What are you doing...?

He GRABS her by the arm.

GREGOR (CONT'D)

This is too dangerous. These people, you don't know what they-

SARAH

I have the scrolls.

GREGOR

Thank God. Thank God. Quickly, we don't have time. I need to give them to Maya's Envoy. But first I have to get you out of here, it's not safe.

She HANDS them to Gregor.

GREGOR (CONT'D)

Come with me. I'll look after you, I swear. I was wrong, wrong about everything... I care... I care about you. I know that now. I-

The Envoy APPEARS from the throne room with the Guard.

ENVOY

(approaching)
Ah, you are here...

GREGOR

I have the scrolls, Effendi Red.

ENVOY

Good. Put them there on the table.

Gregor PLACES the box down.

GREGOR

So this is it. This is what has caused so much anguish. This is what you asked for. Now release my brother.

The Envoy ignores Gregor.

ENVOY

(to Sarah)
It's been a long time... my wife.

SARAH

Yes.

ENVOY

And our child?

SARAH

Our child is safe, husband.

GREGOR

What's going on? Sarah?

SARAH

The city is ours?

ENVOY

The city is ours.

SARAH

As it is written so it shall be...

Gregor LAUGHS with despair.

GREGOR (V.O.)

**There are moments in life I call
"endings", when everything you have
come to expect changes. You never
see them coming - until it's too
late. And then there's nothing you
can do about it... Observe a man,
who has discovered love... for his
brother, for a woman he will never
have, for a hope denied... observe
a man, observe a fool...**

MUSIC.

End of Episode 1.10.