

TUMANBAY

Episode 2.01 - "The Last Boat"

by

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1.1 INT. HOUSE. CUPBOARD - DAY

1.1

Terrified BREATHING in a tight enclosed space.

GREGOR (V.O.)

**Where fear reigns the only place to
hide... is in your own thoughts...
That's not a good place to be.
Utter them out loud and...**

1.2 EXT. HOUSE - DAY

1.2

A front door is OPENED cautiously by a SERVANT. BARAKAT is waiting on the street side.

BARAKAT

Peace be with you.

SERVANT

Peace be with you.

GREGOR (V.O.)

Tumanbay has changed...

BARAKAT

I'm sorry to disturb so late in the afternoon. Is the master at home?

SEVANT

He... he is sleeping.

BARAKAT

Let him be. It is the child of the house I wish to speak to. Please, don't be alarmed. It is a small matter.

SERVANT

Who may I say...?

BARAKAT

Barakat. From-

A man - FATHER - APPEARS at the door. He is trying to hide his anxiety.

FATHER

(to Servant)

It's all right, it's all right.

(to Barakat)

You wish to speak to my son? Why?

BARAKAT

If I may come in, I will explain.

(beat)

If it's convenient.

FATHER

My son is saying his prayers.

BARAKAT

Good. I'll wait. If it's convenient.

Father hesitates looking at three PRIESTS standing behind Barakat.

BARAKAT (CONT'D)

Oh, these are my priests. We have walked from the palace.

FATHER

And the soldiers?

BARAKAT

Our escort. In these times... It is a shame, but there are those who would harm us.

He smiles apologetically.

A woman - MOTHER - appears at the door, similarly anxious.

MOTHER

Husband what are you doing? Why are you making a holy man wait in the street? Please... Let me touch your feet.

She BENDS to touch Barakat's feet.

BARAKAT

Please, there is no need. I am merely a servant of God.

MOTHER

Welcome to our humble home.
Welcome.

(to Servant)

Bring refreshments.

(to Barakat and his
followers)

You must be hungry, surely.

BARAKAT

No, we have need of nothing. Please don't trouble yourself.

MOTHER

It is such an honour to receive you, Holiness. Come through, please...

1.3 INT. HOUSE - DAY

1.3

Mother LEADS Barakat, his three Priests, and his SOLDIERS into the house. Husband FOLLOWS.

BARAKAT

You have a beautiful home.

MOTHER

Thank you. Please, treat this as your home.

They ENTER a room where a NURSE holds a child.

BARAKAT

Ah, I love babies. May I...?

He REACHES for the baby. The Nurse looks to the Mother for instruction.

MOTHER

(to Nurse)

It's all right, Malati... It's all right...

She HANDS Barakat the child.

BARAKAT

They are the blank parchment on which God's word can be written.

FATHER

Of course.

There is a nervous nodding from Mother and Father. Barakat spies a young boy - CHILD - peeping from one of the doorways.

BARAKAT

And this must be your son. Come, child.

Father tries to encourage him.

FATHER

Come, Malik...

BARAKAT

Come.

MOTHER

Come, Malik. Sit with the Holy Father.

The Child cautiously does what he is told and SITS.

BARAKAT

How do you like school, Malik?

CHILD

Good.

BARAKAT

You are one of the lucky ones. I didn't have such a good education. I didn't come from such a home as this...

(beat)

Tell me about your teacher. What do you call him?

CHILD

Master.

BARAKAT

Master. Good, good... He teaches you about the scriptures? He tells you about how a young man should live his life according to God's law?

CHILD

Yes.

BARAKAT

But I have heard he teaches other things too... Ah...

The Servant has ARRIVED with water and Mother FUSSES around.

MOTHER

Are you sure you do not want to eat?

BARAKAT

No.

MOTHER

But-

BARAKAT

I said *no*. Wait there please. Stand next to your husband and wait there. Tell the servants to go.

She DOES so. The Servants LEAVE.

BARAKAT (CONT'D)

Close the door please.

Mother CLOSES the door.

BARAKAT (CONT'D)

You look worried, child. Don't be worried. Do you know what makes us strong?

(MORE)

BARAKAT (CONT'D)

When I say strong, I mean without
fear for what might happen to us?

The Child SHAKES his head.

BARAKAT (CONT'D)

No? The truth makes us strong. It
is God's gift. I learnt that from a
very early age. The power of truth.
That is why I, Barakat, have a
reputation for never uttering a
lie. Never. That is my strength.
That can be your strength now.

(beat)

Do you understand me?

MOTHER

We have brought our son up to
always tell the truth. Haven't we,
Malik?

FATHER

Tell him, Malik.

A pause. The child SHUFFLES nervously.

CHILD

Yes.

BARAKAT

Good. Good. You see, it has come to
my attention that there is a
heretic in your son's school.

MOTHER

I swear we know nothing of this.

BARAKAT

Of course, of course. You are not
trained. You expect when you send
your children to school that their
teachers will show them... the true
path.

MOTHER

Are you saying our son's
teacher...?

BARAKAT

He has visited.

FATHER

What?

BARAKAT

This house. Your house. Several
times.

FATHER

Malik was falling behind. With his recitations. We asked his teacher to... to...

BARAKAT

Help? That's commendable. I understand. If all parents were so diligent my work in Tumanbay would be unnecessary.

There is an uneasy silence. Mother eventually speaks up, with Father AGREEING anxiously.

MOTHER

Please, if our child has done anything wrong tell us what it is. We will beat him until-

BARAKAT

Hmm...

(to Child)

Soldiers came to your school today looking for your teacher. Where was he?

The Child is silent.

BARAKAT (CONT'D)

Where was he?

MOTHER

Tell him, Malik. Tell him you don't-

Barakat makes a HISSING sound to shut the Mother up.

BARAKAT

Where was he?

CHILD

He left.

BARAKAT

Did someone tell him soldiers were coming.

The Child nods.

BARAKAT (CONT'D)

Good. Who told him?

The Child starts to CRY.

BARAKAT (CONT'D)

You know where your master went, don't you?

MOTHER

How can he possibly know? The man just fled.

BARAKAT

You have a chance to save yourself now. We know everything already.

MOTHER

He is just a child!

BARAKAT

We know everything. We know every child, we know every teacher in every school. Every soul is important to us... When a soul is lost, especially one so young as you, you know what happens?

The Child is SOBBING now.

BARAKAT (CONT'D)

You're feeling distressed. It is natural you feel distressed. You are trying to hide from God. But God sees all... and all will answer to Him.

(Beat)

You know how to save yourself. Where is the Master?

The Child POINTS. Barakat TURNS in his chair.

BARAKAT (CONT'D)

There? He's in there?

MOTHER

No! He's confused. You are confusing him.

FATHER

Malik tell him! Tell him you know nothing.

BARAKAT

(to soldier)

Open that door.

One of the Soldiers OPENS the door to reveal the terrified TEACHER inside.

TEACHER

Please, no...

BARAKAT

Oh dear, oh dear...

GREGOR (V.O.)
The greatest city on earth, a
defeated city...

1.7 EXT. STREET - DAY 1.7

Horses pulling carts move through the empty streets.

GREGOR (V.O.)
All its wealth is being plundered
to fund the conqueror's expanding
empire. Maya's ambition...

1.8 EXT. MARKET SQUARE - DAY 1.8

What appears to be a public EXECUTION is taking place. COMMANDS are given, knives cut through flesh, the CROWD CHEERS.

GREGOR (V.O.)
Maya's truth...

1.9 INT. PALACE. CORRIDOR - DAY 1.9

Barakat's FOOTSTEPS. He DRAGS his left foot slightly - a childhood injury.

GREGOR (V.O.)
And the man who determines Maya's
truth, the man who measures
everything...

1.10 INT. PALACE. THRONE ROOM - DAY 1.10

A large state meeting is taking place. GREGOR and RED are present, along with other officials. Barakat is PRESENTING a report.

BARAKAT
 We believe householders in the area
 are hiding heretics and criminals
 and wealth...

GREGOR (V.O.)
... is Barakat, Maya's Inquisitor.
The man sent not to preach, but to
enforce Maya's truth...

BARAKAT
 ... still much to do to root them
 out...

RED
 So what do you recommend?

BARAKAT

The burning down of Vildean section of the city. In my experience such measures are necessary.

RED

Hmmm... Let me pray on it.

GREGOR (V.O.)

Effendi Red, the regent entrusted by Maya to govern Tumanbay.

RED

In any case, the judges would need to issue a decree...

GREGOR (V.O.)

He has been clever, using the existing systems... the judiciary, the institutions, the administration and the old officials...

RED

Gregor?

GREGOR

Regent?

GREGOR (V.O.)

Still here. To be commanded...

RED

I don't think they would agree to that do you?

GREGOR

I'm sure, Excellency, the judges would agree to whatever you recommend...

GREGOR (V.O.)

Reduced though: from Head of the Palace Guard to this... a messenger-boy for the new regime. At least I survived, because I'm good at that.

RED

And of course our sultan will have to put his stamp on the order...

(beat)

If he is capable of holding the stamp...

A ripple of LAUGHTER through the room.

GREGOR (V.O.)

**He speaks of our young sultan...
They keep him because they need a
figurehead, someone to convince the
people that the city thrives, even
as they plunder it.**

1.11 EXT/INT. MEDICAL INSTITUTE - DAY

1.11

A cart is parked at the tradesman entrance. A dead human body is BEING DELIVERED by the COURIER. Doctor DORIN (50s), head of the Medical Institute, waits. He is a little fraught

GREGOR (V.O.)

Some lands are rich, some are poor.

COURIER

(coughing)

Where do you want them, then?

DORIN

Bring them inside... Careful,
please...

GREGOR (V.O.)

**Ours has a surplus, now. A surplus
of corpses, so our doctors...**

DORIN

You've kept them cold?

GREGOR (V.O.)

They thrive.

COURIER

Packed in ice, this one. No expense
spared.

The COURIER lifts one up over his shoulders and CARRIES it through the back door.

The head KNOCKS against a door frame.

DORIN

Ai! Don't - Just... In the cold
room.

(opening a door)

Put it down there. Gently.

The body is DUMPED onto the floor. The Courier GOES outside for another. ALKIN APPEARS.

ALKIN

What are they for, Doctor?

DORIN
Routine. Just...
(sighs)
... one of my duties as Head of the
Medical Institute.

ALKIN
Where have they come from?

COURIER
(coughing)
They say from the swamps, outside
the city.

He LIFTS another body.

DORIN
Are you sure? Definitely from
outside the city walls.

COURIER
If that's what it says on the
order, that's where they came from.

DORIN
Good. Careful!

He DUMPS the second body down.

ALKIN
Why does it matter?

DORIN
What?

ALKIN
This is the third fresh delivery in
as many weeks.

DORIN
So?

ALKIN
Aren't there enough of the dead in
Tumanbay for you to-?

DORIN
You ask too many questions, Alkin.

GREGOR (V.O.)
Or not enough...

Dorin sighs and shouts out to the Courier.

DORIN
Is everything ready? We have
guests...

1.12 INT. PALACE. CORRIDOR - DAY

1.12

Barakat's limping FOOTSTEPS along a corridor. CADALI comes out of a doorway and INTERCEPTS.

CADALI
Ah, Inquisitor...

BARAKAT
Yes, what is it?

GREGOR (V.O.)
And look here...

CADALI
Is this a convenient time...

GREGOR (V.O.)
Cadali...

BARAKAT
Convenient for what?

GREGOR (V.O.)
Another of the old guard, like me.
Another to swear his oath to Maya
in return for life.
(beat)
Some sort of life.

CADALI
I... I just wanted to let you know that I have just dispatched a new consignment of treasures from the palace to Maya.

BARAKAT
Where is the Sultan?

CADALI
The Sultan? I... I haven't seen him... I hope you are satisfied with my work.

BARAKAT
Satisfied? I'm merely a servant in God's household.

CADALI
Of course.

BARAKAT
We answer to him and him alone.

CADALI
Yes. Anyway, I just wanted to keep... And let you know that I... I'm so glad you're here.

Barakat SETS OFF as Cadali looks on anxiously.

GREGOR (V.O.)
Cadali always knew which arse to
lick, and which arse to kick.

Barakat sees Gregor watching along the hallway.

BARAKAT
Gregor.

GREGOR
Inquisitor?

BARAKAT
Come with me.

He SCUTTLES after Barakat.

GREGOR (V.O.)
I guess I'm not so different.

BARAKAT
What do you think, Gregor?

GREGOR
Inquisitor?

BARAKAT
You're experienced in rooting out
spies and traitors. What would you
do if you were Effendi Red?

GREGOR
I would take the advice of Maya's
celebrated Inquisitor.

BARAKAT
Of course... And suppose I wasn't
here and it was your job to find
those who wish to destroy us. What
would you do?

GREGOR
I would place spies amongst them.

BARAKAT
And how would you know you could
trust your spies?

GREGOR
Through spies.
(beat)
I would have them know there are
other spies watching them.

BARAKAT

Stay close to me Gregor. I think you could be useful...

GREGOR (V.O.)

It's why I survive. But what does he want from me?

1.13 INT. PALACE. BARAKAT'S OFFICES - DAY

1.13

Barakat and Gregor ENTER a room full of CLERKS.

GREGOR (V.O.)

The room of mirrors - Barakat's administrative section, now. Rows of clerks making lists, and every treasure stripped...

BARAKAT

Information. That is the key...

A Clerk APPROACHES to Barakat.

CLERK

Inquisitor, would you like to inspect...?

He HANDS a ledger to Barakat.

BARAKAT

Every man, woman, child, dog, every cat, every beggar in Tumanbay. I want to know everything about them...

(to Clerk)

These just... head of households?

CLERK

Inquisitor, the others are here.

BARAKAT

Hmmm...

He HANDS the ledger back.

BARAKAT (CONT'D)

(back to Gregor)

And that is how you can help me, Gregor.

(beat)

The Sultan...

GREGOR

The Sultan?

BARAKAT

Why wasn't he at the meeting today?
Why?

GREGOR

He sent word he was unwell.

BARAKAT

Unwell?

GREGOR

I believe so.

BARAKAT

Someone is supplying him with the
midnight flower. Effendi Red
doesn't care. He would rather the
young Sultan lived this half-life.
But I'm curious to know who is
supplying him. Find out.

GREGOR

Of course, Inquisitor.

BARAKAT

That's all. You can go now. Back to
your tasks.

Gregor LEAVES.

BARAKAT (CONT'D)

(calling after Gregor)

Actually, no. Come. I want to show
you something.

Barakat GOES through to another room.

1.14 INT. PALACE. OPERATING THEATRE - DAY

1.14

Dorin is conducting an operation on a corpse in front of a
group of YOUNG DOCTORS.

GREGOR (V.O.)

**A darkened room with... Laid out on
tables...**

DORIN

If I make an incision just here...
(He cuts through flesh)
... in a straight line, as so...

GREGOR (V.O.)

Dear God...

DORIN

(noticing Barakat)
Ah, Inquisitor.

BARAKAT

Continue...

Barakat and Gregor TAKE A SEAT and watch. We hear Dorin continue, aided by his ASSISTANT, under this:

BARAKAT (CONT'D)

(to Gregor)

You see Gregor, the dead can tell us as much as the living...

GREGOR

I hadn't taken you as a patron of scientific discovery...

BARAKAT

Perhaps not. But I believe we have a duty to use everything God has given us to search for God's truth. The soul, for instance...

GREGOR

The soul?

BARAKAT

Where does it reside in the body, precisely? How long does it remain after death? If we can find it... Oh, look at that...

DORIN

Just pull back the flesh to expose...

(to an Assistant)

Clamps.... Good...

BARAKAT

Perhaps we can cure sin, you see - if sin is a disease of the soul, which it must surely be. Often, sin manifests itself in sickness. The lame, the crippled - perhaps if we can treat the soul we will cure the disease. You see?

GREGOR

Er... Yes. Of course...

GREGOR (V.O.)

I definitely see. What I see is a madman. How do you cure madness?

BARAKAT

Tumanbay has been sock for a long time. So... what if we compare the bodies of the known sinners...?

GREGOR

Known sinners?

BARAKAT

From Tumanbay. Our prisons are full of them.

GREGOR

Right.

BARAKAT

We compare them with the bodies brought from afar. And therefore we will find where the sin resides. Well, that is our hope isn't Doctor?

DORIN

Yes. It is our hope. Indeed, it is.

BARAKAT

Of course we cannot be completely certain of the purity of the bodies brought in from afar. Although, I do believe these ones came from...

(looking to Dorin for the answer)

Ah...?

Alkin APPROACHES and joins them.

ALKIN

The swamps, I was told.

BARAKAT

Ah... our other doctor...

(to Gregor)

Alkin here is a traveller from the East. A great mind. I discovered her in Asyra. She found herself trapped there just before the city was liberated by Maya.

ALKIN

I might have died there if it wasn't for you, Inquisitor...

BARAKAT

Praise be. She is assisting Doctor Dorin in his investigations.

Alkin gives an unconvincing CHUCKLE. She knows it's nonsense and knows that Gregor knows - it's just something they need to go along with.

Dorin PLACES something - a liver perhaps - in a tray.

BARAKAT (CONT'D)

What's that?

DORIN

The liver.

BARAKAT

And that darkness...? The soul sickened there, do you think?

DORIN

The man was a soulless drunk, I imagine. Does that conclude work for today? Because with your permission -

ALKIN

(noticing something)

Wait...

BARAKAT

(getting up)

What is it?

ALKIN

A lesion, just here. In the lungs. I have seen this before.

DORIN

Yes, I noticed that too. But let's not distract ourselves, Alkin-

Barakat COMES forward.

BARAKAT

Let me see. Are you saying this is... this is... [the soul]?

ALKIN

(to Assistant)

Get the other body.

DORIN

I think that's enough for today, Alkin. Why don't you-

BARAKAT

No. Let her, doctor. Perhaps she knows things we do not.

Dorin's Assistant WHEELS the next body through.

ASSISTANT

Doctor, the other body is here.

Alkin SLICES into the corpse quickly and efficiently.

ALKIN

This is the other one from the swamps?

ASSISTANT

Yes.

ALKIN

Help me to pull... like this...

The Assistant helps her OPEN UP the cavity of the chest. Alkin examines it.

BARAKAT

Is *that*... the soul?

ALKIN

It's spread out through the lungs, see?

BARAKAT

Yes...

ALKIN

Wherever these corpses came from, there is a sickness spreading...

1.15 INT. PALACE. SMALL ROOM/GOLD ROOM - DAY

1.15

A small room off the Gold Room. Cadali HANDS MADU a package which he UNWRAPS.

GREGOR (V.O.)

From corpses to ghosts...

MADU

Have you got it?

CADALI

Yes.

MADU

Is it *Meguilla*?

CADALI

The very best, Majesty.

MADU

Let me try it.

He takes a big SNIFF.

CADALI

Majesty, not here I beg you. Please keep it to your rooms.

MADU

I don't care. I don't care what they do to me...

CADALI

No but I do care what they would do to me! And then I would no longer be in a position to-

He hears FOOTSTEPS. Cadali freezes. The door OPENS. It's Gregor.

GREGOR

Cadali, shouldn't you be...?

CADALI

Yes, yes, the slaves were just dismantling the chandeliers... Ah...

(Moving into the Gold Room, calling to the slaves)

Careful you! Put it down first and then... No, no, not like that!

GREGOR

(to Madu)

Majesty. I trust you are feeling better?

MADU

I'm fine. Thank you for your concern, Gregor. I have some business to attend to...

GREGOR

(bowing)

Majesty.

GREGOR (V.O.)

Our young sultan has withdrawn into a world of his own, a ghost of another era floating through the palace corridors that few even notice any more...

He GOES. Gregor turns to see Cadali ORDERING the SLAVES around.

GREGOR (V.O.)

As for Cadali...

CADALI

... Set it down, and write it down...

GREGOR (V.O.)
Tumanbay's vast collection of
treasures; every fitting and
fixture, and Cadali has put himself
in charge of their safe dispatch.

Something DROPS to the floor.

CADALI
Oh please!

Gregor APPROACHES.

GREGOR
It's a complex business.

CADALI
Hm?

GREGOR
Dismantling an empire.

GREGOR (V.O.)
Saving your skin.

CADALI
What do you want, Gregor?

GREGOR
The same thing as you, so we need
to be careful, Cadali.

CADALI
I don't know what you mean.

GREGOR
You need to stop. Barakat's
watching you. It won't end well.
That's my gift to you...

Cadali LAUGHS nervously and BUSIES himself with the crates.

CADALI
It's a nightmare. They want
everything recorded, every last
detail - what there is in the
palace, who does what, how the
courts work, the legislature... I'm
sure when I've told them everything
they will just... just...

GREGOR
Cadali, pull yourself together.

A Slave APPROACHES.

SLAVE

Excellency, shall we take down the other one?

CADALI

(pulling himself together)
What?

SLAVE

The mirror.

CADALI

Er... Yes, be careful this time...

The Slave GOES away. Gregor and Cadali WHISPER, not wanting to be overheard.

CADALI (CONT'D)

I'm not coping Gregor. I don't know what I-

GREGOR

This is not the time to fall apart.

CADALI

I know, I know. But I can't help it. I'm so-

GREGOR

You need to make yourself invaluable. Hold something back.

CADALI

Can I ask you for some advice?

GREGOR

Advice? No!

CADALI

I have a collection of my own - paintings. Rare miniature portraits - of the Vilanatia school. Beautiful, perfect, real and...

(beat)

Now I've said it.

He BREAKS DOWN again, terrified.

GREGOR

Why did you tell me?

CADALI

Because you know people, Gregor. I can't just throw them away.

GREGOR

Why not? It would be safer.

CADALI

If I have to run. I will need to pay people; the people smugglers, the captain of the ship.

GREGOR

Ah...

CADALI

I want to sell them but all the traders, all the artisans, the artist... They have fled the city or been killed.

GREGOR

So you want my advice?

CADALI

Do you know anyone who might be prepared to buy them from me? At a good price, of course.

GREGOR

You're an idiot, Cadali. You would do better to burn them quickly, before-

CADALI

(cry of despair)
I can't!

A Slave SCURRIES over.

SLAVE

Yes, Excellency?

CADALI

What? Um, no, just carry on...

Slave LEAVES.

SLAVE

Yes, Excellency.

CADALI

(getting himself under control)
I can't. They are my insurance. Everyone needs to prepare for a time when they might have to run...

Barakat ENTERS.

BARAKAT

(to Gregor)
Here you are.

GREGOR

Inquisitor.

BARAKAT

It's been approved.

GREGOR

Sorry? What has?

BARAKAT

You asked for permission to visit prisoner Qulan in the cells, didn't you? It's been approved.

GREGOR

I see... Thank you.

BARAKAT

What were you talking about?

GREGOR

I'm sorry?

BARAKAT

Just now. The two of you?

CADALI

Nothing.

BARAKAT

You were talking, Cadali. How can it be of nothing?

(beat)

We are all together now. You don't need to be nervous.

CADALI

Of course, we were talking about the lists, the details of the...

BARAKAT

Give me your hands.

CADALI

My hands?

BARAKAT

Why are they shaking?

CADALI

I don't know...

BARAKAT

What were you talking about? You can tell me. And if you want it to remain just between us, it shall. That is my promise. Everyone knows that I, Barakat, never lie.

(MORE)

BARAKAT (CONT'D)

If you want it to remain just
between ourselves, it shall.

(beat)

Now, what were you talking about?

A pause.

CADALI

I... I have a confession...

BARAKAT

Yes?

Another pause - Cadali is about to confess but Gregor intervenes.

GREGOR

Cadali is feeling the pressure of
the situation we all find ourselves
in.

BARAKAT

Of course, I understand.

CADALI

Yes, I'm sorry. I want to serve. I
want to serve Maya to the best of
my ability. That's all that matters
to me now.

BARAKAT

Prayer and fasting - that is my
advice.

Barakat GOES. A slave CLOSES the door behind him.

GREGOR

If you hold your nerve, Cadali you
are safe. You know everything about
Tumanbay. They need you.

CADALI

No one is safe. We don't know the
language of these people, we don't
know what they want.

(beat)

I must have my way out when things
get bad.

Gregor SIGHS. He knows Cadali is probably right. After a
moment he gives in.

GREGOR

There is a slave trader, in the
city. He used to collect rare books
and paintings too. I'm not saying
he will help you... but... His name
is Ibn. Ibn Bai...

CADALI

Thank you, thank you, Gregor. You know you will always have my undying loyalty...

GREGOR

(chuckles)

I don't doubt it. I've got to go.

He turns and WALKS AWAY.

GREGOR (V.O.)

That was weak. Now, I've given Cadali something to use against me, and...

1.16 EXT/INT. PORT/SHIPPING OFFICE - DAY

1.16

IBN makes his way down some steps to a quiet port office. The IBLIS (who, to the outside world, is just a shipping clerk) is talking with ANOTHER. They stop as Ibn approaches.

GREGOR (V.O.)

... what should I do? Betray him to elevate myself? Deception is exhausting.

IBLIS

Yes?

IBN

Oh, sorry to interrupt. I'm looking for the shipping clerk.

IBLIS

Who are you?

IBN

I am Ibn Bai, slave merchant.

(beat)

I have imported many slaves through this very port during the... the old times.

IBLIS

What do you want?

IBN

I'm looking for...

IBLIS

The shipping clerk. I am the shipping clerk. What do you want?

IBN

I am Ibn. Aren't you expecting me?

There is a silence.

IBN (CONT'D)
I am looking for "the Iblis".

Another silence. After a moment:

IBLIS
Come with me.

1.17 INT. SHIPPING OFFICE. BACK ROOM - DAY

1.17

The Iblis LEADS Ibn in and CLOSES the door.

IBLIS
Are you trying to get me killed?

IBN
What?! No...

IBLIS
Who told you about the Iblis?

IBN
A friend. Another trader. I paid him the money. He said you would be expecting me...

IBLIS
Ibn?

IBN
Yes.

The Iblis GOES over to a ledger.

IBN (CONT'D)
Wait a minute. Are you...? You are the Iblis aren't you?

IBLIS
Party of three?

IBN
Yes. My daughter - she's expecting a baby. I need to get her out. I was told to come here and ask for "the Iblis".

(beat)
I paid the money.

IBLIS
You were supposed to come tonight.

IBN
I know. That's why I'm here. I need to delay our departure.
(MORE)

IBN (CONT'D)

You see my daughter's husband has gone missing.

IBLIS

If you don't leave tonight, there's no guarantee there will be another boat. The city is falling apart.

IBN

I know, but-

IBLIS

My advice, friend: get your daughter out of Tumanbay for the sake of her and your unborn grandchild. The husband has probably been rounded up by one of the patrols. *If* he gets out there are smugglers who can help him through the desert. But for a pregnant woman...

He shakes his head and makes a curious CLICKING sound with his mouth.

IBLIS (CONT'D)

It's up to you. This is the last boat.

1.18 EXT. PORT - DAY

1.18

Ibn EMERGES back outside. The Slave Market is a much quieter affair than before. He STOPS and looks in a cage. Cadali lingers beside it.

IBN

(to slave)

Hello? Do you speak?

The Slave replies in a foreign language.

IBN (CONT'D)

Mm.

CADALI

Interested? She's still got her teeth.

IBN

No, no. Thank you. I'm not interested in-

CADALI

It's Ibn Bai, isn't it?

IBN

Yes. But I'm not interested in-

CADALI

It's all right. I'm not a trader.
I've come to see you.

IBN

I'm sorry, have we...?

CADALI

I thought I'd find you here. May I
walk with you?

IBN

Yes.

They WALK along a row of empty cages.

CADALI

I used to love coming here to see
all the slaves. Big, small, dark,
pale. There was such variety, so
much to choose from...

IBN

Yes...

CADALI

But now...

He SIGHS.

CADALI (CONT'D)

... just a few toothless old
crones, useful to no one.

(beat)

Very little profit in slaves these
days.

IBN

So true. So true.

CADALI

So a man must turn to other
commodities.

IBN

I suppose so, yes.

CADALI

For instance, books, paintings,
artwork.

IBN

(laughs)

Ha, that would be forbidden.

CADALI

It would, it would...

(beat)

(MORE)

CADALI (CONT'D)

But I understand you have some experience in these... items.

IBN

What?

CADALI

I have something of value, something I need to sell-

IBN

I'm sorry. I don't know who you are and I don't know what you are talking about. Please excuse me.

Ibn RUSHES OFF.

1.19 INT. IBN'S HOUSE - DAY

1.19

Ibn ARRIVES through the front door to find HEAVEN waiting for him. She is anxious.

HEAVEN

(approaching)

What happened? Did you manage to delay-

IBN

The boat leaves tonight.

HEAVEN

Then you can go alone.

IBN

Look, Heaven, Akiba can take care of himself. You need to think about the child.

She MOVES away. She is in a terrible dilemma.

IBN (CONT'D)

Let's be realistic. It's been a whole day. He went out and he didn't come back. Either that means he's been rounded up or he's stuck somewhere. In either case, you can't help him by staying here. You need to think about the child.

He PUTS his arm around her. They SIT.

IBN (CONT'D)

Akiba is a survivor. He's probably holed up somewhere biding his time. We can leave a message with the maid.

(MORE)

IBN (CONT'D)

If - *when* - Akiba turns up he can follow. There are ways out across the desert.

HEAVEN

Did you ask if they could postpone our departure?

IBN

I did.

HEAVEN

So what's the rush? Why can't we just stay here and wait it out.

Ibn SIGHS.

IBN

Someone approached me.

HEAVEN

What do you mean? Who?

IBN

Someone from the palace, I think - I can't be sure, but...

HEAVEN

What did they want?

IBN

I think... I might be on a list. I think I might be being investigated.

HEAVEN

No, please, no.

IBN

We need to go. We need to go tonight.

The MAID comes in.

MAID

Is everything all right, Master? Do you need refreshments?

IBN

No. Thank you.

HEAVEN

Should we tell her? We *should* tell her.

IBN

Yes. Er... Ayeesha, come here. Sit...

MAID

Master?

IBN

You've been with us a long time
Ayeesha.

MAID

I hope I have served you well,
Master.

IBN

You have, you have, Ayeesha. You
have been a good and loyal servant.
That is why... There is something
we need to tell you...

1.20 INT. PALACE. CORRIDOR - DAY 1.20

Cadali GOES along a corridor.

1.21 INT. PALACE. CADALI'S ROOMS - DAY 1.21

Cadali ENTERS his rooms and SHUTS the door. He SIGHS.

CADALI

(calling out)

Pala! Go to the bathhouse and tell
them to prepare for me.

There is no reply.

CADALI (CONT'D)

Pala?

He hears MOVEMENT in the adjacent room.

CADALI (CONT'D)

Did you hear what I said, slave?

He sees Barakat SITTING on his bed. Around him - Cadali's
collection of miniatures paintings.

BARAKAT

Has it been a stressful day,
Cadali?

Cadali freezes with fear.

BARAKAT (CONT'D)

I've been looking for you.

CADALI

Oh yes?

BARAKAT

I went to the Hall of Mirrors and I didn't find you there. I thought, "Well perhaps he's in the Gold Room, taking care of the latest dispatch, recording every last item. What a diligent and loyal fellow." But you weren't there either. So I thought I'd wait for you here in your private rooms - I have the keys, after all.

(gesturing to the miniatures)

These are fine works. So lifelike. How do these artists capture such likeness in miniature?

CADALI

I think they use lenses.

BARAKAT

Lenses?

CADALI

To magnify...

BARAKAT

Ah... Now, what's going through my head is this: "Why aren't these on the register of treasures from the palace?"

CADALI

These were... These were...

BARAKAT

Yours?

(beat)

Your... *personal* possessions?

CADALI

Well, no. I mean they were in my care.

BARAKAT

And I'm asking myself, "Why would a believer keep such items? It is for God and God alone to create in his form. Why would a believer hoard what the books condemn as idolatry?"

(beat)

Why?

He waits a moment for Cadali to answer. But Cadali has no answers.

BARAKAT (CONT'D)

Is his purpose to pervert the thoughts of other men? Or is he weak? Where does his soul reside?

CADALI

I-

BARAKAT

Think carefully before you explain. I understand frailty, I understand greed, but heresy... well...

CADALI

It was greed, it was frailty. I thought I could sell them. I am weak... I am weak...

(sobs)

BARAKAT

Everyone makes mistakes. Even I, Barakat, make mistakes.

(beat)

I can help you. And I'm a man who never lies.

CADALI

Yes?

BARAKAT

We can help each other. Would you like that?

CADALI

Yes...

BARAKAT

Good.

CADALI

Please...

BARAKAT

Now, let's start. Why don't you tell me who have you just been to see in the market? It better be the truth because we know the answer already.

Cadali WHIMPERS.

GREGOR (V.O.)

And he probably does.

1.22 INT. PALACE. CELLS - DAY

1.22

A large wooden door is OPENED. Gregor PASSES through. A GUARD TELLS him to wait while another door is UNLOCKED.

GREGOR (V.O.)

**He's probably watching me now,
spying on the spies I've set to spy
on whoever we're investigating.
Even down here - and this is my old
haunt: the dungeons deep beneath
the palace...**

GUARD

Excellency, this way.

GREGOR (V.O.)

... This was my office...

A cell door is OPENED.

GUARD

In here.

GREGOR (V.O.)

Now...

GREGOR

Give me a torch.

The Guard GIVES Gregor the torch. Gregor STEPS into the cell.

GREGOR (CONT'D)

Qulan?

QULAN

Oh, it's you?

GREGOR (V.O.)

**My brother Qulan, once commander of
the armies of Tumanbay, now
confined to a stinking cell...**

GREGOR

How are you, brother?

QULAN

Never better. And you? Are your new
masters taking good care of you?
You're looking well fed - are you
pleased with yourself?

Gregor SIGHS.

GREGOR

Brother, you can save yourself if
only you-

QULAN

Stop!

(whispers)

So what news of my family?

GREGOR

(whispers)

I haven't yet been able to... There is very little opportunity. My informants say they have taken lodgings near the Midan. There are so many refugees, no one suspects who they are.

QULAN

Pasha is a good boy. He might not be a fighter but he'll make sure no harm comes to his mother and sister. That, I am confident of. It might be just what he needs. He's had it too easy for too -

(off Gregor's look)

What?

GREGOR

Pasha... is not in this world.

QULAN

What?

GREGOR

When the soldiers came to your house to arrest them, Pasha barricaded the door. He was trying to delay them, so your wife and daughter could escape. They killed him.

QULAN

Oh.

(beat)

Was it quick?

GREGOR

Yes. He died fighting. With a sword in his hand.

QULAN

I had such hopes for him...

GREGOR

But Manel and her mother are alive. I will find them and bring you news.

(beat)

Why you so stubborn, Qulan? All you need to do is what I did.

(MORE)

GREGOR (CONT'D)

It is better to be alive and
without honour, than...

They hear the JANGLING of keys. The door OPENS. Cadali is
there with SEVERAL GUARDS.

GREGOR (CONT'D)

What's going on?

They start to UNCHAIN Qulan from the wall.

CADALI

I've been sent to bring the
General.

GREGOR

Bring him where?

QULAN

Gregor, Gregor... You need to open
your eyes. They are taking me to
the place of execution.

He LAUGHS.

QULAN (CONT'D)

They told me, but they didn't tell
you!

GREGOR

But... No! You were spared before,
why-?

QULAN

You fool, Gregor. Do you think they
wanted to kill me in front of my
troops? Do you think they wanted to
make me a martyr of me? No, they
will slit my throat in the darkness
and dump my body with all the other
poor bastards no one knows about.

GUARD

Come, let's go.

They start DRAGGING him towards the corridor.

QULAN

Let go of me! I will walk to my
death.

Cadali FOLLOWS, a desperate, self-loathing, frightened man.

CADALI

I beg you Qulan. You can end all
this now. Just bow the knee, kiss
the ring, swear allegiance...

(MORE)

CADALI (CONT'D)

Just as we all did - those of us
who wanted to live.

Qulan keeps WALKING.

CADALI (CONT'D)

Even your brother here. Tell him
Gregor. It means nothing. Do it and
you will be saved.

QULAN

No, I will be lost.

Gregor HURRIES after Qulan and GRABS him. They come to a STOP.

GREGOR

Brother, listen...

QULAN

Yes, what is it Gregor?

But Gregor is silent. They look at each other for a moment.

QULAN (CONT'D)

You remember when we were boys in
the mountains? We came to this
city, and I told you then: Tumanbay
is our destiny. I thought you
understood.

GREGOR

Understood what?

QULAN

That Tumanbay is where it ends...

GUARD

Come on, keep moving.

They CONTINUE forwards.

GREGOR (V.O.)

**We were born with nothing and
became slaves with everything. We
were the slave rulers, both of us -
players in the game, in the
greatest empire on earth. And
this... with my brother walking to
his execution...**

GUARD

(stopping Gregor)
No, not you.

The Guards and Qulan DISAPPEAR down the passageway. A huge
wooden door SHUTS behind them.

GREGOR (V.O.)
... is this the last of it?

1.23 EXT. PORT - NIGHT 1.23

The Iblis TAKES Ibn and Heaven along a quiet lane. He STOPS and OPENS a door.

IBLIS
In here.

IBN
But...

Heaven hesitates.

IBLIS
Is all right, girl. It's better to wait in here.

She GOES in.

1.24 INT. SHIPPING OFFICES. STOREROOM - NIGHT 1.24

The Iblis LEADS Ibn and Heaven along a corridor. He STOPS, TAKES out some keys and UNLOCKS a door.

It opens onto a room full of PEOPLE waiting to escape from Tumanbay.

IBLIS
Wait here.

IBN
But... This is not what we agreed.
We were to travel alone.

IBLIS
Just wait.

HEAVEN
But who are all these people?

IBN
Heaven, it's all right. Let me handle this...

He STOPS the Iblis as he is about to leave.

IBN (CONT'D)
Listen, we are not refugees like these people...
(gestures towards the room)

HEAVEN

My father has paid you a lot of money to-

IBN

Heaven, please-

IBLIS

It's all right. Relax.

IBN

Yes, but... My daughter is expecting a baby. This is hardly... There isn't even anywhere for her to sit.

IBLIS

Oh, let me apologise for the service. Perhaps your daughter was expecting a carriage. And perhaps some refreshments? Let me see what I can do for you...

He LEAVES, LOCKING the door behind him. Ibn, baffled, turns to Heaven.

IBN

It's going to be fine. I promise.

1.25 INT. SHIPPING OFFICES. STOREROOM - LATER

1.25

Time has passed. Ibn and Heaven have found a place to perch.

IBN

This is the difficult bit - but it will be worth it. Once we get to Cyrene and are back on shore we will travel in comfort, I promise. And before you know it we will be back home in El-Sharba.

HEAVEN

El-Sharba... I wish we had never left.

IBN

I know, I know.

He SIGHS.

IBN (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, I am so sorry child. One day, when this is all over... and my grandchild is sitting on my knee...

They hear FOOTSTEPS coming along the corridor, then KEYS turn in the door. It OPENS. The Iblis and several SMUGGLER MEN enter.

IBLIS

All right. The ship is waiting.
Come... All of you.

IBN

Here, take my hand.

He HELPS Heaven to her feet.

SMUGGLER MAN 1

Come on, move, move!

He HUSTLES Ibn and Heaven out.

1.26 EXT. PORT. DOCK - NIGHT

1.26

Heaven, Ibn and the others are LED down to the dock where a boat waits.

People start to SCRAMBLE on-board. Ibn APPROACHES the Iblis.

SMUGGLER MAN 1

Down here, down here.

IBN

Wait. Is this the boat?

IBLIS

What does it look like?

IBN

But it is too small. There are too many people for one boat.

IBLIS

Do you want to go or not?

IBN

Listen, I am a slave-trader. I wouldn't even trust a consignment of slaves to a boat like this.

IBLIS

Don't worry. You will be transferring to a bigger boat once you are out of the harbour.

IBN

A bigger boat?

IBLIS

We can't bring it in here. It will be seen...

He continues about his business, giving ORDERS to his Men who start to UNTIE the boat.

IBLIS (CONT'D)
Are you coming or staying?

IBN
(to Heaven)
Come...

He TAKES her hands.

IBN (CONT'D)
All will be well, I promise. As soon as we get to Cyrene we'll send word back to the house for Akiba. Ayeesha will pass the message to him. And he will find us, of that I am certain...

IBLIS
(calling)
It's the last boat, your last chance.

IBN
We're coming.

He STEPS aboard and HELPS Heaven.

1.27 EXT. PORT. SMALL BOAT - NIGHT

1.27

The boat is packed with People. Ibn PUSHES his way through.

IBN
Excuse me, excuse me... Please, make some room, my daughter is pregnant...

Someone makes some space, while others HUSH them.

IBN (CONT'D)
Thank you, Sir.
(to Heaven)
Here, a seat specially for you.

The boat is now being PUSHED OUT.

IBN (CONT'D)
(with forced positivity)
See? It's not bad at all. Actually it's quite an adventure...

Heave GETS UP.

IBN (CONT'D)

Woah, what are you doing? Sit back down, you'll fall...

She GRABS hold of him and looks him in the eye

HEAVEN

I'm sorry father.

IBN

Huh?

She starts CLIMBING up onto the side of the boat.

HEAVEN

I cannot leave without my husband.

She JUMPS into the water.

IBN

No! What are you...?! Help!

The other passengers urgently try to HUSH him.

REFUGEE 1

What is wrong with you?

IBN

My daughter is in the water!

REFUGEE 2

We haven't come all this way to get caught because of you.

REFUGEE 3

Be quiet, fool!

REFUGEE 1

Sit down!

IBN

No, I can't...

He JUMPS into the water after Heaven and SWIMS towards her.

IBN (CONT'D)

(choking on swallowed water)

Heaven, Heaven... Are you all right?

HEAVEN

I'm all right. I'm all right, Father.

They SWIM towards the shore.

They HAUL themselves up onto the bank and sit there for a moment PANTING, SHIVERING, catching their breath.

IBN

Don't worry. We'll find another way. Everything will be all right...

MUSIC.

End of Episode 2.01.