

TUMANBAY

Episode 2.02 - "The Kill"

by

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MANEL is CLEARING tables. A CUSTOMER and the OWNER are present.

GREGOR (V.O.)

In the city life goes on - I suppose it always does - until things become so unendurable that... what? Life itself becomes an insult? Well, one of the things I've learned in my life is that human beings can swallow just about anything if it means they stay alive. So, bread is sold, olives are prepared, tea and mamoul are served...

MANEL

Can I get you more tea, Effendi? Maybe some almond cake?

CUSTOMER

No, no, I'm finished.
(handing her some coins)
Here.

He GOES as she CLEARS.

MANEL

Good night.

OWNER

Is that the last?

MANEL

Yes. No more tonight, I should think.

OWNER

Streets used to be busy after dark, it was like another city out there. I did half my business then. Now I just do half my business.
(handing her some coins)
Here.

MANEL

And pay half too.

OWNER

Going to find a better job? There's many who wouldn't think of employing a girl.

MANEL

Then there's many jobs that
wouldn't get done, since most of
the men are dead or slaves.

They've finished the clearing.

OWNER

True enough. It's not the city I
knew, or you, I dare say, whoever
you were.

MANEL

No one asks that sort of thing now.

OWNER

Or we pray we never get asked it.
Are you finished? I'll do the
washing, it's getting late, you
don't want to be caught out after
curfew.

MANEL

I know my way.

OWNER

Maybe. But you never know what
these damned rebels will do next.
Fires here, a body there...

Manel is PUTTING on her robes.

MANEL

You worry too much...

OWNER

I've been alive too long not to.

MANEL

(leaving)
... and pay too little.

She LEAVES - door OPENS and SHUTS.

CUT TO:

2.2

EXT. STREETS - NIGHT

2.2

Manel is WALKING home. Off we hear GUARDS ARRESTING a family.
Baby and kids CRYING...

MOTHER

Please, we've done nothing... my
children-

GUARD

It'll be sorted out later, come on,
all of you...

MOTHER

Please, my husband is not here, I
swear I don't know where he is...

GUARD

I just do what I'm told.
(shouts)
Get them in the cart...

A child CALLS to Manel.

CHILD

Help us, please, help us...

GUARD

(to Manel)
Stand back, girl.

A child breaks free - RUNS towards Manel but gets CAUGHT.

GUARD 2

Don't interfere...

MANEL

I'm sorry.

CHILD

(being dragged away)
Please!

The child is SCREAMING, the Mother is CALLING, under this:

MANEL

I'm sorry, I'm sorry, there's
nothing I can do...

CHILD

Help us help us...

GUARD 2

Move on, move along now. Peace be
upon you...

Manel WALKS away rapidly.

2.3

EXT. STREETS - NIGHT

2.3

Manel is HURRYING - she comes to a STOP and catches her
breath then CLIMBS a wall and drops to the other side. After
a look around she PULLS some straw and wood into a pile then
STRIKES a flint a number of times - blows on the glowing
straw - then gradually the flames take...

The fire gets LOUDER and bigger as she BACKS OFF. She CLIMBS the wall - pauses on the top whilst off dogs begin to BARK and there's a SHOUT:

SHOUT

(off)

Fire! Fire! Bring Water! Etc.

She DROPS to the ground. KHALED spots her.

KHALED

(bellows)

You, stop!

MANEL

God's...

She RUNS - and Khaled CHASES... down an alley, CRASHING thorough baskets and pots, smashing them...

KHALED

Stop now, stop!

She RUNS, skids round a corner, crashes through a canvas screen, picks herself up and runs and JUMPS for a wall. As she struggles over, she CRIES out as a hand GRASPS her ankle and PULLS her down.

KHALED (CONT'D)

Dead end! No way out.

He SLAMS her against the wall. Both are out of breath.

MANEL

Leave me alone. I've done nothing wrong.

KHALED

Why were you running?

MANEL

I was scared, there was a fire. The curfew, the... the... everyone runs, we're all scared of the...

There's an EXPLOSION off - bits of debris rain down around us.

KHALED

Doesn't sound like nothing. That was the Maydan Temple.

MANEL

I don't know, I swear...

He PULLS her up and gets CLOSE, right into her face.

KHALED

Then you're lying, Girl.

He SLAMS her against the wall. Manel is really scared now.

KHALED (CONT'D)

How long do you think you'll last
in the cells - under the torture.

MANEL

Please, no I... I....

She's about to collapse.

KHALED

You'll tell them everything.

Off the sound of SOLDIERS APPROACHING, searching.

KHALED (CONT'D)

This way.

He PULLS her across the street, through a door and down some STAIRS. The soldiers are passing by above. He THROWS her onto the floor. A pause.

MANEL

What do you mean, I'll tell *them*
everything?

KHALED

So you can still think under
pressure?

MANEL

I don't know-

KHALED

Of course you don't, how could you?
You can thank God you haven't been
arrested already.

Pause - she doesn't answer.

KHALED (CONT'D)

A month ago you burned Maya's
banner outside the Palace gates.
Two weeks ago, you poured spoiled
oil into the Blue Well. Now this
temple.

MANEL

You couldn't... I didn't do that-

KHALED

We've been watching you. I know
exactly *what* you've been doing.

(MORE)

GREGOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)

**We stand on the palace roof,
thinking... what? That we're
protected? Effendi Red and Cadali,
looking up to the dark skies.**

Loud RUSHING overhead.

GREGOR

(thinks it's a VO but it
is in the scene)
Lit by the fires of... what?

RED

The fires of creation.

GREGOR

I am sorry, Regent, I didn't
realize I had spoken aloud.

BARAKAT

A worrying thought, Gregor, in a
man of secrets.

GREGOR

I have no secrets.

BARAKAT

All men have secrets, my friend.

GREGOR (V.O.)

**And Barakat, too, watching the
falling stars - he's everywhere, of
course...**

BARAKAT

(goes smoothly on)
The secrets we know of are easy,
the danger lies in those that are
hidden even from ourselves. Those
are the ones that we must find
out... bring into the light of day.

RED

I think, Barakat, that we are well
ahead with our-

A very loud WHOOSH overhead.

RED (CONT'D)

Where do they come from, these
fiery messengers?

BARAKAT

Better ask *why* they come. "Not a
flower blooms in this world, not
the shadow of a lizard on the sand
but that it is the word from God to
man."

Pause.

RED

I think you'll find that the text actually says that these things are a reminder to man: "of the greatness of God."

GREGOR (V.O.)

He's scored a point.

Long pause.

CADALI

I... I- I am sure that- that the Inquisitor Barakat meant... that...

GREGOR (V.O.)

Oh, Cadali...

CADALI

... what he meant was... was-

GREGOR (V.O.)

... saving his skin, or trying to. His soul, of course, was lost a long time ago - along with everyone who's survived so far.

BARAKAT

You are not saying that things simply happen, are you?

RED

You know I am not.

GREGOR (V.O.)

Here we go...

RED

All things come from God and He is the arbiter of our days, and our ways. As much of our heads as our hearts and if we-

BARAKAT

Ah, but-

RED

... ignore any of His great gifts, we fail in our observance.

BARAKAT

Indeed, yes! But with God, everything is for a reason...

GREGOR (V.O.)

Please, God...

BARAKAT

...Would He spend so much energy,
make so great a show as this for no
reason? I believe not. I believe he
is warning us of the danger within.
He that has eyes, let Him see.

CADALI

(hysterical almost)
Ah, you have it, the Inquisitor has
it, do you see? The Word is our
command. What do they say,
Inquisitor?

A very, very low pass.

MADU APPEARS.

MADU

(drugged)
Get your heads down, probably.
(laughs)

GREGOR

Very good, Majesty, ever the
pragmatist.

GREGOR (V.O.)

**I didn't notice our young sultan
appear. To him, this might be one
long hallucination...**

BARAKAT

And yet men have been burnt for
less.

MADU

I wish sometimes that might be so.
To burn in the fiery light of a
star would be to live forever in
the skies.

RED

Perhaps the Sultan is feeling
tired?

GREGOR (V.O.)

Mistake...

MADU

The Sultan, the great Sultan Madu,
ruler of Tumanbay...
(he cackles)
... is feeling, as usual, whatever
he is told to feel. What should I
feel, Effendi Red? Barakat... your
wisdom?

RED

It is not you who speak, Majesty,
but the demons within you. You
should consort less with infernal
realms.

MADU

Those demons are the only thing
that keep me from cutting my own
worthless throat.

He CHUCKLES.

GREGOR

Cadali, why don't you escort the
Sultan to his chambers where he can
rest?

MADU

I want to watch the stars fall and
weep for them.

CADALI

Come along, now, Majesty... let me
help you...

A grumbling, GIGGLING MADU is lead out. A door OPENS and
SHUTS behind them.

BARAKAT

He still finds these opiates
somewhere in the city...

GREGOR

I'm afraid the Sultan doesn't
appreciate the great favour shown
him by Maya in allowing him to rule
Tumanbay.

Silence.

BARAKAT

Gregor...

GREGOR (V.O.)**I've gone too far...**

BARAKAT

I never quite know how to take your
words.

GREGOR

I... Apologies, Inquisitor. I am
not a wordsmith, but I do my job.

BARAKAT

Ah, but *why* do you do your job?

(beat)

(MORE)

BARAKAT (CONT'D)

Who sweeps a temple with God in his heart makes of that a holy task. Who rules an empire with nothing in his heart, makes of it an abomination.

RED

If you will excuse me, I shall leave you to enjoy - or is it understand - the spectacle. I will retire. I have dispatches to write. Good night.

OMNES

Good night my Lord.

He GOES - a pause.

BARAKAT

There are still heretics in the city. In this palace, even. Our work is barely begun. There are eight hundred heretics in the trade district, at least.

GREGOR

How can you be so precise?

BARAKAT

My clerks have noted down the complaints of the people about short measure and false accounting. I suggest your time, Gregor, would be well spent in going through those documents and noting names and addresses and... acting on them.

GREGOR

Of course.

He GOES.

CUT TO:

2.6 INT. PALACE. MADU'S ROOMS - NIGHT

2.6

Meteors still falling but fainter here. Cadali HELPS Madu in. Madu STAGGERS to a cupboard, PULLS out stuff until he gets his dope.

MADU

Gods, I hate them, their arrogance, their filthy hands on our city...

CADALI

Then why not do something, Majesty?

He UNCORKS a bottle and takes a deep SNIFF.

MADU

This is what I do.

Cadali SITS and SIGHS.

CADALI

What can any of us do?

MADU

You do well, Cadali. If there ever is a time of rewards, then I shall see that You are amongst the first.

CADALI

Because I supply your... midnight flowers?

A particularly loud meteor PASSES over.

CADALI (CONT'D)

These are not good signs, Majesty.

MADU

Fire from Heaven? When is it ever good?

CADALI

Now, here, in this city, at the end of everything. We... don't you see? We have to do something, get away, there is no tomorrow here... only death and destruction and... we need, we need to...

MADU

I need my medicine, Cadali.

CADALI

I'm trying to say, Majesty... I can't, do you see, I can't do *this* any more. Everyone is followed, they are watching all the time... I can't... it's too dangerous.

MADU

You have to do it.

CADALI

I won't.

MADU

I am the Sultan. I order you.

CADALI

And I am the Vizier and look at us both? Even the starving dogs would turn away from what we've become.

MADU

I can't live without it.

CADALI

Then you'll have to go yourself. You know where it comes from.

MADU

What, go outside the palace?

CADALI

You're the Sultan, you said it yourself.

MADU

And you said they follow us all the time.

CADALI

Your need will support your cunning. Who will know? You're just going for the blessing. We all need that, God help us.

MADU

I can't.

Cadali GOES to the door and OPENS it.

CADALI

Then don't - and do without, because I am done with it.

He LEAVES and SHUTS the door.

CUT TO:

2.7 OMITTED 2.7

2.8 EXT. STREETS - DAY 2.8

It is quiet - a MURMUR from the crowds, only the occasional SHOUT from a VENDOR. Gregor WALKS.

VENDOR

Bread, good bread, flat loaves, round loaves, good bread, buy my bread etc.

GREGOR (V.O.)

**The place: the market, where once
traders haggled and even dared to
cheat...**

A patrol comes MARCHING past. STOPS by a stall. SERGEANT accosts the Vendor.

SERGEANT (SHOUTS)

You, these loaves.

VENDOR

You wish to buy, Y'Honour?

SERGEANT

They look light to me.

VENDOR

No, no, Y'Honour, I swear, they are
all honest weight...

GREGOR (V.O.)

**Now, the risk of cheating or even
an honest mistake...**

VENDOR

... See, see, feel how heavy...

SERGEANT

Come on, brother. Cheating the
people is a crime.

(to soldier)

Dartu, come. Check him.

Vendor's PROTESTS as he is TAKEN into custody and THROWN in a cart.

SERGEANT (CONT'D)

You, what are you looking at? What
is your business here?

GREGOR

Same as yours, my friend. Seeing
the peace is kept.

HOWLS of vendor and his FAMILY.

SERGEANT

You being funny? We've a place for
those who mock the authority-

GREGOR

Here. My authority.

Hands over papers.

SERGEANT

(fearful)

Your Honour, I didn't recognize you
at once, forgive me.

GREGOR

Carry on.

SERGEANT

Thank you, Your Honour.

The patrol HURRIES away with the wailing baker and wife.

GREGOR (V.O.)

**A useful confusion. It's created
just the distraction I need to slip
away from any spies...**

He turns and WALKS down an alley. It's more crowded, he
ENTERS a cafe and SITS. Rumble of conversation.

GREGOR (V.O.)

**... And enter the Cafe of the Black
Cat.**

OWNER

Welcome, Effendi, what can I do for
you? Sweet dates, pastries with
honey from the plains, tea, sweet
tea, mint tea, or coffee darker
than...

He falls silent.

GREGOR

Darker than what, my friend?

OWNER

Uhm... Night! Darker than the
darkest of nights.

GREGOR

Tea only. Mint tea.

OWNER

Of course, of course.

(calls)

Girl, mint tea for His Honour.
Hurry hurry, don't keep our
customers waiting..

Manel ARRIVES with kettle and cups which she PUTS DOWN. The
dialogue is sotto.

GREGOR

Manel... he's alive. Your father.

MANEL
(rudely)
Sugar with your tea?

GREGOR
I'm not your enemy.

MANEL
Almond cake, *Effendi*, we still have
a little left.

GREGOR
I need to see your mother.

MANEL
No cake, then?

She POURS tea.

MANEL (CONT'D)
Will that be all?

GREGOR
Listen to me, I need to see her.
For your father.

OWNER
(calling)
Manel, hurry up, there's other
customers.

MANEL
Anything else? No?

GREGOR
After work, at the end of the
street, I'll wait.

Manel WALKS AWAYS.

CUT TO:

2.9 EXT. STREETS - NIGHT

2.9

Manel is WALKING with Gregor.

GREGOR (V.O.)
**My niece, Manel. She hates me, and
has inherited, it seems...**

MANEL
I'm not interested, Uncle.

GREGOR (V.O.)
... the strength of my brother.

MANEL

You're a traitor to Tumanbay.

GREGOR

Am I?

MANEL

Leave us alone. We don't want your help.

GREGOR (V.O.)

Qulan, her father: he's looking right at me, out of her terrifying eyes.

GREGOR

Manel, please...

MANEL

You're touching me.

Pause. Gregor RELEASES her arm.

GREGOR

In times like these we need all the help we can get, and I need to see your mother.

MANEL

Very well. Since you crawl around the palace, you can tell me about my father.

Long pause.

MANEL (CONT'D)

Well?

GREGOR

Your father is... he's... alive, at least he still lives.

MANEL

In a cell.

GREGOR

They... perhaps I shouldn't say but they continually take him to execution and then bring him back again. They think it will break his spirit.

MANEL

Then they are fools.

GREGOR

You've changed so much...

MANEL

Everything's changed, Uncle! Or hadn't you noticed? What are we all supposed to do? Shut our eyes, count to seven and we all go to heaven? That's what you used to say Uncle, when you visited us, before you gave us sweets... Huh...

(she spits, disparagingly)

This way... and say nothing about father to my mother.

GREGOR

Doesn't she have the right to-

MANEL

I'll tell you. You, Gregor, you don't have the right to talk about him.

They WALK AWAY from us - we listen to the quiet city for a moment then:

CUT TO:

2.10 INT. THE HOVEL - NIGHT

2.10

A KNOCK at the door - a pattern. Manel and Gregor are on the street. HODAH listens from inside.

MANEL

(off)

It's me, Mother. I've brought someone. Uncle Gregor. Let us in, please.

A key turned, door OPENS.

HODAH

(cold)

Gregor...

Pause.

GREGOR

No one knows I am here, Hodah. I wish you only well.

HODAH

Very well. Come in.

They ENTER, door is SHUT and LOCKED.

GREGOR (V.O.)

A grand house, with courtyards and fountains, servants... to this...

HODAH

We will eat, I will make...

MANEL

We haven't enough. He can afford his own food.

HODAH

Hush, Girl, where are your manners? Your father would be ashamed. Gregor - have you news? Manel, attend to the water.

Manel STORMS OFF to do so.

GREGOR

Qulan lives, he is well, as well as can be expected.

HODAH

God be praised for that. You have seen him?

GREGOR

And talked to him. He asked me to... I can give you some money so that things will be a bit easier.

Out of nowhere...

MANEL

Keep your money, Uncle, we don't want it.

HODAH

Hush, Manel.

(sighs)

It is so hard, her brother is gone, her father is not here, what can I do?

GREGOR

I want you to take this...

The lock is being TURNED.

HODAH

Manel, where are you going? The curfew...

MANEL

Every moment this man is in the house dishonours our father. I am going out to breath fresh air.

HODAH

Wait!

But she's GONE, the door SLAMS.

HODAH (CONT'D)

What can I do, Gregor, what can I do? She had everything: a home, a family, a man she loved and now this... hiding in a hovel.

GREGOR

I will do what I can, but these are harsh times. If she gets in trouble it won't help her father, they'll use her against him.

HODAH

She's like him, you know? Like Qulan. The same unbending right and wrong.

GREGOR

Then let us pray she doesn't end up like him in a cell...

2.11 INT. PALACE PRISON - DAY

2.11

Echoed footsteps as Gregor ARRIVES at gate. A Guard (Phelan) stops him.

GREGOR

I've come to see prisoner Qulan.

GUARD

Your authorisation, Excellency.

GREGOR

Do I need it? You served under me for years in the Palace Guard, Phelan. You know my face as well as you know your own.

GUARD

No papers, no entry, Excellency. Everything goes in the book nowadays.

GREGOR

Good, well done. It's what I expect. Good work, Phelan. Here.

Phelan TAKES them. Gregor SETS OFF.

GUARD

Wait. You'll need them to get out again.

GREGOR

Of course. Thank you, carry on.

He TAKES papers and then WALKS AWAY.

2.12 INT. QULAN'S CELL - DAY

2.12

Door OPENS and CLOSES. Pause.

QULAN
Sit if you want to.

GREGOR
If you're standing...

QULAN
I'm standing because I need the exercise. I doubt you do. Sit on the cot or the stool. I have all the conveniences here.

Gregor SNIFFS.

GREGOR
So I can smell.

QULAN
Not the first time I've shared a room with a pile of shite and I daresay it wont be the last. What do you want, Gregor?

GREGOR
I'm glad to see you're alive. They didn't... do what they said.

QULAN
It was a mistake.

GREGOR
That you're still alive?

QULAN
That they didn't do what they said. Shows weakness.

GREGOR
Aren't you at least the smallest bit pleased about that, brother?

Qulan doesn't answer the question.

GREGOR (CONT'D)
I've brought you this to read - if you could swear to this much - it's been amended from before.

QULAN
Haven't they given up yet?

GREGOR

At least read it, do me that much
of a favour.

Qulan TAKES the parchment.

GREGOR (V.O.)

**The guard watches. It's a trick we
learned as slave boys: pretend to
be reading...**

Close up as they mutter sotto.

QULAN

Did you see my wife?

GREGOR

Yes.

QULAN

Daughter?

GREGOR

They are well. Hodah... is strong,
she will cope. But she's worried
about your daughter.

QULAN

Go on.

GREGOR

She fears that Manel is taking
risks, running wild...

QULAN

Is she?

GREGOR

I think so. I will try and find
out.

Pause. Then loud:

GREGOR (CONT'D)

As you can see there have been
changes. I'm sure you could swear
to it now without compromise.

QULAN

(loud)

Wait, let me finish it. And as for
compromise, I leave that to you,
brother.

Gregor continues sotto:

GREGOR

She's in danger. Qulan, these people don't play games. If she's caught doing something, they will kill her.

QULAN

(sotto)

I would rather she died than serve these people.

GREGOR

(sotto)

You're wrong. Dead, she can't do anything. You have to survive to achieve change.

QULAN

(sotto)

Is that what you were thinking of, Gregor? Changing things?

GREGOR (V.O.)

He's looking through me. He always looked right through me...

GREGOR

(sotto:)

Yes.

Qulan LAUGHS.

GREGOR (CONT'D)

(sotto)

You're being a fool, brother - throwing away the chance to fight back, if that's what you want. What will they say: "Qulan was a great man, he refused to bend and so they finally executed him and now when we need him, where is he?"

QULAN

(sotto)

Gregor, I've known you since we were boys together in the mountains. You, me, Varsi.

Echoes of the past... Children's voices - we hear a YOUNG QULAN, YOUNG GREGOR, and VARSI:

YOUNG QULAN

Varsi?

Howling wind. Difficult terrain.

VARSI

Gregor! Help me, I...

QULAN

You remember? You carried that boy
in the end... despite your
misgivings.

Varsi STUMBLES in the snow. Gregor PICKS him up.

YOUNG GREGOR

*It's all right, I've got you. Hold
me.*

QULAN

I saw your grief when we lost him.

YOUNG GREGOR

(approaching)
Qulan, Qulan!
(sobbing)
I'm sorry... I'm sorry, he just...
I couldn't save him...

QULAN

I called you my brother from that
moment, because I believed you
would do great things...

GREGOR

Which we can do!

QULAN

... but now... what are you?

GREGOR (V.O.)

**... and he's looking through me
again...**

QULAN

I'm not sure you know.
(loud)
You are wasting my time and yours,
Gregor. I will not, cannot swear to
this.

GREGOR

(Stung)
Thus the "great general", to the
rats and spiders and a bucket of
piss and shit.

QULAN

(Bellows)
Guard! This visit is over. Goodbye,
Gregor.

GREGOR

Whatever you say, brother.

QULAN

I don't have a brother.

GREGOR

Brother, I will try and do my best
for you.

Pause - the cell door OPENS and SHUTS as Gregor LEAVES.

2.13 INT/EXT. PRISON/PARADE GROUND - DAY

2.13

Gregor WALKING along a corridor.

GREGOR (V.O.)

**Courage. Common sense. So what do I
do, throw myself off the city wall,
and earn his... admiration? Oh... I
have done terrible things in the
name of survival.**

Out of nowhere.

BARAKAT

Gregor.

Gregor STOPS.

BARAKAT (CONT'D)

You have been to see your brother?

GREGOR

Hmm. As you know, since you have
him watched.

BARAKAT

Is he showing any more sense? Or
perhaps you don't want to answer
that?

GREGOR

I'm quite happy to answer, Barakat.
He's himself, as he's always been.
Inflexible, adamant, arrogant in
his own certainty.

BARAKAT

Qualities that might well be
admirable in another man in another
situation, don't you think?

GREGOR

I serve, I try not to think.

BARAKAT

You were slaves, were you not?

(beat)

When you first came to Tumanbay?

GREGOR

You must excuse me, I have work to do.

Barakat STOPS him, PLACES a hand on his shoulder.

BARAKAT

You must excuse *me*. I have need of you today.

GREGOR

Effendi Red-

BARAKAT

Has cleared the matter. Walk with me, Gregor.

They WALK together.

BARAKAT (CONT'D)

How well do you know these corridors? Your old domain, I suppose. They tell me there are catacombs below the dungeons. A deeper hell down there.

GREGOR

You've seen the plans of the palace?

BARAKAT

I have and they show nothing. But they whole communities live down there.

GREGOR

Are you speaking of demons in the fiery pit, perhaps?

BARAKAT

(sharp - serious)

I am speaking of rebellion, of treachery...

(beat)

No? Well... I mean you no harm, Gregor. We all serve the same God now.

GREGOR

I'm sure we do.

They begin to CLIMB stone stairs

BARAKAT

As slaves, you and your brother must have worked... and yet your hands are smooth.

GREGOR

We had a good master. He educated us. Everyone began as a slave in Tumanbay. Everyone had a chance to rise if their ability was-

BARAKAT

God sees all. He sees my hands. A healer's hands. Hands that are not afraid to get dirty in His Service.

GREGOR

And... what do you need me for, Inquisitor?

BARAKAT

We're going to see a friend of yours.

He OPENS a door. They are in a square. We GO out with them. Soldiers are being DRILLED as they walk across the sand. A cart APPROACHES.

BARAKAT (CONT'D)

Ah, our carriage. Come.

2.14 EXT. IBN'S HOUSE. COURTYARD - DAY

2.14

The fountain is playing. There are birds in the trees. The Maid tends to Heaven.

MAID

Shall I bring a sherbet, Mistress?

HEAVEN

No. Wait until my father gets home. We'll have something then.

A pause.

HEAVEN (CONT'D)

Yes, what is it, Ayeesha?

MAID

Are you really going away?

HEAVEN

I don't know, I don't know anything.

MAID

But what will happen to-

The BELL sounds.

HEAVEN

Go, open the gate, Girl.

The Maid GOES and OPENS the gate.

MAID

Oh, Effendi, the Master is not at home.

GREGOR

Never mind. I will see the Mistress, if I may?

MAID

Of course, Effendi.

Gregor ENTERS.

HEAVEN

Oh.

GREGOR

Where is Ibn Bai, Mistress?

HEAVEN

He will be back later. If you wish to see him, Gregor, you should come-

Barakat SLIDES past Gregor.

BARAKAT

We shall wait, if you have no objection, Mistress.

HEAVEN

I don't know, I-

GREGOR

It's all right, Heaven...

A pause.

HEAVEN

Then you'd better come in.

They ENTER properly. The Maid SHUTS the gate.

HEAVEN (CONT'D)

Will you wait in the house, or by the fountain?

GREGOR

I think in the h-

BARAKAT

By the fountain. I love the sound of water falling. A gift of God indeed it is. My name is Barakat.

MAID

You're the one they call the
Inquisitor.

HEAVEN

Thank you, Ayesha, you may bring
us tea.

MAID

They say you can see things other
folk cannot?

BARAKAT

Perhaps I see what's there in front
of me - when other people cannot.
Will you bring us tea, Ayesha?

MAID

(Awed)
Of course.

She GOES.

HEAVEN

Please, sit. Under the tree, it's
cooler.

They SIT.

BARAKAT

Are you thinking of travelling,
Mistress?

HEAVEN

Travelling?

BARAKAT

I see bags packed in the passage
there.

HEAVEN

Oh, those, yes, er, no. Uhm...
my... mother's things. We .. She
died and her things... for the rag
pickers.

BARAKAT

Uh-huh.

HEAVEN

Of the plague. We were on a ship.

BARAKAT

I see. A great loss, a girl's
mother, especially at such a time.

HEAVEN

Time?

BARAKAT

Not to see her grandchild come into this world. Not to have her help and guidance yourself, when this new life appears. A great time and yet a sad time.

HEAVEN

(She is moved - tearful)
Yes, we... I wish she was here, I do.

A pause with water and birds.

BARAKAT

And your husband? Where is your husband?

HEAVEN

He... had to go back to his country. Yes.

BARAKAT

I only say because perhaps mother or husband might have cautioned you about your dress. It is very light, hardly suitable for a mother to be.

HEAVEN

I am in my father's house; how I dress is-

Barakat ignores her.

BARAKAT

Children are so precious. They are the blank page waiting to be written upon with the word of God. We must all take care of the children. May I... feel this holy life within your body?

HEAVEN

I... I...

He PRESSES his hand against her belly. They are close - face to face.

BARAKAT

You are a sacred vessel, my dear. Ah, yes, I can feel the life quicken within.

GREGOR

Perhaps we should come back?

BARAKAT

I bless this child in the name of
the Almighty - may its path through
this life lead it to salvation in
the next.

The gate bell RINGS.

BARAKAT (CONT'D)

Go - open the gate.

Gregor does so and IBN COMES IN.

IBN

Gregor, what are you doing here?

HEAVEN

Father, this is Barakat.

IBN

What has he to do with me? Gregor?

GREGOR

Perhaps you should listen to him,
Ibn Bai. He is a man of influence.

IBN

What do you mean, influence?

BARAKAT

Your old friend jokes. I have no
influence at all, Ibn Bai, but I am
curious.

IBN

Curious about what, Sir?

BARAKAT

Your...
(beat)
... library.

IBN

M... my library?

BARAKAT

I have heard it is...

IBN

Really, it is nothing very much.

The TINKLE of tea glasses as the Maid REAPPEARS.

BARAKAT

What do you say, Ibn Bai, that we let your daughter and Commander Gregor enjoy the tea and we shall enjoy your library? Thank you, Ayesha.

MAID

Thank you, Inquisitor.

She GOES.

BARAKAT

Shall we go, Ibn Bai?

They GO.

2.15 INT. IBN'S HOUSE. LIBRARY - DAY

2.15

Ibn and Barakat ENTER.

IBN

It is a poor thing.

BARAKAT

Not at all. I have seen few such collections in private hands. It must have taken you many years and much trouble and money to build it up?

IBN

I have travelled, you see? In my business. I go to markets, I see many people and if they have something to sell then...

He falls silent. Barakat TAKES various volumes off the shelves. He PULLS open drawers.

BARAKAT

Scrolls too?

IBN

Some. Only a few. Some are ancient. Decorated, as you see.

BARAKAT

Dec-or-ation.

IBN

In praise, many of them, of- of- of-God. They are holy scrolls.

BARAKAT

And yet you have them in a cupboard.

He SHUTS the drawer.

BARAKAT (CONT'D)
God has no need of decoration,
surely?

IBN
No, no. These are the work of
...the past.

He TAKES another volume down and OPENS it. The velum pages
turn audibly.

IBN (CONT'D)
History, you see. I am
interested...

BARAKAT
But history is only in the mouths
of those who tell it - and they
talk in lies.

IBN
Well not... yes, I suppose.

BARAKAT
History is a lie, Ibn Bai. Surely
you know that?

IBN
Uh, yes...

BARAKAT
Then what is the purpose of these
books other than to pervert the
minds of men?

Pause - there's no answer to this.

BARAKAT (CONT'D)
You have a child, I hope she has
not been exposed to this contagion.
And a grandchild coming?

IBN
Really, I'm just a collector. I
rarely read them myself. I just...
love to, like to have them. A
collection, that's all.

BARAKAT
Would you collect scorpions in a
house with children in it? No
matter, I expect you are thirsty. I
am after all this... dust. Shall we
go back to the others?

IBN

Yes.

They GO.

2.16 EXT. IBN'S HOUSE. COURTYARD - DAY

2.16

Heaven and Gregor are silent as Ibn and Barakat EMERGE.

BARAKAT

Ah, tea.

He SITS and TAKES a glass and DRINKS.

BARAKAT (CONT'D)

It is good. You must tell me where you buy it; good tea is hard to find.

HEAVEN

Father?

IBN

It's all right, Heaven. I just... we were just...

BARAKAT

Your father will be coming with us for further clarification, Mistress.

HEAVEN

What do you mean?

BARAKAT

Just to clear a few things up, that's all. So that everything is correct.

He FINISHES his tea and STANDS.

BARAKAT (CONT'D)

Shall we go, Ibn Bai. No need to pack a bag, eh?

He CHUCKLES and TAKES Ibn by the arm.

BARAKAT (CONT'D)

Don't look so concerned, my dear. No harm will come to him, not from me. That is my promise to you and your unborn child - and Barakat never lies.

IBN

I'll be back later Heaven. Please, don't worry.

Barakat WALKS Ibn to the gate, OPENS it.

HEAVEN
(Sotto - to Gregor)
You have to help him.

GREGOR
(Sotto)
I'll do what I can. I'm a virtual
prisoner myself, Heaven.

HEAVEN
(Urgent)
He's your friend, you have to help
him!

BARAKAT
(calling)
Gregor, come.

GREGOR
I have to go.

He LEAVES...

HEAVEN
Help him, help him.

He keeps WALKING as voices echo around his head:

VARSI
(calling)
Gregor! Help me!

CADALI
Help me, Gregor!

HODAH
Help her, Gregor, I beg you...

He BLUNDERS out, GASPING for air.

CUT TO:

2.17 INT. HAFIZ'S PALACE - DAY

2.17

A vast door OPENS - echoes boom and Madu ENTERS. He confronts BELLO.

MADU
(tense - desperate)
Is he here? I need to see him.

BELLO
(approaching)
Majesty? You'd like to see the
Hafiz? Shall I take you-

MADU

Yes, yes, at once.

BELLO

Perhaps you remember me? We met before... all this. My name is Bello.

MADU

What do I care about your name? I need the Hafiz, the medicine I need. Cadali usually comes for me.

BELLO

The Hafiz has medicine for the soul, I, on the other hand - the symptoms, Majesty?

MADU

Life. I can't bear being alive.

The HAFIZ APPEARS. He's drunk.

HAFIZ

(approaching)

Oh, you'll get used to that, we all do. In the end.

He takes a DRINK.

BELLO

Holiness.

HAFIZ

(drinks again)

Would you care to try my "medicine"?

MADU

No, you old drunk!

Madu KNOCKS the cup out of the Hafiz's hands. The Hafiz LAUGHS.

HAFIZ

Have you seen yourself? The last of the great sultans of Tumanbay? Your father, the great warrior, your uncle, the builder of temples, the creator of perfumes... and now you. Yes, I'm an old drunk who has done much in his life. I've earned the right to be what I am - what have you earned?

He STAGGERS off chuckling.

MADU
(shouts after him)
Give me what I need.

Pause.

HAFIZ
Ask Bello... he's here to help us
all.

The Hafiz CLOSES the door behind him.

BELLO
Majesty.

MADU
I need it, give it to me, I have
gold.

BELLO
What's my name?

MADU
What?

BELLO
What. Is. My. Name?

MADU
I... I... I can't remember, tell
me, I'll..

BELLO
(shouts at him)
What is my name?

MADU
Please, I can't remember, I just
need... Please, I must have... the
blessing...

Bello GRABS his face.

BELLO
My name is Bello. Say it.

MADU
Please, Bello, can I have my
blessing? I have money...

BELLO
Oh, money is no use here. This is a
house of God, we are here to
help... Bello is here to help.

MADU

Oh yes, thank you, thank you, thank you, Bello...

CUT TO:

2.18 INT. CADALI'S ROOM - DAY

2.18

Cadali is HUMMING as he arranges papers. There is a crash as the door is thrown OPEN. Cadali CRIES OUT in shock. Gregor STORMS IN.

GREGOR

Damn you, Cadali!

CADALI

My God, Gregor... I locked that door, I always lock my door.

GREGOR

I've got keys to all the old doors.

CADALI

Not the new ones?

GREGOR

I am going to...

Gregor GRABS him, PUSHES him across the room, SHOVES open the window and holds him out.

Cadali SQUEALS in fear and outrage.

CADALI

What are you doing?

GREGOR

I'm throwing you out of the window, Cadali, in case you hadn't noticed!

CADALI

You're running mad, stop, please, Gregor, please... I beg you.

Gregor PULLS him in and THROWS him onto the bed.

CADALI (CONT'D)

What have I done, what is it?

GREGOR

The slave dealer, I mentioned him to you because of your damned miniatures and now he's been arrested - you betrayed him!

CADALI

No, I swear it.

GREGOR

What good is your word, you snake.

CADALI

On my life I swear it, Gregor. I saw the man, but he couldn't help me. He ran off like a frightened antelope. Why would I betray him?

GREGOR

Because it's what you are.

CADALI

But I have seen some of the papers in the case.

Pause.

GREGOR

I'm waiting, Cadali. It'll just be one more accident: you lean out the window, slip, fall, break your neck and your neck is so very valuable to you, isn't it?

CADALI

The Maid is a spy. Don't you know that? All the servants in the city, I should think by now, they work for Barakat, they report back on everything... *everything*. She's been reporting on the family. Of course she has, why should she be loyal? She's a slave.

GREGOR

What else do you know about it?

CADALI

That's it, no more. Just papers I saw. They write it all down, everything.

Pause - Gregor CLOSES the window.

GREGOR

How can they know everything?

CADALI

They can't. Look, Gregor, I'm on your side.

GREGOR

Oh? What side would that be?

CADALI

You know as well as I do we have to co-operate to survive.

(MORE)

CADALI (CONT'D)

It's no good if when the time comes
to act we're dead in the sand,
right?

Gregor LAUGHS.

CADALI (CONT'D)

Is something funny?

GREGOR

Nothing. Go on.

CADALI

There's someone you have to see.

GREGOR

What about?

CADALI

(very cautiously)
Resistance.

GREGOR

And you expect me to trust you?

CADALI

On my neck! In the Sultan's
Menagerie at noon tomorrow. We both
want the same thing, don't we?

GREGOR

You have no idea what I want,
Cadali.

CADALI

No, but I know what you don't want.
You don't want to be running around
behind Barakat on a lead like his
dog.

GREGOR

I could have you killed for saying
that.

CADALI

Once you could, but not any more.

GREGOR

You damned fool, I was going to
throw you out of the window.

CADALI

But you didn't, Gregor. Shall I
tell you something else? Hm? Once
your threats mattered - now,
somehow, they don't.

2.18A EXT. CITY WALLS - DAY

2.18A

Gregor is WALKING. We can hear the call to prayer.

GREGOR (V.O.)

I can feel the stone of the city walls, smell the stink of the streets, see the minarets and hear the call to prayers and yet I feel as insubstantial as a ghost. Was Qulan right? Have I become as nothing?

Overhead a crow CAWS as it flies past.

GREGOR (V.O.)

... The shadow of bird in the dusk?

2.19 INT. CAFE - DAY

2.19

Manel is SERVING when Khaled ENTERS. She finishes POURING tea and CROSSES to his table.

MANEL

Good morning, Effendi, how may we serve you?

KHALED

Mint tea and mamoul. If you have any left.

MANEL

We have a few. Almond or rose water?

KHALED

(sotto)

When I go, I will leave my scarf behind. Run after me with it.

(loud)

Rose water. And please, hurry.

Manel GOES OFF.

MIX TO:

2.20 EXT. CAFE - DAY

2.20

Khaled is LEAVING. He WALKS into the street. Soldiers PASS. He WALKS a few paces and then, off, we hear Manel APPROACHING.

MANEL

Effendi, you forgot this.

KHALED

Thank you.
(sotto)
Come.

The STEP inside a shelter.

KHALED (CONT'D)

Do you truly want to join us, be
part of our struggle?

MANEL

Yes, yes I do.

KHALED

There is a doctor travelling out of
the city, going via Dar Salah. One
guide. You will join their party,
say you are a slave, you were
separated from your master when
your party was attacked by
bandits... They will accept you.

MANEL

Then what?

KHALED

Travel with them, kill the doctor
and the guide, bury the bodies in
the sand.

MANEL

But why, what have they done?

KHALED

It is not for you to know, Manel.
We all of us obey orders. If we are
taken, we can betray nothing
because we know nothing.

(beat)

Do you have money? You will need
money. To pay the smugglers to get
through the city walls for
transport.

MANEL

I have a little from the cafe and
my mother has some savings... only
small.

KHALED

Then take her savings. You can keep
whatever you find on the travellers
after the kill.

MUSIC.

End of Episode 2.02.