

CHARACTER: HRH EMIR SULAIMAN MAIYAKI

AGE: Late 50s

2. INT. EMIR'S PALACE- - EVENING- CONTINUOUS

Kalifah and Emir are sitting down in the emir's Private Audience Room, Emir on a stool and Kalifah on the floor.

KALIFAH

I cannot understand why anyone would think being an Emir is just wearing a turban and smiling...

Emir chuckles

EMIR

You see? I have been saying it..but I am confident you will do it. You have been performing remarkably well and I think the Council has taken to you well enough...

KALIFAH

Na gode, Baba

EMIR

Your mother would have been proud of you

Kalifah looks at his father, whose face has softened in memory

KALIFAH

I hope so. You must miss her

EMIR

Yes...especially at hard moments. She was a good woman.

Emir turns to Kalifah

EMIR (CONT'D)

You know...there is a lot to be said about a good woman. Sometimes, in the midst of all the noise and the endless voices around you, there is the calm that comes with a soft voice...a good heart...

KALIFAH

I wish I had known her more...my mother.

EMIR

She was a queen; that woman. The moment I saw her I knew...I knew that she had a quality that was...extraordinary.

KALIFAH

(chuckling)

She sounds like an angel...

Emir gives a fond laugh

EMIR

Ah...she was good. And you know, the thing that kept us going until God saw fit to take her was that we had mutual respect for each other. I valued her ideas and conversation...which in the end, is what most women want: respect.

He turns to Kalifah to give him a pointed look

You have a good one too. Your wife Salamatu is a good wife...

KALIFAH

Naziha! You mean Baba

EMIR

(Looks a bit confused, realizing he had forgotten the name)

Ah! Yes Naziha... Anyway no matter what you do, respect her. Don't forget it- distractions or not...there are queens...and there are servants...

Kalifah seems to understand

KALIFAH

Na gane, Baba. You are right.

Emir smiles at him and Kalifah stifles a yawn as he rises up slowly

KALIFAH (CONT'D)

Baba I am sorry but...I can hardly keep my eyes open. I think I will say good night here. Sai da safe (good night)

EMIR

Allah kai mu (May Allah see us  
through)

His father nods and Kalifah turns and leaves the room. He meets a dogari (palace guard) and a tired aide in the hall and as they walk he picks out his phone and pauses, sees a message opens it and its a text from Lottie " PLEASE I HAVE TO SEE YOU ITS URGENT, CALL ME TOMORROW". He stops and 'remembers' her and after a few moments, then stares into the space in front of him for some seconds, shakes his head. Brings out the phone SIM card and destroys it. Crushes the phone under his foot. The dogari and aide look in horror and he looks at the aide

KALIFAH

I want a new phone...and new number  
tomorrow, ka ji?

The aide nods and Kalifah struts ahead

FADE OUT.