

CHARACTER: KALIFAH

AGE: 39/40

23. INT. KALIFAH'S HOTEL SUITE- MORNING

Kalifah comes out of his room, showered and refreshed and meets Waziri in the sitting area of his expansive suite. He sits down to join him for tea and a light breakfast.

KALIFAH

So...I assume you are already aware of my plans to run for Office?

WAZIRI

Well...we have heard rumours

KALIFAH

No need to pay coy, Waziri. I know how the Palace network operates and I know that my father has kept tabs on me for a long time. I expect that.

Waziri leans back, cup of tea in his hand

WAZIRI

Well...as long as we are speaking plainly- you must know that your plan to run for Governor displeases your father. He has always expected you to be Emir after he is gone. He believes you would make a great leader.

KALIFAH

Which is precisely why I intend to run. I feel I would be far more use to myself and others in a democratic setting. I have very little use for all these traditional stools and have no interest in becoming Emir

WAZIRI

But...you can still make an impact as Emir, can you not? You would still be able to rule and to lead

KALIFAH

Not to the extent that I would as Governor

He gets up and gestures, impassioned by his feelings

KALIFAH (CONT'D)

There are so many projects and issues to focus on not just for the Kowa emirate but for the entire state, with all its local governments- a wider reach, actually. More has to be done for health and education and development than the emirate has power for, even my own father. And i can only harness all that as Governor.

Waziri nods, makes a noise in his throat and appears to think. Kalifah goes in to probe

KALIFAH (CONT'D)

I am surprised you are not protesting as much as I thought you would

WAZIRI

(shrugging)

You seem to have made up your mind already, Wambai. Why argue? Besides...it would not be the first time an Emir...or soon-to-be Emir has given up the Throne

KALIFAH

Really?

WAZIRI

Yes...but it is not a story that is repeated often. It seems sometime in the 17th century, one of the heirs of Kowa abdicated in favour of the affections of a strange woman. Some accused the lady of being a witch. It didnt matter anyway because the Prince was banished and after he left with her, was never seen again.

Kalifah chuckles and shakes his head

KALIFAH

Well...that will teach us not to rebel, eh?

Waziri laughs and shakes his head

WAZIRI

Well...a man has to follow his path
and destiny as set by God...and you
have chosen to follow what you
believe is yours. I cannot stop you

KALIFAH

And the Emirate?

WAZIRI

It will continue and somehow, it
will go on

Kalifah nods in satisfaction.

KALIFAH

I am glad to see that you
understand things my way

Waziri gives an enigmatic smile

WAZIRI

Well, it is not my opinion that
matters in this. It is yours and
your father's. I hope that perhaps
in the end, all will work out
according to God's Will

KALIFAH

It most certainly will. Well...we
should go now. I'm sure my father
is anxious already.

They both rise.