

CHARACTER: WAZIRI

AGE: Late 50s

9. INT. PALACE COURTYARD- LATE AFTERNOON

Waziri meets Hajiya in the court yard as usual.

HAJIYA

And how is our young Prince?

Waziri looks around shiftily and speaks in hushed tones

WAZIRI

Kalifah is determined to have his way. I was able to prevent him from seeing the Emir but...I fear he may insist on an audience and I don't know how much longer I can stall that

HAJIYA

Well, its not as if the boy comes to Kowa often or keeps in contact with his father much anyway

WAZIRI

I am still not too sure of how this will work...especially as I am starting to suspect that Makama knows something

HAJIYA

Something about what? How would he know anything?

WAZIRI

Honestly, I don't know but lately he has just been...strange. I need to keep an eye on that man and keep him away from Kalifah too

HAJIYA

(impatient sigh)

Isn't there a way to get a Doctor to declare my husband unfit to rule?

Waziri laughs and shakes his head

WAZIRI

Which doctor in Kowa will you get to do that? And more importantly: who will believe him?

Hajiya makes a noise of impatience

HAJIYA

Well, with the way he has been losing his mind recently I...

WAZIRI

Hajiya, hankali fa. (*Take it easy*)
As much as I agree with your idea that Hamza should be the next Emir, there is no need to disrespect the present one

HAJIYA

Oh stop pretending that you are so clean and moral, Waziri. We both know I speak the truth. He *is* losing his mind! He forgets where he is, names and just stares at the air as if he can see jinns dancing. It is only a matter of time before it becomes embarrassingly obvious he cannot rule. And we must be ready to fill the vacuum

WAZIRI

I understand, Hajiya. I think it best to let Kalifah go on with his race and then let Hamza slowly step in as the Emir bows out...

HAJIYA

Either willingly or not

Waziri pauses, taken aback

WAZIRI

Hajiya, honestly...sometimes your tone makes me wonder

HAJIYA

(mirthless chuckle)
Wonder all you like, Waziri. You are already in this and you should know that when I set my mind to something: I get it. After all, I married into royalty, didn't I? Just as your daughter will someday...if you do the needful.

Then she walks away, leaving a bewildered.

FADE TO BLACK.