


KNIGHT

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# THE SAND

Ext/Day/The Beach

Tanzania, Arabic Ships are off the coast, a large tribe of Black men, women and children are in chains being led to small boats to be taken to the larger ship, two of the men are chained together, the two men are brothers ABASI and AADI (Both in their mid 20s tall and muscular) The two brothers are hunters who are tracking an animal they arrive at the coast and see people being lead away into boats, suddenly someone has come from behind and knocked them out. As they awake they look around them

ABASI

Have you ever seen a boat like that

AADI

What happened to all these people, why are we being taken with them,

One of the Arabic men sees the brothers talking and hits them with a stick to shut them up, Aadi looks at the old man in front of him in chains who is moving slowly, Aadi looks around at the women and children who are constantly crying, Aadi looks at his brother who is also looking around.

AADI

We must get back home

ABASI

(Nods) what about the others

AADI

We help who we can

The brothers are packed onto the transport boat and they sail towards the ship, as soon as they board the ship everyone is chained to the boat, all the slaves are standing on the deck as the Arabic captain shouts orders to the crew to prepare to set sail, The captain looks down and the slaves and smirks, of of the crew men address the captain MALIK.

CREW

Captain here is the total number

(CONTINUED)

CAPTAIN MALIK

Any losses on the way?

CREW

(Shows a hand of 5)

The Captain looks at the numbers that's handed to him

CAPTAIN MALIK

We need to stop on the way, some of this cargo have been promised as tribute for safe passage, the rest we take back home, raise the sails and let's get going.

The crew member instructs the crew to set sail as the captain turns to the slaves.

CAPTAIN MALIK

I am Malik, look at the person next to you on each side, if you try to escape I will kill the person next to you (slaves chained in 2's most of the men attached to a child)

Aadi looks at his brother on one side then on his other side a young girl is chained to him, the girl looks up at Aadi scared and crying, Aadi holds her hand and looks down at her trying to brave a smile.

AADI

Don't cry, don't let them see your pain

The sails go up and the ship set sails towards the sun

The slaves are below the ship

The night falls and Aadi looks through a small gap to see the stars in the sky, his brother is asleep, the little girl is awake also looking through a gap

AADI

Look up, do you see the brightest one on the left

(CONTINUED)

LITTLE GIRL

Yes, what is that

AADI

If you follow that star you will  
find your way home.

LITTLE GIRL

What is going to happen to us?

AADI

I do not know, where is your  
mother?

LITTLE GIRL

They killed her, do you have any  
children?

AADI

I have a little girl about your  
height, I hope to see her again  
soon.

LITTLE GIRL

What is her name?

AADI

Adimu maybe she could be your  
friend, what do you think?

The little girl smiles and Asdi smiles back

The following day

The slaves are on the top deck eating fruits and bread  
the slaves look at the crew members who are all facing  
the same direction with their hands out praying

ABASI

What are they doing?

AADI

I don't know?

Aadi looks at the girl who has finished her fruit but is  
still hungry, Aadi gives her his, Abasi looks at his  
brother

ABASI

Why did you do that, you will  
need your strength as well

(CONTINUED)

Abasi takes a bite from his fruit, pauses and hands his brother the rest begrudgingly

ABASI

Do you think we have gone far, it  
looks like the sea never ends

AADI

It has to end somewhere.

Fade out

Night fall arrives again, everyone on the ship is asleep, suddenly they are all awoken by the sharp jolt, the ship shakes and bobs hard, there is a storm, an uncontrollable storm, the captain is awoken and the crew are all hands on, Aadi and Abasi look at each other as screams and nervousness fill the boat amongst the slaves, the little girl is scared and hugs onto Aadi.

ABASI

What is happening

AADI

It looks like their gods are  
angry with them, the sea will  
have no mercy,

The captain is on the top deck holding on and shouting instructions to his crew, one of the crew members freezes and looks directly at the captain, the captain slowly turns around to be met with an astronomical sized wave which hovers over the now tiny looking ship at the same time Aadi looks through the crack of the boat at the approaching wave, he grips the child and looks at his brother, his brother looks back at his now scared brothers face

AADI

HOLD ON!

The wave crashes over the boat sending bodies flying as screams fill the air

CUT TO BLACK

## THE TASTE OF FREEDOM

Ext/Day/Washed up on a beach in Northern Africa

Fade in

The silent sound airs as the waves gently hit the edge of the sand, the beach filled with parts of a wrecked ship and dead bodies of crew and slaves, amongst them is Abasi,

Abasi slowly raises his head out of the sand and looks at the devastation, his chains are broken

ABASI

Aadi!

Abasi looks around for his brother and cannot see him amongst the dead, Abasi looks out into the sea then back to the land, he's overwhelmed and scared as he doesn't know what lays ahead, Abasi scavenges around and finds a knife and a satchel and walks away from the wreckage.



In a small pile of sand a hand slowly emerges into the open air, Aadi pulls himself out of the sand injured with Debris lodged into his ribs and his body cut and bruised.

Aadi can feel a pulling on the chains and quickly thinks if the little girl, he pulls in the chain quickly fearing for the worst only to pull in an empty chain dragging broken debris, Aadi lays back on his back with his hand on the piece of wood sticking out of his ribs and pulls it out with intensity just as he lets out a scream of pain, Aadi drags himself in the sand away from the wreckage before passing out again.

Aadi opens his eyes and looks up to a ceiling above him, he tilts his head and sees that his wound has been patched up and the chains are removed, an old black woman comes into the room and sees that Aadi is awake, she turns around and leaves, momentarily two men (Arab looking) come in and help the injured Aadi up and out towards the courtyard.

A small rounded Arab is shouting at the workers, Aadi notices that a lot of the workers are dark skin (black) the two guards bring Aadi to the small rounded man.

The small rounded man ALI looks at Aadi and his patched

(CONTINUED)

up wounds

ALI

Mark him, Feed him and put him to  
work, build his strength back up,  
he is young and strong, (grabs  
Aadi's arm), very good.

Ali turns away as Aadi is taken away by the two guards.

Aadi is taken to a man who is heating up a piece of iron,  
Aadi is held down and his wrist exposed, the man heating  
up the iron takes it out of the fire and brands Aadi,

Aadi is given food then put out to work, labouring hard  
to rebuild the main building which had broken away.

Aadi is mixing clay,

Aadi is working throughout the day in the hot sun, he  
pauses to catch his breath, as he does he looks around  
and sees different workers of different races all  
working, the worker next to him (black 50) looks at Aadi

WORKER

Don't stop, if you do they will  
punish you

Aadi looks at the older man and the scars on his body, he  
picks up his equipment and continues to work, the old man  
nods at Aadi

AADI

How long have you been here

WORKER

A very long time, I can't even  
remember home

AADI

How did you get here

WORKER

I was a warrior, my tribe were at  
war, we did not win, as a  
condition of war we were taken as  
slaves, eventually we were sold  
to this man, here you work or you  
die

(CONTINUED)

AADI

What was you fighting over

WORKER

(Laughs) pride, stupid pride, we should off united but pride defeated us, I guess it's a story that is continuously written by man, I always think if all the tribes were one, we could grow as one, but that is just an old mans dream, what about you, what happened to you?

AADI

Me and my brother were hunting, we were tracking for days, suddenly we came across something we had never seen before, a ship so big sitting in the sea, also our people in chains, we were attacked and put onto the ship, we ended in a storm, then I woke up in the sand and my brother was gone, I don't know if he is dead or in chains again, all I know is I need to get back home.

WORKER

Home, I have tried many times (looks at his wounds) this is why they chain me, I fear I will never see home again in this lifetime, but you are young, strong, I hope you will do what I failed to do, you will find a way.

One of the guards calls out

GUARD

You two, less talking, start loading up the bricks

Aadi and the old man lower their heads as Aadi looks at the stick in the guards hand and the knife in his belt, all the workers are loading up the blocks that they were making with the clay getting ready to transport into the city

(CONTINUED)



Ali is walking around frantic shouting at everyone so that he can get moving to deliver the blocks

ALI

What is taking so long, we must go, move quicker. YALLAH!

The cargo is loaded and the convoy is on the move, Ali is in his carriage with all his comforts and the slaves are walking behind with the merchandise, Ali is talking to his second in command in the carriage

ALI

I want to get there a day early, make sure they all eat I don't want to loose anybody like we did last time. (Sighs)

SECOND IN COMMAND

What is it, indigestion again?

ALI

No, I don't like dealing with Asim, all he does is provoke and all I do is fall for it. I don't like seeing him

SECOND IN COMMAND

If you wish I can do the negotiations for you, that way you can avoid him

ALI

No, he will feed from that, I have to, I just wont fall for his tactics, he is a snake.....Arh.. Now I have indigestion.

The convoy walk through the night and day, as the sun breaks and reaches to the highest point the convoy arrives at the city. Ali is notified

SECOND IN COMMAND

We have arrived

As the convey arrives at the city Asim is at the gates awaiting the arrival, Ali dismounts from his carriage with smiles and the two greet

(CONTINUED)

ALI

Asim!

ASIM

How was your journey, you are a day early?

ALI

We had a good journey, my men are strong

ASIM

Not like the last lot I see, you have some good stock.

The second in command is shouting and instructing the men to start unloading and moving the heavy blocks to where they need to be while Ali and Asim re unite

ASIM

Come we have many things to discuss

Asim and Ali walk off into the beautiful grounds, they are sitting in the courtyards drinking tea served to them by a slave.

ALI

So, are you going to try and haggle me with the prices

ASIM

Of course, but we can get to that later, I have more important news to share with you

ALI

What is it?

ASIM

There is talk of war coming

ALI

War is always coming, this is nothing new

ASIM

No, this one is different, not your normal conquest, things are happening, foreign countries are aligning, this one cannot be

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ASIM (cont'd)

avoided, we might have to give up  
what we have, they will come for  
our men, our slaves to.

ALI

It would not be in their  
interest, the reason why we are  
in this business is because of  
war, they destroy and we make the  
blocks to rebuild.

ASIM

It's not that easy, it is  
something you cannot appose

ALI

Who wants to take my slaves, who  
dares

ASIM

Saladin. I have been asked to  
compensate you, pay you  
handsomely for your men

Two slaves enter carrying a chest full of gold and place  
it next to Ali, Ali doesn't even look at the gold and  
stares at Asim.

ALI

Saladin, What is this, I am  
insulted,

ASIM

This is what is offered, it  
should cover you for any losses,  
the woman and the children you  
may keep, but the men, they must  
remain, also, on his victory you  
will be further compensated for  
your contributions

ALI

Who says he will win

ASIM

Saladin has never lost

(CONTINUED)

ALI

And if I refuse?

ASIM

This is not wise Ali, you are my brother, refusal will mean death, I cannot protect you on this, I have given up all of mine already, this is what I'm left with.

ALI

So there is no negotiation then, this is a order

ASIM

This is our new master, this is for our future

ALI

Your master, he has already taken from me, now he wants more!

ASIM

Please brother, calm down, have more tea, please, here, drink.

Ali takes a fresh cup of tea and exhales, as he drinks he nods is a disheartened agreement to his brothers request.

ALI

As you can see I am not happy, so?

ASIM

How about a little entertainment and a small wager this evening, maybe if you redeem yourself tonight things might feel better for you.

ALI

That would make me feel better, what is the wager

ASIM

If I win I do not pay for my next shipment of blocks, I'm thinking of building another section to

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ASIM (cont'd)

the property, and you? IF you win  
(laughs)

ALI

Don't be so sure of yourself  
brother, today might be that day  
the milk turns sour for you

ASIM

I see, ok, accept my apologies,  
what is it you desire?

ALI

Well since you are taking my men  
I will take a quarter of your  
animal stock, camels, goats,  
agree?

ASIM

Agreed, and obviously the ones  
that you do not have on paper we  
know nothing about (both men  
smile)

Night falls and town is alive with music and enjoyment,  
the two brothers are surrounded by music, food and  
dancing, Ali's second in command is with a guard walking  
through the slave quarters with a flame for light the  
slaves are all asleep from exhaustion.

SECOND IN COMMAND

Who is the strongest one here

GUARD

One of the new ones that arrived,  
I think his name is Aadi,

SECOND IN COMMAND

Aadi that is the one who has been  
doing the old mans work as well,  
ok point him out.

GUARD

Here he is?

The Guard shines the light over Aadi, Aadi's eyes adjust  
and slowly open to see the two men standing over him

(CONTINUED)

SECOND IN COMMAND

Come with us

Aadi is sitting in a room nervously, Ali draws back the curtain and walks in, the music drowns behind him, Aadi is pulled up by the guard.

ALI

Is this him?

SECOND IN COMMAND

Yes, this is him

Ali inspects Aadi and smiles, he looks at his second in command and smiles again

ALI

Get him ready, yes, (addresses Aadi) Win and I will give you you freedom, do you understand?

Aadi looks directly into Ali's eyes

AADI

Yes

ALI

Yes (looks back at his second in command) YES!

Ali walks out laughing and still shouting YES!

Ali sits next to Asim with a huge smile on his face

ASIM

What are you up to brother

ALI

Why, are you nervous?

ASIM

Not at all, not at all.

Asim stands up and the music stops

ASIM

Bring on my champion

The drums begin to play and out comes the biggest Arab, muscular and tall, he walks out into the centre in front

(CONTINUED)

of Ali and Asim with his dagger ready.

Ali looks at the big man.

ASIM

You still feeling confident  
brother?

ALI

Why wouldn't I

Ali looks over to the guard and gives him a nod

The guard goes in and Aadi walks out, the guard puts a  
knife in his hand, Aadi walks a stands next to the huge  
Arabic man, Asim looks at Aadi

ASIM

He looks promising

ALI

Yes he does

Asim stands and faces the crowd and addresses the two  
warriors

ASIM

It's simple, win by a kill and be  
rewarded like a king....Begin.

The music and Jeering start and the two fighters face  
off.

A continuous battle of skill and courage play out with  
each warrior slicing each other, the Arabic man can see  
that he is loosing the faith of Asim as Ali is excited in  
celebrations

ALI

Yes, Yes, Yes, (laughter)

Out of desperation the Arabic man lunges out but Aadi is  
to quick and counters the acton slicing the man across  
his abdomen, the Arabic man stops and Aadi looks up at  
the large man, Ali is on his feet and Asim is waiting in  
anticipation, the Arabic man drops knife as his stomach  
slowly opens up and his intestines fall out and the man  
falls to his knees

(CONTINUED)

ALI

Kill him, kill him now!

The Arab looks up at Aadi, Aadi tightens his grip around the handle of the knife

ARABIC MAN

Please..

ALI

Kill that dog! NOW!

Aadi drives the blade into the Arabic mans heart and turns to the cheers of Ali and the man lays dead behind him, Asim is full of disappointment as Ali continues to cheer

ALI

My champion, look at him, well done! well done! (Turns to his brother) Well brother, it looks like your reign has come to an end

ASIM

(Stands up and hugs his brother)  
Well done, you have a true champion, you want to sell him to me?

ALI

No, no, no, I like this one, now that I have no more men to make blocks I will have a new venture with my champion

Ali looks at his second in command to come and take Aadi away

ALI

Reward him, food, woman,

Ali's second in command leads Aadi out and into another room where women are waiting to seduce him, they come up to him with cloths cleaning Aadi's wounds and rubbing ointment all over him, Aadi looks at the women and the food on display as he is pulled down onto silk sheets and the woman cover him with their bodies.

Fade out.



## A NEW PATH

Int/Day/ Aadi awakes

Aadi looks up from the silk bed alone, Ali is in front of him eating some dates

ALI

Did you enjoy last night, the victory, the power, the women?

AADI

You said I would be free to go

ALI

Yes, yes I did, but after what I saw I have changed my mind, you have brought me luck Aadi and I wish for that luck to continue, so here is what I offer you, your life for a better life, win for me and in return you will have this life, a better living than what you had before. Or, you can go back to braking your back in the hot sun. you decide, I'll give you to the time I finish this date.

Ali puts the last date in his mouth and chews on it while staring at Aadi, Ali swallows the date and stares at Aadi

AADI

Ok, I will fight

Ali smiles and is pleased that he has gotten his own way.

Fade out

Aadi is battling and winning destroying his opponents one by one, Ali celebrates each victory and Aadi is rewarded with, women and jewels, wearing new clothes and looking different.

Aadi is walking through the town unaware that he is being followed by one of Ali's men.

Aadi walks into a merchants and speaks to someone, the guard following spies on Aadi and sees him giving away a golden bangle over the counter, Aadi walks out not noticing the man Ali sent to Spy on him.

(CONTINUED)

As Aadi walks away the spy goes into the merchants and hands over a bag of gold, the merchant whispers to the spy.

Ali is in his main hall with his second in command

ALI

The Betrayal, the disloyalty, who does he think he is, we gave him everything, he was just a dog when we got him, see to it, I want him punished

SECOND IN COMMAND

What will you have me do? 100 lashes?

ALI

No, he cannot be broken that way, I need him to suffer for a lifetime, maybe his time is done, how many fights has he done now?

SECOND IN COMMAND

24 my lord

ALI

24, and that last one, it wasn't his best win was it?

SECOND IN COMMANDS

No my lord

ALI

Maybe his time has expired, maybe thats why he's trying to go, no? I will send him on his way, I will give him something memorable so that everyday he will know how grateful and merciful I am, arrange a match for tonight.

The second in command bows and leaves Ali

Fade out

Int/Night/

The last fight is taking place in the grounds surrounded by the same music and jeering, Ali is sitting alone watching instantly, Aadi is waiting as the old man is

(CONTINUED)

helping him prepare for his fight.

AADI

Everything is ready, after this  
we go, I have arranged a boat to  
take us, take us away from this  
land and towards home.

WORKER

I will get everything ready and  
meet you at the docks as planned,  
make sure you win

AADI

I will. Wait for me old man

The old man nods and smiles as Aadi is ready and exits  
the tent and steps into the mini arena, Aadi looks at his  
opponent then at Ali

ALI

Begin.

Aadi and the opponent circle each other and begin to  
fight.

The old man is gathering things and putting them into a  
satchel and makes his way out of the compound sneaking  
past the guards.

Aadi fights with might and finishes his opponent, the  
place fills with cheers, Aadi looks at Ali who smiles at  
Aadi, a purse of gold is handed to Ali, Aadi stares and  
leaves.

Aadi is taking care of his wounds when Ali comes into see  
him, Aadi doesn't stand up and greet Ali and Ali notices  
but says nothing of it, he just looks at Aadi.

ALI

Well done Ali, you fought with  
might tonight, I didn't think you  
was going to redeem yourself  
after the last fight, I thought  
you was on the verge of giving up

AADI

No my lord, I was just not  
feeling well that time, but I am  
back to myself now

(CONTINUED)

ALI

Thats comforting to hear, very good

Ali looks around the room

ALI

I notice you have no women around you tonight to care for you

AADI

No my lord, I thought I would rest and gather my strength for the next opponent

ALI

Good strategy, to much of a women make men weak, we wouldn't want you to loose your focus

AADI

As always you are wise my lord

ALI

Well let me leave you to rest, now that you are back to good form we can arrange more fights for you to win and make me richer.

Ali turns and leaves Aadi alone.

As the night continues and all is quiet, Aadi awakes and takes what he can, he climbs over the main wall and heads towards the docks, he sees a burning flame and heads towards it with more haste, as Aadi draws closer he stops, the man holding the flame is Ali's second in command and by his feet is the old man, dead with his throat cut, out of the shadows Ali appears holding the bangle that Aadi gave to the merchant, Ali looks at Aadi.

ALI

You people never cease to amaze me, always predictable, never grateful, disloyal and easily conquered, did you think you would succeed? Look what you did to one of my oldest workers, you fed him hope but served him death but don't worry, your fate will be much worse, the pain that you

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ALI (cont'd)  
will endure you will BEG! Me to  
end your life. Take him away.

The guards grab Aadi and drag him away

SECOND IN COMMAND  
What will you have done?

ALI  
I'm wondering did we ever  
register Aadi?

SECOND IN COMMAND  
Not of my knowledge

ALI  
Then he isn't saved by our slave  
laws, maybe I'll feed him to the  
animals or break his back and  
leave him a cripple to beg in the  
city, what would you do to  
someone whom you've brought into  
your home and betrays you like  
this.

SECOND IN COMMAND  
I would cut off his feet so that  
running away would only be a  
thing of dreams

ALI  
You always take things too far, I  
will sell him to my brother, he  
is much crueler than me, even  
more than you.

Aadi is sitting in a cage, he looks up towards the stars  
and sees the star he saw from when he was on the ship

AADI  
Abasi, if you are there I hope  
you have made it home, I will be  
coming, wait for me.

Fade out

Int/Day/ Ali's Plan

Ali walks out into his courtyard and sees Aadi in the  
cage he walks over to him and looks down into the cage,  
Aadi hasn't slept and is sitting up looking at Ali

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ALI

You know, last night I was struggling to find ways to punish you, but then I remembered the words my father gave me, you want to know what he said, he said "we are the masters over our slaves but we are not the master of the bag that they carry" those words came back to me last night, until then I can't remember when I last thought of my father, maybe he is guiding me, I shouldn't punish you for what you carry but I will punish you for the betrayal. I never want to see you again unless its at your death.

Aadi is being transported with other men heading towards the desert, they all look at him knowing who he was and what had happened.

AADI

Where are we going?

SLAVE

I heard that we are to work for Saladin

AADI

Who is Saladin

All the slaves look at him

SLAVE

He is a mighty warrior, they say he will be the one to take Jerusalem back

AADI

What is a Jerusalem

SLAVE

It is a place where everyone is equal, free to live, all colour of people, there we can be who we want to be without fear.

(CONTINUED)

AADI

Free, so I need to get to  
Jerusalem.

All the slaves laugh, Aadi looks angry at them

AADI

Why are you laughing at me

SLAVE

Don't you know, have you not  
worked It out, look at our skin,  
look at our colour, we are not  
like them or the other slaves,  
here in this country it is  
different.

AADI

How, what do you mean?

SLAVE

The only way you cannot be a  
slave is if you become Muslim

AADI

Then I will become muslim

SLAVE

But, even if you do, because of  
our colour they will not allow  
you freedom like the others, but  
in Jerusalem they have another  
thing where all men are equal,  
but I don't know much about that  
one that they call Jesus.

AADI

How do you know about all of  
these things

SLAVE

I was not born a slave, I was a  
scholar, I can read, write, I  
taught science.

AADI

Read, what is that?

The slave takes a pistachio shell from the floor and  
scratches something out, when he finishes he looks at  
Aadi

(CONTINUED)

AADI

What is that? What does that mean?

SLAVE

That is your name

Aadi looks at the markings in front of him

AADI

(Mouths his name) I have never seen my name before, show me more.

Over the journey the scholar shows all the other slaves many things and tells many stories

AADI

So you are a teacher, let me ask you, if you had to choose who would you go with, Saladin or the invaders

SLAVE

I would go with neither, they both poses the same greed, and desires as they both sing the same song but in different tongues.

AADI

I don't understand

SLAVE

You have more than two choices, our people have more than one story, more than one path, we have history, education, inventors yet we are the same as well, maybe it is the curse of man always wanting to conquer. Never limit yourself Aadi follow your heart and your path will become clear, what is it you want?

AADI

I want to be back home, hunting with my brother, eating fruit from the land, smelling the land after it rains and feeling the

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)



AADI (cont'd)  
sun again on my skin.

SLAVE  
But the sun is everywhere,  
sometimes you find home where  
your heart sits, your home will  
always be, maybe you can bring  
home with you to different places  
and show the world the beauty  
that you see.

AADI  
But how can I do this?

SLAVE  
You will see what I mean over  
time, in the meantime let me  
teach you about what man believes  
in.

Night has fallen and the guards and the slaves have made  
a fire under the clear night, the slaves share food and  
the guards eat their own, Aadi looks up at the stars  
staring in one direction.

SLAVE  
Which one is your star Aadi

AADI  
That one there (points at star)

SLAVE  
Do you think you will see home  
again

AADI  
Yes. Yes I will.

Fade out

The group is traveling and hit a sand storm, the storm is  
so heavy that everyone disappears from everyones sight.

Fade out

The sand settles and clears, Aadi is face down in the  
sand all alone.

A man on a horse is traveling and sees Aadi half buried,  
the Man is traveling with another person, the man on the  
horse dismounts, bends down and takes Aadi's hand, he

(CONTINUED)

sees the branding on his wrist and the fingers move.

Aadi is placed over a horse and the man continues on his journey.

The man arrives at the city of Jerusalem and walks through a guarded gate

Two giant doors open and Jesus is displayed on a cross in the background

The man takes off his robes that were protecting him from the elements to show his holy clothing underneath, FATHER ROBERTS (white male)

PRIEST

Welcome back father Roberts, how was the journey?

FATHER ROBERTS

Nothing a good wash would not fix, could you see to it that that man is taken and looked after

PRIEST

Who is he?

FATHER ROBERTS

I don't know yet, maybe another lost soul sent to us for saving, I will check up on him later, any news from France?

PRIEST

Not as of yet father

Father Roberts slowly walks towards the cross and bows at Jesus.

Fade Out

GODS GRACE

Int/Day/Infirmary

Aadi is laying down he slowly opens his eyes and sees  
Father Roberts looking down at him

FATHER ROBERTS

You seem to be recovering, my  
name is Roberts

AADI

(Points to himself) Aadi

FATHER ROBERTS

I found you in the desert, where  
was you coming from?

AADI

I do not know the name of the  
place, what is wrong with your  
skin?

FATHER ROBERTS

My skin? Oh my colour, yes, I am  
from another country, another  
place across the sea where there  
is more people of my colour

AADI

Are they all kind like you?

FATHER ROBERTS

Unfortunately I wasn't always  
that kind, some are better, some  
not so. I am wondering, when you  
are feeling better we can talk  
more, until then, eat and rest

Father Roberts walks out and is greeted by a priest

PRIEST

Father he has arrived

FATHER ROBERTS

Good I will see him immediately  
in my chambers, please inform the  
others

(CONTINUED)

PRIEST

As requested

Father Roberts sees something else that is bothering the young priest

FATHER ROBERTS

Is there anything else

PRIEST

I was just wondering, what is the importance of the visitor you found out there in the desert

FATHER ROBERTS

Why? have tongues been talking?  
Or is it because he is different in skin

PRIEST

Yes and no father, we accept every as equals, look at where we are, there are people of different colour and beliefs also a vast similarity in our lord and saviour, but... we have never had one within our house

FATHER ROBERTS

Well maybe we should open our doors a little wider to let more in, I care not for waging tongues only results that lead to peace, let me ask you this, does god speak to you?

PRIEST

I.....

FATHER ROBERTS

I did not mean it as an insult, you see god has only spoken to me twice, once before leading me into this spiritual path and again the other day in the desert when I came across our guest. Maybe he will speak to me again I don't know, but I do know this, there is purpose in his words, do you not agree

(CONTINUED)

PRIEST

Of course I agree father

FATHER ROBERTS

Good, then we are on the same  
page, now please, inform the  
others, we have work to do.

The priest bows to Father Roberts and hurries off.

Father Roberts makes his way to his chambers where a  
knight WILLIAM in a Templar uniform is waiting for him.

FATHER ROBERTS

William how was the journey

WILLIAM

Rough seas and drunken tongues

FATHER ROBERTS

What of England, did you manage  
to seek council about this  
crusade

WILLIAM

They won't listen, they have it  
stuck in their heads that these  
are savages and this land is to  
be claimed by christians, France  
are sending more knights

FATHER ROBERTS

Who will be leading them

WILLIAM

Pier

FATHER ROBERTS

I thought he was killed in  
Germany

WILLIAM

It looks like god has a sense of  
humour, he arrives soon, so, what  
is new with you, still wondering  
out feeding the poor and doing  
the lords work

FATHER ROBERTS

We have to care for everyone,  
even our enemies, thats what

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

FATHER ROBERTS (cont'd)  
makes us just

WILLIAM  
You know your sword still awaits  
you

FATHER ROBERTS  
I cannot return to that life and  
you must pray I don't either,  
when was the last time you had  
confession

WILLIAM  
Maybe we can do that tomorrow for  
tonight I fear I will be sinning  
while I'm drinking and singing

FATHER ROBERTS  
Always the soldier I see, come on  
let's go, let's not leave the  
others waiting.

Williams and Roberts leave the Fathers chambers and head  
towards the hall to meet the others

WILLIAM  
Everyone is here waiting, what is  
this about?

FATHER ROBERTS  
I have news that Saladin will is  
coming

WILLIAM  
Saladin!

FATHER ROBERTS  
  
This is only going to end one way

WILLIAM  
What of the king?

FATHER ROBERTS  
I fear for the worst, we have to  
come up with a solution,  
hopefully to avoid as much  
bloodshed as possible

(CONTINUED)

WILLIAM

What are you suggesting?

FATHER ROBERTS

A last resort and a pull on  
desperation, I'm just hoping I  
won't have to suggest it.

Father Roberts and William walk into the hall where the  
knights Templars are all seated, Father Roberts looks  
over and sees PIER

FATHER ROBERTS

Thank you all for coming, we have  
a lot to discuss, Pier I'm happy  
you made it safely

PIER

By gods grace father, by gods  
grace (sarcastic smile)

FATHER ROBERT

Right, I will get right to it as  
time is not our companion on this  
event.

Fade out

Father Roberts and William leave the council and are  
heading towards the infirmary

WILLIAM

Well did that go as well as you  
hoped

FATHER ROBERTS

Well no blood was spilled so it  
was ok, I knew they wouldn't be  
happy but the necessary needs to  
be done

WILLIAM

You do know what is suggested is  
suicide and as I remember, god  
doesn't doesn't condone suicide  
father.

FATHER ROBERTS

Selfless acts to save thousands  
is forgivable William, god will  
understand, I will pray for you

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

FATHER ROBERTS (cont'd)

all.

WILLIAM

Let me ask you one question

FATHER ROBERTS

Whats that?

WILLIAM

Your words, are those of a priest  
or a soldier

FATHER ROBERTS

I am always a soldier first, gods  
soldier, are you?

Both men smile at each other

FATHER ROBERTS

I just have to check up on  
someone then we can go and catch  
up and eat.

They both walk in to the infirmary and see Aadi up and  
about wearing trousers and a shirt tugging on them and  
fidgeting, as Father Roberts comes in with William Aadi  
looks at them both

AADI

What are these things?

Father Roberts smirks as William looks on at Aadi and his  
presence

FATHER ROBERTS

I see that you are up and about  
now, how are you feeling

AADI

You saved my life from the  
desert, where I am from you are  
now considered my brother.

FATHER ROBERTS

Thank you Aadi, praise god

AADI

What is this I should praise to,  
what is this god

(CONTINUED)



WILLIAM

Where are you from?

Aadi turns to William and steps to him, he looks at Williams Armour and sword handle

AADI

Who are you? are you a warrior?

WILLIAM

No I am a knight

AADI

A knight, What is a Knight? I have never heard of this name before

WILLIAM

I serve a higher purpose and protect the innocent and sometimes fight in the name of our lord and god

FATHER ROBERTS

I couldn't have put that more eloquently Sir William.

AADI

Are you a good Knight?

WILLIAM

I'd like to think I am

AADI

Are you sure you are a Knight, you are quite small, I have seen good warriors before but never a knight

WILLIAM

(Laughs) I assure you I am

FATHER ROBERT

Aadi can you tell us where you are from

AADI

My home is under the brightest star, in the day the sun is hot and the nights cool, animals run freely and the crops are plenty

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

AADI (cont'd)

for everyone to eat, as I count  
it is 5 days through the desert,  
3 more to the sea and then 3 more  
days after that, it seems  
everyday I keep moving further  
and further away from home

FATHER ROBERT

And the mark on your wrist, this  
is this the mark of a slave

AADI

I am no slave, I am Aadi

WILLIAM

I apologise Aadi, thats not what  
father Roberts meant, he just  
wanted to know where you got that  
mark from.

AADI

This I got from someone who took  
me and others, I got away, My  
brother is also out there  
somewhere

WILLIAM

Your brother?

AADI

I don't know where he is, but we  
will meet again I am sure of it.

FATHER ROBERT

Aadi, I would like you to stay  
with me for a while, I think we  
can learn from each other, you  
can stay here and help me, what  
do you think

AADI

I want to go home?

FATHER ROBERT

Yes of course you do and I will  
help you to get there, but while  
we wait let us learn from each  
other

(CONTINUED)

AADI

Why are you helping me?

FATHER ROBERT

Because, it is the right thing to do.

Father Roberts and Aadi smile at each other, Father Roberts turns to William and converses

WILLIAM

He's a fascinating one isn't he

FATHER ROBERT

Yes he is, that mark he has I have seen it before, its a place on the other side of the desert I think that is where he came from, I don't know how he survived that journey but he did

WILLIAM

What is so special about there

FATHER ROBERT

I was only there for a short time, those that had that mark are property of a man who enslaves, he trains them to killers, warriors, and then sells them to our enemies, if we can find out where maybe we can cut off their army, what do you think?

WILLIAM

Any advantage would be good, as you know their warriors are a force that keep coming, I've never battled such people before, once you find out the exact place then we can ride there, so, you're going to try and civilise our friend then.

FATHER ROBERT

Well, I will show him the way of the lord at least, yes why not, how else are we suppose to learn.

(CONTINUED)

WILLIAM

I will pray that your prayers are  
answered, I will see you later I  
must attend to my men before we  
leave

FATHER ROBERT

Leave?

WILLIAM

Yes, I have a task at hand that I  
must attend too, hopefully war  
can be avoided in the meantime.

William and Father Roberts exchange goodbyes and William  
leaves

William is on his horse riding out of the city towards a  
near village, he stops outside of a place, a small  
humble house, dismounts and walks in, inside is a  
beautiful woman (Arabic) and child, the child runs up to  
William saying daddy and the woman is happy and greets  
her husband.

PIER

Ext/Day/Walking through the market with his confidant

PIER

So the priest wants to send  
assassins in, to avoid a war.

CONFIDANT

It is a good plan

PIER

I didn't say it wasn't a good  
plan, I just want a war.

CONFIDANT

But the countless deaths can be  
avoided and we will be victorious

PIER

This is bigger than just a war,  
it's what it leads to after,  
are you with me or with them?

(CONTINUED)

CONFIDANT

With you of course

PIER

Throughout history what is it that you rememberer, the countless deaths that could have been saved or the victory and the glory of men, soldiers expect death, we welcome it, its the chance we take for glory, and for our name to be remembered through the times, and if Saladin is coming I want to be amongst the men to defeated him head on, man to man and NOT! Through the darkness of the night like a thief. Just as they fear the name Saladin so they will fear mine.

CONFIDANT

Well I have something that might sway things your way, lets just say you was right about the knights, it seems weakness falls amongst them, I had each other them followed as requested

PIER

And!

CONFIDANT

They have crossed over, their most sacred of vowels have been tarnished with fornication and breeding,

PIER

Who, who was it?

CONFIDANT

William, with child and wife, also Henry, I hear William is married to the woman but not in a traditional ceremony under god, more of a native ceremony as she is of this continent.

(CONTINUED)

(Flash back) We see a spy following William to see his wife and child

PIER

A conflict of interest I see, we can use this to our advantage.

CONFIDANT

What will you do?

PIER

I'm not sure yet, but we will have to act soon, if I know father Roberts he will put his plans in place as soon as he can, did you have him followed as well?

CONFIDANT

He has just returned from a pilgrimage but I hear he is harbouring a man from the Africas within the chambers of the house

PIER

What is he doing with one of those people, is he a servant, what is he?

CONFIDANT

I am told he saved him from the desert, that god spoke to him and brought him here for a purpose, no one knows of his presence except my source.

PIER

I'm now convinced that I have returned to madness, But this is also good, we can use this information. If we remove the influence then we can proceed into this war without hesitation. Keep an eye on them all I will let you know when we are to make our move.

Fade out.

## THE APPRENTICE

Int/day/Within the four walls

Father Roberts knocks on the door and opens it to see  
Aadi staring out of a small hole in the wall as a window

FATHER ROBERTS

Aadi are you okay

AADI

You know, I have looked out of  
this hole all night and I  
couldn't see my star, What am I  
doing here? Am I a prisoner?

FATHER ROBERT

No, you are not, you are my  
guest, I am your friend remember,  
brothers.

AADI

Then I can leave if I want to,  
yes? I have a brother, somewhere,  
I believe he is still alive, I  
need to find him and if he is  
dead I need to bury him.

FATHER ROBERT

Yes, and No, it is complicated,  
let me show you something, please  
come and look

Aadi walks over to Father Roberts who is holding a bible

FATHER ROBERT

Do you know what this is Aadi?

AADI

Yes it is a book?

FATHER ROBERT

(Surprised) yes, yes it is, do  
you have these back home

AADI

No, we do not have these things  
back home, a man told me about  
it, he told me man follow the  
words of two books

(CONTINUED)

FATHER ROBERT

Well there are many books but  
this one is called a bible

AADI

Yes, that is the name I heard,  
Bible, do you have the other book

FATHER ROBERT

Yes I have the other book but we  
only follow the one book, this is  
the one we read

AADI

But you have read the other book

FATHER ROBERT

No, no I haven't

AADI

Then how do you know which book  
is the right book to read

Father Roberts smiles at the simple logic

FATHER ROBERT

You know Aadi you are right, so  
can you read and write

AADI

I was also shown this

FATHER ROBERT

Really, can you show me

Aadi points to a wall where he has taken a stone and  
marked the wall with his name

AADI

This is writing, yes?

FATHER ROBERT

Yes, that is your name, can you  
write anything else?

AADI

This is all I was shown, what can  
you write?

(CONTINUED)



FATHER ROBERT

Let me teach you and then you can  
teach me about your home and what  
I can learn, let us share  
knowledge

AADI

When we have finished teaching  
and showing then I can go,

FATHER ROBERT

Yes, yes you can.

AADI

Then let us show each other now

Father Roberts smiles and nods with excitement

Father Roberts and Aadi are sitting together learning  
together, we first see Aadi sitting down and taking in  
the information by Father Roberts and then Father Roberts  
seated learning from Aadi

We see Aadi using a feather and ink to write and learning  
to read

Aadi is listening to a story from the bible that Father  
Roberts is reading

FATHER ROBERT

For in Christ Jesus you are all  
sons of God, through faith. For  
as many of you as we're baptised  
into Christ have put on Christ.  
There is neither Jew nor Greek,  
there is neither slave nor free,  
there is no male and female, for  
you are all one in Christ Jesus.  
And if you are Christ's, then you  
are Abraham's offspring, heirs  
according to promise.

AADI

I don't understand, so when I was  
a Slave I Wasn't? What does this  
mean?

FATHER ROBERT

Well the interpretation mean that  
we are all one under gods eye, if  
we all have the same faith then

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

FATHER ROBERT (cont'd)  
we wouldn't be divided we would  
all be equal

AADI  
Then who would rule if we are all  
the same

FATHER ROBERT  
God would rule

AADI  
And you said God is everywhere

FATHER ROBERT  
Yes, he lives in out hearts and  
mind and guides us to do what is  
right

AADI  
Then he sent his son and the  
people he was king of killed him  
on that big cross

FATHER ROBERT  
You put everything so brutal and  
truthful, but yes they did

AADI  
Tell me this, does god does not  
like black people

FATHER ROBERT  
I...I don't... NO, god loves  
everyone equal, it doesn't matter  
the colour

AADI  
His son, Jesus was Black and was  
killed by the Jew, the subjects  
of Jesus who is the king of the  
Jews, I am black, and when I was  
taken people with skin like mine  
tried to kill me as well and now  
people with your white skin want  
to kill the others with different  
coloured skin, why is everyone  
like this?

(CONTINUED)

FATHER ROBERT

I don't know, I can only say that  
not everyone is like that, I'am  
not like that. There is good and  
bad everywhere

AADI

So far I have not heard good  
without bad

FATHER ROBERT

Let me show you something

Father Robert takes Aadi out into Jerusalem, he takes him  
to a church the Holy Sepulchre

AADI

What is this place

FATHER ROBERT

Let me show you

Father Roberts takes Aadi into the church and shows Aadi  
around for him to see the angels and aposletes with  
black faces

AADI

I see, yes, these look more like  
my people, this one here, he  
looks at me, no?

FATHER ROBERT

Yes he does, yes he does.

FATHER ROBERTS ROOM

Aadi is looking around Father Roberts room while he is  
changing, on the table is books and papers, he then  
notices a silver ring on the table and picks it up and  
looks at it

AADI

You have this cross on  
everything, like your friend  
William on his clothes

Robert turns around to see what Aadi is holding and sees  
the ring in his hand, he walks over to him

(CONTINUED)

FATHER ROBERT

This is a Templars ring, i wore  
it a long time ago, William is  
also a Templar

AADI

What is a Templar

FATHER ROBERT

We are warriors also known as  
knights, never to retreat from a  
battle, to withhold for the  
religious order, always stay on  
the front line to protect the  
poor and the weak, to do gods  
work the best way we can.

AADI

But you do not fight like William  
does

FATHER ROBERT

No, not anymore,

Standing at the door listening is William

WILLIAM

However he still has his sword  
just incase

FATHER ROBERT

Only if it was truly just William

WILLIAM

So Aadi now that you have soaked  
in the good and bad of the world  
let me show you how to fight and  
defend it all

William and Aadi are in the courtyard with Father Roberts  
watching, William hands Aadi a broad sword, Aadi holds it

AADI

I have not seen a sword like this  
before

WILLIAM

I hear you was a hunter and you  
have some fighting experience

(CONTINUED)

AADI

Yes

WILLIAM

Good, ok, follow me

William and Aadi stand side by side while William demonstrates and shows Aadi how to hold, attack and defend with the broad sword.

William and Aadi are sparing and fighting, William the more skilful but Aadi the stronger

They both sit and take a break

WILLIAM

You fight strongly Aadi

AADI

So do you, in my country a warrior like you would have many wives

WILLIAM

Well that sounds promising  
(smiles) what about you? Do you have someone?

Aadi doesn't answer and avoids the question, he holds his sword checking out the weight and balance

AADI

The war that you will fight with this man

WILLIAM

Saladin

AADI

Yes, you will loose this fight

WILLIAM

Whys that

AADI

These swords are too heavy.

WILLIAM

Thats why our might must be strong, we can only do what is

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

WILLIAM (cont'd)  
expected of us and what is  
expected of us is greatness.

AADI  
The elders in my village would  
always say, the best way to eat  
an elephant in your path is to  
cut him up into little pieces

WILLIAM  
You know what, you are right,  
that gives me an idea, your  
elders are very wise.

William looks at Aadi in surprise, Father Roberts is  
looking at them both from a room above. Suddenly the  
gates to the courtyard open and Williams men come in

HENRY  
So this is where you have been  
hiding all day

GLEN  
Secretly training I see, and who  
is this, your new apprentice

WILLIAM  
Just in time, Aadi these are my  
men, let me introduce you, This  
is Henry, Glen, Daniel and  
Steven, Knights, this is Aadi

Each knight bows their heads with respect to Aadi and  
Aadi smiles and is made to feel welcome

HENRY  
Let's see what you have been  
taught Aadi, would you give me  
the honour?

Aadi smiles in acceptance and the rest of the men make  
room

WILLIAM  
He was trained by the best don't  
forget that

(CONTINUED)

STEVEN

He couldn't have been I was  
having breakfast

Everyone laughs as Henry and Aadi square up and spar with Aadi overpowering Henry moving swiftly and strategically causing confusion, Henry loses his balance and trips backwards only to look up to a tip of a sword that Aadi is holding, Henry smiles and Aadi offers his hand to help Henry back up as everyone cheers the victory.

HENRY

Well done, well done indeed

Henry gives William an acknowledgement nod and smiles

WILLIAM

Thats enough for today, we have  
many things to do

STEVEN

Can we at least eat first

DANIEL

Again? Are you trying to kill  
that poor horse of yours

GLEN

Lets work up an appetite men,

William turns to Aadi

WILLIAM

You to, you're one of us now

Aadi smiles and walks with the knights leaving the courtyard, William looks up at Father Roberts and bows his head to him.

Fade out.

JEALOUSY AND ENVY

Int/day/ inside the grounds

As the knights and Aadi are walking through the halls of the castle grounds, William is tailing behind, Pier sees him and grabs his attention

(CONTINUED)

PIER

Are we now trying to civilise the animals, I thought that was Noahs job

WILLIAM

You know Pier you never cease to amaze me, the pure ignorance and arrogance isn't becoming of you.

PIER

Yet here I am, so tell me, as enquiring minds are wondering who this mystery man of colour is and why is he so privileged to walk freely within these walls, I mean outside in the streets we see them all the time, but, they know their place, out there.

WILLIAM

And yet here is me thinking I was looking at a knight. I don't know what you are up to Pier, just trying to vex me or start trouble but, I will tell you this, we have more important tasks ahead, and pampering to your feelings is not one of them, that man is with me, and before your eyes he will stay so get used to it.

PIER

Of course you would sympathise with that kind wouldn't you

WILLIAM

Whats that suppose to mean

PIER

Well, from what I hear is that you love such people don't you, William? What would these people that you love do without you to protect them I wonder?

WILLIAM

God will protect them, by any means, oh and Pier, I love everyone, even you, sometimes.

(CONTINUED)



William gives a sarcastic smile and walks away in the direction of his men, as he walks away his smile changes to a frown as he knows Pier knows that he has a wife and child.

Pier watches William walk away and smiles as one of his men approaches him.

PIER

What have you heard?

SOLDIER (P)

Saladin is here, he is one days ride away, he's scouting, his army is due to arrive.

PIER

Father Roberts will order the assassination soon, what of the other thing.

SOLDIER (P)

I asked around the child belongs to William and it is his wife

PIER

What about the black man

SOLDIER (P)

I don't know fully, all I have heard is that he is a runaway slave somewhere on the other side of the desert

PIER

So the father is a harbouring runaway slaves, tell the rest of the men to prepare, the war I promised them will be coming. Keep an eye on William, once he hears of Saladin he will want to make his move.

Father Roberts is walking With Aadi

FATHER ROBERT

How was the training session

(CONTINUED)

AADI

It was good, the knights are strong, good warriors, good men, I like them, the one called Henry is funny.

FATHER ROBERT

I think you would be a good knight, what do you think

AADI

Why do you think that?

FATHER ROBERT

You have a quality that most men do not have Aadi, something I haven't seen in men for a long time, integrity and honesty, I like how you speak your mind without fear, believe me its refreshing.

AADI

Do you not have to believe in your god to be a knight?

FATHER ROBERT

Yes you do, but you have all those god like qualities in you already, all I would say is think about it, here, this is for you.

Father Roberts takes out a ring, it is the Templar ring that was on his desk, Aadi looks at it

AADI

Is this not your ring?

FATHER ROBERT

Yes, It has been sitting on that desk for a long time waiting for someone worthy, it has been waiting for you my friend, here put it on and whatever you decide at least you can remember that you have a friend and brothers that you can call on.

Aadi puts the silver ring on.

(CONTINUED)

Aadi is sitting looking at the words in the bible, Pier sees him and stands over him, Aadi looks up (as he does he sees an Arabic knife tucked away inside his robe/cape) at Pier's uninviting face

PIER

So I hear you are Father Roberts apprentice, and I see you have a templar ring on as well, you must be the very first black knight (smug smile), what is this you are reading (snatches the bible)

AADI

(Aadi stands up and faces Pier)  
What do you want?

PIER

Do you know who I am?

AADI

I don't care who you are, give me back the book?

PIER

Why, can you even read and understand it? Don't you know that if you paint stripes on a cat, it doesn't make it a tiger, its still a cat, people like you should know your place in this world, (grabs Aadi's wrist where he is branded) a slave you are and a slave you will always be.

Pier hands over the Bible and Aadi takes it back, they stare each other down before Pier walks off knowing that he has struck a nerve with Aadi.

Aadi is in his room packing what he can into a small back, he picks up the sword that William had given him and heads for the door, as he opens it Father Roberts is there.

Father Roberts looks surprised and can see that Aadi is angry

AADI

I'm going?

(CONTINUED)

FATHER ROBERT

What happened Aadi, what's going on?

AADI

That man

FATHER ROBERT

What man?

AADI

That man that talks funny

FATHER ROBERT

Pier?

AADI

Yes, Pier, I'm going to go before I kill him, I will cut off his head and leave it in the desert for the birds to eat.

FATHER ROBERT

Please, wait, I know you are angry but please don't go, not yet, give me one more day, please, things are going to change, after that I can help you get home, just give me one more day Aadi, one more day ok?

Aadi looks at Father Roberts

AADI

I will stay, because you asked me, I will stay here and wait for you to return, one more day yes?

FATHER ROBERT

Yes, one more day, thank you Aadi,

Fade out

Pier is sitting in his quarters over looking the city as one of his men come in to his quarters

(CONTINUED)

SOLDIER (P)

I'm back

PIER

Did you find him?

SOLDIER (P)

I did, and he was most pleased  
when I told him, he will be here  
tomorrow night.

PIER

Good, now we can bring order back  
into this house without the  
interruptions of infidelity,  
cowardliness and foreign  
presence, we are gods soldiers  
and while I am here we will carry  
gods word through every strike of  
the sword.

Father Roberts meets William in the corridors and they  
are walking rapidly

WILLIAM

Any word

FATHER ROBERT

Saladin has set up camp ahead of  
his army one days ride out of the  
city

WILLIAM

He's scouting the area, looking  
for weaknesses, he will most  
likely have a small battalion  
with him

FATHER ROBERT

Enough for you to handle

WILLIAM

Well if gods might is strong then  
we will be ok

FATHER ROBERT

You will need me with you

(CONTINUED)

WILLIAM

No. As much as I would love you  
you to, You cannot be seen with  
us no like this, you will be  
hung, you need to be here, seen,  
visible, for it goes wrong you  
can deny all knowledge and it  
will be deemed as a military  
action, stay here, be the eyes  
and ears for us

FATHER ROBERTS

Be victorious William, I want to  
avoid as much bloodshed as we  
can, this is out only option to  
avoid war

William opens a large door when his men are waiting for  
him, he walks in and closes the door behind him leaving  
father Roberts on the other side

WILLIAM

Men, we leave in the morning,  
minimal attire and sharpen your  
swords

BEST LAID PLANS

Ext/Day/The city gates

William and his men have rode out of the gates

One of Piers solider's spots this and reports to him

SOLDIER (P)

My lord they have just left

PIER

Follow them, then kill them if  
Saladin hasn't done so himself

SOLDIER (P)

Yes my lord

PIER

I have a meeting with Father  
Roberts

Father Roberts is with Aadi who has not left his room  
since

(CONTINUED)

FATHER ROBERT

Aadi, it's ok, after tonight, we will go, I have chartered a boat which will take you home

AADI

I don't understand, why do you want to help me, why can't I leave now

FATHER ROBERT

Things are happening outside of this city and its very dangerous to travel around, we are very close to a holy war, a war that I fear will continue for many years to follow, but hopefully tonight this war will end and in the morning we will leave, I promise you, will you wait until the morning?

AADI

For you I will, I will go and say goodbye to William, maybe we can train one last time

FATHER ROBERT

William is not here, he and his men are away, they are the ones helping to end this war, if you like I will train with you

AADI

I would like this very much

Father Roberts and Aadi are in the courtyard ready to train, Roberts looks at his sword and smiles

AADI

Why are you happy, do you think you will win

FATHER ROBERT

No, it's not that, I'm just happy that this sword is being used for good now, to train as a tool and not used for destruction, its seen to much blood by my hand.

(CONTINUED)

AADI

Well try not not cut me with it

Father Roberts laughs and they begin to train, spar and Roberts shows wadi some of his moves

AADI

You were a great warrior, I see this

FATHER ROBERT

And you my friend are a great friend, here this is for you, take this and do great by it

Father Roberts gives Aadi his sword, Aadi takes it in admiration then bows at Father Roberts.

Fade out

Piers men leave the city via horseback to follow William.

Father Roberts is in his quarters when his servant comes in urgently

FATHER ROBERT

What is it

SECOND IN COMMAND

Father Ive just seen Piers men head out of the city

FATHER ROBERT

What

SECOND IN COMMAND

Just now father, in the same direction as William

FATHER ROBERT

Traitor, I had my suspicions, he always wanted war, send your fastest rider out, we need to warn William, Pier is going to kill them, GO! NOW! I must inform the king.

The servant hurries with the order.

Father Roberts takes out a piece of paper and heads it to

(CONTINUED)



the king of England and begins to write furiously, he lights a candle and drips the wax onto the paper and seals it as he finishes the door of his office opens and pier is standing there, Roberts slowly opens his draw and places the letter inside of it.

FATHER ROBERT

Pier, what do I owe the pleasure,  
have you come to confess

PIER

Oh, I have not sinned as of yet  
so no I have not confessed, why  
what have you heard?

FATHER ROBERT

Why have your men left the city,  
we are on a lockdown

Pier laughs as Father Roberts comes from behind his desk to address Pier

PIER

And what of your highest in  
command William, he is not to be  
found anywhere

FATHER ROBERT

I cannot answer for him, can you  
answer for yours

PIER

Yes, I can, but before I do I  
have some news, Your new friend  
in the castle, the black one, he  
is a runaway slave, I found his  
master who will coming to collect  
his property, he should be here  
momentarily, I thought that would  
please you, you know to return  
the lost.

FATHER ROBERT

You truly are a hateful man  
arn'yt you. What do you have  
against him? What is it you fear  
so much?

(CONTINUED)

PIER

Them as a people are not equal,  
they never will be, they are the  
abomination of god, that is why  
they are black, surely you can  
see that.

FATHER ROBERT

There is something wrong with  
you, (shakes his head) maybe its  
because you see the man you could  
never be, the incapability to be  
strong and compassionate at the  
same time and not see it as  
weakness, maybe this is why you  
hate Aadi so much, you finally  
saw a man that strips you of your  
image of what you thought a man  
should be (laughs) or maybe  
you're just inadequate (looks  
below and laughs)

Pier smiles a evil smile and takes out his Arabic knife  
and plunges it into Father Roberts stomach, Father  
Roberts grabs Piers clothing as he falls to the ground  
clasping on to the last bit of life he has, he slips to  
the floor on his back with the handle sticking out of his  
stomach, pier bends down to have him for the last time.

PIER

God be with you.

Pier leaves and Father Roberts is dead.

Pier closes the door as he leas and heads down to the  
main gates where Ali has arrived.

PIER

Ali I honoured

ALI

Very gracious to meet you, thank  
you for informing me on my  
property, I was very worried  
about him

(CONTINUED)

PIER

Well have no fear, he is awaiting you upstairs, I will have my man take you to him, may I offer some advice

ALI

Please.

PIER

The severity of the punishment should reflect the loss that you have established, I can only imagine that you have had a huge loss at this inconvenience

ALI

Yes, one that will take a long time to recover from, thank you for your advice, it has been most welcoming

PIER

Happy to assist

Ali walks off with one of Piers soldiers to where Aadi is.

Aadi walks into Father Roberts quarters, he rushes over to his dead body on the floor and sees the knife handle that he saw in Piers robe, Father Roberts servant enters and see the dead body and Aadi standing over him.

AADI

It was Pier, thats his knife

SECOND IN COMMAND

I know. It doesn't matter though, they will blame you for it if anyone finds you here, leave now, go back to your room and wait for me, the arrangements for you have been prepared I will take you tonight.

AADI

Ok

Aadi leaves the room and goes back to his room

Aadi prepared everything for his journey

(CONTINUED)

His door opens, he turns to see Ali standing there with Piers guards, Aadi looks at his sword, it is too far away.

ALI

Aadi, I missed you.

Aadi is taken away in chains out of the room, Father Roberts servant arrives too late but sees wadi being taken away.

Pier is awaiting at the gate when Aadi is being taken away, Pier grabs Aadi's arm

PIER

It looks like you are going back  
to where you belong

AADI

I know you killed my friend, you  
will pay when William finds you

PIER

Oh, did you not hear, William  
will never find out, he will be  
dead before the sun comes up, its  
all over for you and them, I will  
have my war, maybe after my  
conquest I might come and see you  
for some light entertainment,  
maybe have you clean the shit  
from my boots.

Pier gives Aadi one last smile as Ali leaves the city  
with Aadi now in the back of a wagon.

Fade out

Fade in

That night in the desert

William and his men are behind a sand dune over looking  
Saladin's tent and small personal army

HENRY

Shit I didn't think he would have  
so much personal guards

(CONTINUED)

GLEN

He's a warlord, a general, a conqueror I'm pretty sure whoever has him will want him protected

WILLIAM

Well like all conquerors they don't outlive their legacy

DANIEL

When do we move?

WILLIAM

We will wait it out until they are asleep, then we can move in , Glen and Daniel take out the guards, Henry you will be with me, I want to be in and out preferably without a fight on our hands, ok let us fall back.

Piers men are riding hard through the night

Aadi is riding in the back of the wagon chained, he looks out towards the stars looking for his home star and finds it, Ali begins to torment Aadi on the journey

ALI

You know Aadi, I have to give it to you, I thought the desert had taken you for herself, but with Allahs grace you lived, you know it was fate that brought you back to me, why would you want to leave anyway, those people don't like you, your skin is only good for one thing to them, and they don't treat you as well as I did, did.

AADI

You know nothing about man, how could you, you have never been one, you have no honour

ALI

No honour you say, and what do you know of honour? You are just a slave, honour is a word for men with purpose, you have none but to be a slave

(CONTINUED)

AADI

NO! I'm no slave, I am a man, and  
you, you will have to kill me  
because I will never serve you or  
any other man.

The insolence angers Ali and he lashes out at Aadi, the wagon rocks back and forth and the driver continues as Aadi who is in chains takes the abuse, Ali slips as he lashes out and a key drops from his robe, Aadi sees the key and grabs Ali by the throat, Ali is choking and is reaching around and trying to push Aadi away but Aadi's grip is strong and Ali is now fighting for his life.

Ali reaches into his robe and draws out a skinny short blade and stabs Aadi but Aadi keeps his grip, Ali looks into Aadi's eyes in desperation knowing that his attempts have failed

AADI

Die!

Ali takes his last breath and slips to the floor, Aadi reaches for the key and unlocks his chains, he free's himself and opens the back of the wagon and jumps out, he looks up at the stars and starts to run as the wagon continues in the opposite direction.

The night continues and William and Henry looks over the dune down at Saladin's guarded tent, some of the guards are resting as four guard the tent from all sides.

WILLIAM

I'm sure there were more men than  
this before

HENRY

Maybe they were the convoy, just  
there to make him secure and left

WILLIAM

Well, we're about to mess up that  
plan aren't we. The guards are  
posted up around the tent, look.

HENRY

How are we going to get in there

(CONTINUED)

WILLIAM

We will have to position  
ourselves and move in as one, the  
element of surprise.

Henry nods, each man moves slowly in position, they all  
look across at each other waiting for the signal, William  
descends towards Saladin's tent as does the others, just  
as they reach the tent to take out the guards more guards  
come out of the tent armed and ready for William and his  
men.

Saladin's men surround William and his men, they drop  
their swords and are taken into the tent where Saladin is  
sitting and waiting for them.

SALADIN

Who are you, who sent you?

WILLIAM

We are knights, Templars from  
Jerusalem.

SALADIN

No, this is not an act of a  
knight you are not even wearing  
the colours of a knight, you are  
assassins sent to your death, you  
see this plan was destined to  
fail, shall I tell you why?

WILLIAM

Why?

SALADIN

Knowledge is the most powerful  
thing, words were whispered  
throughout the night of your  
arrival,

HENRY

Pier

GLEN

That bastard

SALADIN

At first I didn't know why, why  
should I have been privileged to  
this information, I should be

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SALADIN (cont'd)

dead and blood spared, it's a victory that all warriors look for, but then it occurred to me, who would want to win a war in such a manor? Only a man with hate in his heart.

HENRY

So what will you do with us

SALADIN

You will be executed at first sunrise

WILLIAM

Wait, Saladin, I am responsible for these men, they are just soldiers following orders, please, let me take their punishment and spare them, I beg of you.

SALADIN

I cannot do this. You are all one so you will all pay as one, this is the law of war, my law of war.

Saladin looks at one of his soldiers and nods at him to take away William and his men, as they leave the tent he addresses his second in command

SALADIN

Feed them well

SECOND IN COMMAND (SALADIN)

Yes my master

Saladin's men surround the prisoners as they eat, the men are out numbered

GLEN

So this is it

HENRY

William

(CONTINUED)



WILLIAM

Men, I'm not going to be sad, we  
tried, we failed and now we have  
to pay the price, we knew the  
risk, I take no regrets with me  
and pray god looks over my family

DANIEL

I'm honoured to have served with  
you all my lord

GLEN

As I

HENRY

Well lets not mope around, how  
about we have a song while we eat

WILLIAM

Why not, Glen, if you would  
please.

GLEN

(Sings) The sun came down, and  
the music began, the wine did  
flow, and my lover began, she  
whispered to me, as she held my  
hand, the love of a women with  
lips soft like the wind,

Inside the tent Saladin and the second in command can  
hear the singing

SECOND IN COMMAND (SALADIN)

They sing knowing that they are  
going to die

SALADIN

What else must they do, cry and  
morn? They are knights they still  
have courage with them until  
there last breath.

GLEN

(Cont sings) My lady I must  
leave, I'm of to foreign lands,  
with god in my heart and my sword  
in my hand, if I make it back  
tell me that you'll take my hand,  
and if I was to die I'd be a  
happy man.....

(CONTINUED)

Fade out

Fade in

The sun is rising over the desert dunes, as the men are being guarded, Saladin and the other men are praying.

Aadi is has been traveling throughout the night (compressing his wound) and sees the sun coming up, he hears the sound of prayers echoing across the sands and heads towards it up on a dune, As Aadi reaches the top he looks down to see William and the others bound as prisoners as the other soldiers continue in their prayers.

William and his men are woken up and brought to their knees, standing in front of them are four of Saladin's men with swords in hand, Henry starts mumbling the lords prayer

SALADIN

Al-an (now)

William looks up towards the sun as the soldiers swords come down taking off all of their heads, Aadi watches in anger and hater knowing Pier was responsible.

Williams horse is wondering nearby, Aadi walks up to the horse slowly

AADI

Yes, you remember me, yes, good  
horse, good

Aadi mounts the horse and heads back towards Jerusalem.

Aadi arrives but sneaks into the city wearing a disguise as he wraps a cloth around him and over his head.

Aadi sees Pier, his solders return from the desert as the horses hoofs bring in the sand, on the other side Aadi sees Father Roberts servant, who is also watching Pier, Aadi follows the servant through the market and back streets until he is clear to approach him.

(CONTINUED)

AADI

Do you still serve Father  
Roberts?

The servant turns to see the figure with the cloth  
wrapped over his head to hide his faith, he answers  
scared but not afraid

SECOND IN COMMAND

Yes

Aadi steps forward and takes the cloth away showing whom  
he is

SECOND IN COMMAND

Aadi, how? I thought they.

AADI

I escaped, William and his men  
are dead

SECOND IN COMMAND

So it's true, Pier sent his men  
to warn Saladin to set a trap for  
William and the others, he wants  
war and now it will come, he  
convinced everyone that Saladin's  
spies killed Father Roberts so  
now every knight is with him, I  
don't know if Jerusalem will be  
able to hold, we have to get word  
to the king

AADI

How will you do this?

SECOND IN COMMAND

Before Father Roberts died he  
wanted to offer you something, he  
wanted to give you a place at the  
table, his place, he wanted to  
pass his spot down to you and  
make you a knight, it was  
seconded by William, you have the  
true heart of a knight Aadi, but  
this gift can only be accepted by  
you if you wish.

(CONTINUED)

AADI

Will I be able to kill Pier

SECOND IN COMMAND

Only the king can give that order  
unless he attacks you and you are  
defending yourself, but its would  
be best via order from the king,  
here he will be stripped down of  
all wealth and titles and hung  
until dead, its his name which  
you also have to kill

AADI

How do we get word to the king,  
this city is guarded heavily

SECOND IN COMMAND

Yet you still got in, I have a  
letter, one that Farther Roberts  
left and along with your eye  
witness the king will come.

AADI

Where is the letter?

SECOND IN COMMANDS

Meet me up on the hill, where  
Jesus died on the cross

Aadi bows in acknowledgment as the servant enters back  
into the church.

Pier is in the great hall with all the other knights/  
Templars and Lords, all are talking about the incidents  
that have occurred with Father Roberts and William and  
the other knights, Pier stands up and addresses them all.

PIER

ENOUGH!

The hall is silent and all eyes fall on Pier

PIER

Our brothers demand justice,  
Saladin and his men have not only  
committed a sin under gods eyes  
but to do it in gods house  
demands a justice, Justice by the  
sword, we know they are here to

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

PIER (cont'd)  
try and take back Jerusalem,  
where peace is amongst us all,  
only a tyrant would want war, to  
kill the innocent people within  
these city walls just for gain, I  
say lets bring the war to him,  
out there, god is watching, his  
eye sees all, our hearts are  
stronger as is our faith, WHAT  
SAY YOU MEN!

The hall erupts with agreement and the lords on the high  
table nod in agreement to Piers idea of immediate war,  
Pier smiles behind his cup as he drinks

SECOND IN COMMAND (PIER)  
Prepare for WAR!

Fade out

Fade in

Aadi is up on the hill as the night falls, he looks up to  
the stars feeling closer to them more than before, Father  
Roberts second in command arrives carrying things, Aadi  
helps him

SECOND IN COMMAND  
Thank you,

AADI  
What is all of this

The servant hands Aadi the sword which belonged to Father  
Roberts

SECOND IN COMMAND  
Your sword, and now you must  
pledge and I must bless you, are  
you ready to receive

AADI  
Yes

SECOND IN COMMAND  
Kneel here on the ground where  
Jesus died for us all and repeat  
after me. I promise on my faith,  
that I will in the future be  
faithful to the lord, never cause

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

## SECOND IN COMMAND (cont'd)

him harm and will observe my  
homage to him completely against  
all persons in good faith and  
without deceit. **(Repeated by Aadi  
line for line)**

The servant breaks a piece of bread and blesses it and  
places it into Aadi's mouth.

## SECOND IN COMMAND

Arise my Lord

The servant hands Aadi the letter that Father Roberts had  
written with another letter confirming that Aadi is a  
knight

## SECOND IN COMMAND

You must go quickly, Pier is  
closing the city gates, Go now,  
there is a horse ready for you,  
go with god my lord.

Aadi leaves the city as the gates close, Aadi rides into  
the desert night.

## COAST TO COAST

Ext/Day/The Coast

Aadi leaves the desert and is riding towards the sea, he  
arrives at the dock and hands the boat man a sack of  
money and walks onto the ship.

Aadi is leaning over the edge looking out into the sea,  
he takes out an apple and is about to eat it

Two sailors slowly walk up to him

## SAILER 1

Where are you going then

## AADI

England

## SAILER 1

You look very fancy, what are  
you?

(CONTINUED)

AADI

I'm a knight

SAILER 2

A knight, there's no such thing  
as a black knight, I should know,  
I've seen them come and go on  
this ship, come on who are you?

Aadi shows his ring as his other hand rests on his sword

SAILER 2

Ok Ok calm down, I've just never  
seen a black Knight before.

AADI

I am just a knight

SAILER 2

Thats nice, look he's a templar

SAILER 1

So why are you going to England  
then?

AADI

To see the king

The two men look at each other then Laugh out loud and  
tease the answer

SAILER 1

Look at him, **To see the King!** Oh,  
oh ok, you my friend are very  
funny

SAILER 2

Very funny indeed, Er, are you  
going to eat that apple

Aadi looks at the apple then passes it to the sailer

The sailer looks at Aadi and then takes the apple

As the sailers walk away one of them turns back to Aadi

(CONTINUED)

SAILER 1

Just some advice, people over  
there have never see someone like  
you so don't trust anyone ok and,  
thanks for the apple.

AADI

Tell me, in England are they all  
like you

SAILER 1

No, we're the nice ones, there's  
some horrible bastards out there.  
(vulgur laugh)

As the night falls Aadi is laying down with a blanket  
around him he looks up at the stars but cannot see them  
as it is cloudy, he closes his eyes

Aadi wakes up to loud noises of shouting and sea gulls,  
as Aadi sits up he looks out to see the coast of England

The ship docks and starts unloading its exports, Aadi  
walks off with people in the docks staring at him as he  
walks through and heads towards his journey.

Aadi walks through the open countrysides and sleeps under  
a tree

Aadi finds a lake where he can wash himself

Aadi is deep into the woods, he suddenly hears a sound  
that makes him stop in his tracks and listens,

Aadi hears the screams and heads in that direction.

Further away a young woman FRANCESCA in being chased by  
four barbarians, howling as they gain on her.

The woman trips and hits he head, her vision become  
blurred as she sees the four figures stand over her

FRANCESCA

Please don't, please

BARBARIAN 1

Don't you just love it when they  
beg, HOLD HER DOWN!

Two of the barbarians pins her down as (B1) undoes the  
string on his pants

(CONTINUED)



BARBARIAN 2

Leave enough meat on that bone  
for me

(B1) lays on top of a kicking and screaming Francesca  
with the sound of jeering and laughter around her,  
Francesca kicks the barbarian in the groin (B1) punches  
and knocks her out

BARBARIAN 1

Bitch, now thats better

Aadi is in the background watching, he takes out his  
sword and taps in on the tree, the noise gets the  
Barbarians attention and they turn to him.

BARBARIAN 2

Well look what we have here if it  
isn't the night time walking in  
the day

BARBARIAN 1

Who are you? Who is this piece of  
dog shit?

BARBARIAN 2

What colour do you bleed dog

BARBARIAN 3

Looks like another stray that  
needs to be put down.

BARBARIAN 1

Kill him

The four barbarians all face Aadi armed with knives/axes/  
swords

Aadi grips his double edged sword as the barbarians  
attack, Aadi slays 3 of the men also taking an injury,  
with a final blow on the last barbarian Aadi wounds the  
barbarian before decapitating him, his head falls to the  
ground then his body follows.

Aadi stands over the Francesca and picks her up and  
carries her away.

Fade out

Francesca's head is propped up as she lays on the ground,  
Aadi is by the lake where he is washing his hands in the

(CONTINUED)

water, he tears and piece of cloth off, wets it and puts it on his wound to clean in, the cloth is filled with blood, as Aadi cleans it off again and compresses it under his cloth, Aadi heads back to where Francesca is laying, he goes into his satchel for his left over food as he turns around there is a blade in front of his face with a scared Francesca at the other end of it.

FRANCESCA

What happened? Where am I, who, who are you? (nervous)

AADI

You are safe here, you need not fear me, I am not here to hurt you

FRANCESCA

What happened? (Holds head) The others, did you?

AADI

They are no longer a problem

FRANCESCA

You killed them?, all four!, more will come, we have to get out of here, you don't understand, more will come

AADI

We will be fine, let us eat and rest, please, you need to build up your strength.

FRANCESCA

Ok, but I'm keeping the sword

AADI

Thats fine, here take this.

Francesca takes the food and begins to eat as she looks at Aadi, Aadi smiles and makes the sign of the cross and then eats

FRANCESCA

Who are you?

(CONTINUED)

AADI

My name is Aadi I have traveled  
from Jerusalem, I am on my way to  
see the king, and you, who are  
you?

FRANCESCA

My name is Francesca. Your skin,  
it's black, was you burnt.

AADI

You've never seen a black person  
before?

FRANCESCA

No

Aadi stretches out his arm, Francesca puts the sword down  
and slowly reaches out and touches Aadi's arm, she looks  
up at Aadi and Aadi smiles at her

AADI

You see, we are not different,  
the same flesh, blood and bones,  
Those men chasing you, who were  
they?

FRANCESCA

They were barbarians, they came  
and raided the villages and  
towns, murdering and taking what  
they want, they... killed my  
mother, I ran, I should off  
stayed and try to fight them.

AADI

And if you did you'd be dead as  
well, god wanted you to live, It  
looks like god has a purpose for  
you.

FRANCESCA

Do you believe that?

AADI

I didn't before but so many  
things have happened that I  
believe I have a different type  
of destiny than I thought I had,  
I believe that god wanted you to

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

AADI (cont'd)

live for the same reason, I was  
once told he has a plan for  
everyone.

FRANCESCA

Whats his plan for you?

AADI

I thought I knew, I guess I'm  
still waiting for god to show me,  
maybe it was to meet you, who  
knows

FRANCESCA

Where did you come from?

Aadi looks up to the sky

AADI

Do you see that star, you follow  
that star until the sun is on the  
back of your neck and you see  
animals that you've never seen  
before and a language unknown to  
many, hopefully my brother is  
waiting for me, when I have  
finished here I will go back, and  
talk of my travels and you, you  
will be in my story as well.

Francesca gets comfortable, she notices the bandage  
around her ankle, she looks over at the Aadi who is  
laying back with his eyes closed, Francesca takes up the  
sword to give it back.

FRANCESCA

You better take your sword back

AADI

Thats ok you hold onto it, it  
will help you to sleep better

FRANCESCA

Goodnight

Francesca holds on to the sword and closes her eyes

(CONTINUED)

Fade out

Fade In

Ext/Day/The woods

Aadi is awoken by the sounds of grunting and movement, he looks up to see Francesca in the distance trying to use the broad sword,

Aad walks up behind her and she continues to swing out of control

AADI

What are you trying to do, chop  
down trees

FRANCESCA

(Interrupted look) It's too heavy  
it's just throwing me around

AADI

That's because it doesn't know  
what you want to do, do you want  
to attack or defend?

FRANCESCA

I want to attack, I want to kill  
everyone off those barbarians,  
(turns to Aadi out of breath)  
will you teach me, show me how to  
use a sword.

Francesca Gives Aadi his sword, Aadi takes the sword and stands it up on the earth by his feet, he looks around and finds two sticks and hands one to Francesca

KNIGHT

Follow me, Position 1, strongest  
hand on top, best foot forward on  
the offence, like this, this move  
counter as a defence when you  
attack

Aadi takes Francesca through the steps and they practice together throughout the day

Aadi and Francesca are sitting on a log, drinking water,  
Aadi takes out another sword and hands it to Francesca

(CONTINUED)

AADI

Here, take this, this is the sword I trained with, but Remember, always fight with honour, mix up your attacks, never be predictable, and remember each block parries an attack, just like we practiced, if you practice everyday you will master it.

FRANCESCA

Thank you.

Francesca notices Aadi's ring

FRANCESCA

Is that a Templars ring?

AADI

Yes

FRANCESCA

I've never met anyone like you before, I mean, I've seen a knight before, they came through my village once.

AADI

It's not how a person looks thats important, more on how they act, I have been to different lands and have travelled further than most, and do you know what I have learned from each person I have encountered, people are afraid, they are afraid because they have been taught to be afraid, only when we are taught the truth is when we will never have to fear, we understand that there is a beauty in being different, one that we can all share, what do you think?

FRANCESCA

You see, thats what I mean, you're different, I would have never have thought of things that

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

FRANCESCA (cont'd)  
way, never, so... have you ever  
seen a female knight?

AADI  
A knight no, back in my home  
there are many female warriors  
and hunters.

FRANCESCA  
How were they?

AADI  
Fierce and strong, they fight  
with honour and spirit, they  
fight and hunt alongside with the  
men, they never made excuses for  
who they were or what they were.

FRANCESCA  
Did you lay with them

AADI  
(Smiles) That is between me and  
them, come on, let us train  
before nightfall

Francesca and Aadi both get up and face each other.

More barbarians are wondering through the woods looking  
for the men that had disappeared

BARBARIAN 1.2  
Where did they go? It has been  
days since they came into these  
woods

BARBARIAN 2.2  
The last thing was they was  
chasing one of the women from the  
village, do you think is was a  
trap

BARBARIAN 1.2  
No, it's something else, do you  
smell that? The down wind.

The Barbarians change course and follow the smell and the  
tracks on the ground

(CONTINUED)

BARBARIAN 3.2

Look here, the tracks aren't  
fresh but you can see where they  
were running

The scent is becoming stronger and the Barbarians come  
across their dead men, with one decapitated.

BARBARIAN 2.2

An ambush

BARBARIAN 1.2

No, this is something else

The Barbarian (1.2) visualises what had happened

BARBARIAN 1.2

It was one man who did this, this  
man is skilled

BARBARIAN 3.2

One man killed four of ours, how  
can you be sure

BARBARIAN 1.2

Are you questioning me, IT WAS  
ONE MAN! I WANT HIM.

The Barbarians track day and night without stopping as  
Aadi and Francesca continues on his mission to get to the  
king.

FRANCESCA

What will you do after you see  
the king

AADI

I will make my way home

FRANCESCA

Will you take me with you, maybe  
I can train with your women  
fighters, there is nothing left  
for me here, everyone I love is  
now dead

AADI

I think they would like you back  
home, you have a warriors spirit

(CONTINUED)



FRANCESCA

So you will?

AADI

I will, once these letters are  
given to the king we can follow  
the star home

Aadi stops walking and Francesca stops with haste, she  
looks around nervously

FRANCESCA

What is it?

KNIGHT

Sh

Aadi steps forward and reaches out, he picks an apple  
from the tree and smiles at Francesca

FRANCESCA

Really, and apple

KNIGHT

(Laughing) Here, you have it

Aadi tosses the apple to Francesca as he does an arrow  
hits him in his chest knocking him to the floor,  
Francesca lets out a scream of shock as the Aadi lays on  
the ground bleeding out of his chest, Francesca looks up  
in the direction of where the arrow came from and sees  
another group of Barbarians, one of them spots Francesca  
and points at her, Francesca looks down at Aadi, and  
helps him up, Aadi breaks the rest of the arrow off and  
draws his sword, he sees the Barbarians approaching, Aadi  
takes a formation stance raising his sword high and waits  
for them to attack, Francesca takes out her sword and  
stands by Aadi's side.

AADI

Remember what you have learnt,  
remember your mother, your  
people, stand strong.

Aadi lets out a raging roar as the Barbarians come face  
to face with Aadi,

Aadi strikes first lowering the heavy sword into the side  
of one of the barbarians neck as the other barbarian  
swings his axe towards Francesca

(CONTINUED)

The leader of the barbarians (1.2) stands face to face with Aadi and draws two battle axes, Aadi holds firm as the arrow in his chest has drained him.

Aadi and the barbarian battle it out but the the Barbarian is stronger laying multiple wounds onto Aadi,

The Barbarian throws one of his axes into Aadi's leg and charges with the other, Aadi blocks and knocks the axe out of his hand and with the guard of his broad sword he rams it into the Barbarians eye, taking out his eye.

The scream throws he other Barbarian off guard and Francesca takes advantage and thrusts her sword into the Barbarians stomach leaving him dead on the ground as the leader of the barbarian retreats back into the woods holding onto his eyes.

Francesca turns to a wounded and half dead Aadi who has now fallen from his wounds and exhaustion, Francesca tries to help him up as she looks at the broken arrow in his chest

FRANCESCA

Its no good I.....I can't carry  
you, I can't....

AADI

It's ok, listen what is important  
is that these letters must get to  
the king, good men have already  
died and many more will be  
slaughtered if this doesn't get  
there in time

Aadi removes his ring and places it in her hand

AADI

Take my sword

FRANCESCA

No, I can't, I won't leave you  
like this

AADI

I will wait for you to come back,  
it will be ok, just go now before  
its all for nothing.

(CONTINUED)

Francesca holds Aadi's hand for the last time then takes the sword and runs off, as she is running Aadi looks up at the sun piercing through the trees and smiles before he closes his eyes and dies.

Francesca breaks out of the forest and sees the castle in the distance.

Fade out

HOME

Ext/Night/ The Desert

FADE IN

We see a star bright in the clear sky, We see Francesca riding a horse pulling a makeshift stretcher with Aadi's body wrapped up on it, Francesca is riding underneath the star.

As day breaks she arrives at a small village where everyone is Black, the women all have weapons and are apprehensive of Francesca's arrival, suddenly they open up and a man steps forward, its ABASI

ABASI

Who Are you?

FRANCESCA

My name is Francesca, I'm here to bring my friend back home

ABASI

Who is your friend?

FRANCESCA

Aadi

ABASI

My brother.....our king, Our king has returned

Tears of sadness and happiness filled Abasi's eyes as he smiles at Francesca in thanks.

The tribe sing and carry Audi's body away

Francesca and Abasi Walk together and follow the tribe

(CONTINUED)

ABASI

How did you know how to get here

FRANCESCA

Aadi showed me stars and which  
one to follow home

ABASI

How did you know my brother?

FRANCESCA

He saved my life, in more ways  
than one, he was your king?

ABASI

Yes he was a king, on his  
anointment day we went hunting,  
one of our family traditions, it  
was that day we were both  
captured, I thought he was dead,  
and I made my way back home, what  
will you do now?

FRANCESCA

I don't know.

ABASI

Well until you know, why don't  
you stay with us and I will show  
you what my brother would have  
wanted you to see, the beauty of  
our land and people.

FRANCESCA

I would like that very much.

Fade Out

ONE YEAR LATER

England

Ext/Day/The village

Barbarians are moving slowly through the early morning  
mist, they begin to attack, raid, rape and kill, screams  
echo out and fires are lit burning people and huts.

On a hill on a horse overlooking the village is  
Francesca, more confident and fearless, her hair braided

for war with Aadi's ring on a string around her neck, she looks down at the village and sees a Barbarian with a eye patch on, she draws her sword (that Aadi gave her) and raises it high.

She is joined with a small army of her own

FADE OUT

END.

