

EXT. FARM - NIGHT

Eastern Africa 17th Century at the edge of the WHITE NILE RIVER a small farm of sorghum and livestock flutters and burns.

TWO MEN, sons of the owner, lay dead in the dirt.

SIX ARABS pillage through what remains of storage and valuables then slap at the livestock to move them forward.

The OWNER and his WIFE weep over their sons.

A soldier pulls SARSET (24), bound with rope, to be appraised. She's beautiful with light piercing eyes and long black hair with dark skin.

TAHIR, the Arab leader filthy and unbathed, chastises his men.

The Arabs dialogue will be in Arabic.

TAHIR

Why did you kill them? You have lost us all value. I should kill you and leave you here to rot.

SABUR

I was left no choice.

TAHIR

Leave!

SABUR

But..-

TAHIR

Leave! Before I change my mind.

SABUR mounts a horse and rides off.

Tahir finishes his appraisal and pushes Sarset to the ground.

TAHIR

Worthless. Kill them all.

An Arab soldier lifts his Shamshir sword to strike.

A THUD then dust disperses into the air. The sword falls to the ground. The soldier's missing.

The soldier screams in the distance then becomes silence.

TAHIR
What was that?

Another Arab disappears.

A sound spooks the horses into a frenzy.

TAHIR
What's happening?!

A Jile dagger with impeccable precision cuts Sarset loose.

VOICE
(faint)
To the forest.

Sarset frees herself then pulls her parents to safety. She looks back toward Tahir.

Tahir pulls a sword from his side and wildly swings the blade searching for the attacker.

A man's shadow cuts the sword from the Tahir's arm. It lifts him to drink the blood from his neck then tosses him away like garbage.

SARSET
A blood drinker.

The dark figure of MENKARAA, an ancient vampire, stands tall with a muscular build and long hair worn in dread locks. His eyes, drunk with blood, stare into the forest.

Sarset stares back.

FADE TO:

INT. PALACE - EVENING

Kingdom of KEMET, 4100B.C.

The Kingdom sits at the edge of the AUR (Nile) river what would later become Lower Egypt and Sudan.

Carved stone STATUES of KINGS stand as testament to a proud kingdom.

YOUNG MENKARAA (12), a shadow of the vampire he'll become, waits for his father along with his eight brothers at a handcrafted dinner table.

The oldest, RAHOTEP (32), back from his travels to the north, appraises his brothers with admiration. USERKAF (30) a warrior and general of the Kemetian Army.

KHUFU (27) architect of the city. RAMESES (25) leader of the Northern army. SESOSTRIS (22) leader of the Southern Army. SANAKHT (21), keeper of the crypts. AHMOSE (18), keeper of the library.

NEFETARI (52), a beautiful queen with long black hair adorned with jewels and a large crown, keeps the brothers at attention until their father enters.

Next to Menkaraa stands SETI, age 15, noticeably lighter skin than this brothers. He wears his hair like a young Egyptian Pharaoh bald with a lock of hair braided to one side.

The king, MENKAURE (52), regal with white hair at his temples and purpose with every stride, enters followed by his council.

Bak (55), the lead council with hands burley like a lion's paw, claps to signal servants.

Servants set food on the table then are quickly rushed from the room as the family sits.

MENKAURE

It's good to see all my children.

RAHOTEP breaks the silence.

RAHOTEP

What business do you have to tell me?

NEFETARI

Must we talk business at the table?

RAHOTEP

Forgive me. But, I see my brothers so little we rarely the time to discuss such things.

KHUFU

If you would stop preparing to be king, we might see each other more.

RAMESES

More like preparing his butt for splinters.

The younger brothers laugh.

RAHOTEP

Kemet has a King and I don't think myself prepared to take it.

SESOSTRIS

Yet.

RAHOTEP

Despite what you must think. I have duties and take them seriously.

SESOSTRIS

We know. We are just joking with you.

KHUFU

It is good to see you.

Young Menkaraa watches his brothers and smiles.

MENKAURE

All of you are good men. Any of you could be king today.

RAMESES

Expect for Seti.

Rameses tosses bits of food at him.

YOUNG SETI

Don't tease me brother.

RAMESES

I'll tease you as I please.

NEFETARI

Rameses. Please.

Her tone is enough to stop the teasing.

RAMESES

Sorry mother.

MENKAURE

Even Menkaraa will make a great king.

RAMESES

Maybe when he can hold a weapon.

Seti stands defiant.

YOUNG SETI

I said don't tease brother!

RAMESES

It was not you I was teasing.

NEFETARI

Seti. Calm yourself. Your brother means you no ill will.

YOUNG SETI

He treats me like a child.

RAMESES

You still act like a child.

RAHOTEP

Maybe you are a little too harsh on him.

RAMESES

I wasn't even him I was teasing.

YOUNG SETI

I am old enough to not need defending.

RAMESES

Then you are old enough to be beaten down if you don't watch yourself.

YOUNG SETI

Name your weapon.

NEFETARI

Seti! Enough!

Menkaraa tugs at Seti's arm.

YOUNG MENKARAA

Please, sit down Seti.

YOUNG SETI

Never let him tease you brother.

Seti exits.

NEFETARI

Rameses. I will not tell you again. He is your brother. Your father's blood runs in this veins like it does yours.

MENKAURE

Like it does all of you. How does one learn to be a great leader?

KHUFU

From the lessons we build as we are young.

MENKAURE

He will not learn to be a great leader if you can not accept him as part of us and teach him as I have taught you.

RAMESES

He's only a half brother.

MENKAURE

He is my son. As are you.

Bak enters then whispers into Menkaure's ear.

MENKAURE

I will go when I am ready.

BAK

The request is urgent.

MENKAURE

I will not bow to the whims of a priest. I will come when I am ready.

BAK

Thank you my lord.

MENKAURE

Let us finish and enjoy one another's company.

INT. TEMPLE OF WADI MAHARAKA - NIGHT

The Jackal God Anubis from Egyptian mythology stands as its focal point.

An old priest, APEP, tends to the torches that line the alter. He carries a staff with the figure of Anubis at it's end that signifies his leadership.

Young Seti weeps on the steps.

APEP

What brings you here child?

SETI

I am no child.

APEP
 Forgive me my king.

SETI
 I will never be a king.

APEP
 You are the only king I acknowledge
 here.

SETI
 Why?

APEP
 Your mother's kingdom will be
 greater than this fowl place and
 you are it's rightful heir.

SETI
 Why have I been cursed to stay?

APEP
 Because you will lead us out of the
 shadows to greatness.

INT. PALACE, BEDROOM - NIGHT

Servants prepare Young Menkaraa for bed.

Seti enters then lays into bed across the room.

YOUNG MENKARAA
 You mustn't let him bother you so
 much.

YOUNG SETI
 What?

YOUNG MENKARAA
 Rameses.

YOUNG SETI
 I have had enough of him teasing
 me.

YOUNG MENKARAA
 He just does it because he knows it
 will get to you.

YOUNG SETI
 No. It's more than just that.

YOUNG MENKARAA
 How do you mean?

YOUNG SETI

He knows I can never be king of
Kemet.

YOUNG MENKARAA

That's not true. We are all going
to be kings.

YOUNG SETI

Don't be so naive. You are the last
of eight brothers. The only thing
you will ever rule is this room.

YOUNG MENKARAA

Nine. Including you.

YOUNG SETI

Do you really think you will ever
sit on the throne?

Nefetari enters.

YOUNG MENKARAA

Yes.

NEFETARI

Time for bed.

Young Menkaraa hops into his bed and the servants leave.

NEFETARI

Seti. Believe that your brothers
mean the best for you.

Seti turns in his bed unwilling to answer.

Nefetari comes to Menkaraa's bedside.

YOUNG MENKARAA

Will I be a king one day?

NEFETARI

Good night sweet prince, one day
you too will rule a kingdom.

YOUNG MENKARAA

See.

She kisses him on his forehead then leaves.

INT. TEMPLE OF WADI MAHARAKA - NIGHT

APEP prays to a statue of Anubis.

APEP

Please God. Give me the strength.
Deliver your servant the throne of
Kemet. Give me the power of
Menkaure.

A hooded figure forms in the shadows from a fine mist.

APEP

Give me the power to rule.

Apep becomes animated with envy.

APEP

Deliver me the power of the Gods.

AZREAL

Gods? You are quite animated.

The sudden words startle Apep.

APEP

Who speaks?

A pale figure, AZREAL, emerges from the darkness. He takes long smooth strides like every move is deliberate. Azreal's covered in a black hooded robe from which we only see his unkept hands with long nails and vampire teeth ready to protrude from his mouth.

AZREAL

Did I interrupt you? You may
continue. You're little prayers
amuse me.

APEP

I'm a high priest. Do not mock me.

AZREAL

You pray to a dog.

APEP

I pray to Gods.

AZREAL

Then you should pray to me.

Azreal suddenly appears in front of Apep eyes red and hungry for blood. He grabs him by the throat lifting him into the air.

The doors open and Menkaure enters with two guards.

Azreal drops Apep to the floor.

The doors close and Azreal rips the guards to shreds before Menkaure can even look to see the attacker.

The thrashing stops and Menkaure looks upon his slaughtered men.

AZREAL

Is this the king you pray to replace?

MENKAURE

What is the meaning of this?

Azreal steps from the shadows.

AZREAL

If you are a great king, you should already know.

MENKAURE

Apep, what is this thing that speaks to me?

APEP

I do not know.

AZREAL

Speak the truth little man. He prays to this dog in hopes of replacing you.

MENKAURE

What are you?

AZREAL

I am many things.

Menkaure readies himself for an attack.

MENKAURE

What evil have you brought into the house of Setetsenra?!

APEP

I do not know.

AZREAL

You are pathetic. If you ever wish to be king, act like one.

Menkaure strikes and lands a kick at Azreal's chest sending him across the room.

AZREAL
Persistent little meal.

Azreal regains his advantage and grabs Menkaure by the throat.

MENKAURE
Let me go and I might let you live.

Azreal fills the room with laughter.

AZREAL
I have not lived in a thousand
years and in that time never have I
seen a man, king, or God that can
govern me. You black skins believe
yourselves to be Gods. I will show
you there isn't one.

Azreal plunges his fangs into Menkaure's throat.

Apep's spear with an Onyx end pierces through Azreal's chest.

Menkaure falls.

AZREAL
You coward!

Azreal dematerializes into a mist then reappears behind Apep.
The spear falls to the floor with a thud.

In his anger, Azreal drinks Apep's blood dry and rips him in
half sending pieces across the temple.

He turns to find Menkaure missing then lets out a scream that
echoes throughout the temple.

INT. PALACE, MANKAURE'S SLEEPING CHAMBER - CONTINUOUS

Menkaure stumbles into the room holding his wound. Blood from
his throat drips onto the floor.

Bak follows to see the carnage.

BAK
What has happened?

Menkaure chokes from blood then falls to the floor.

BAK (CONT'D)
Guards! Guards!

A troop of men enter.

BAK
Find the brothers. Protect them at
all costs.

The guards scatter upon the orders.

Bak cleans the wound with water and applies pressure. Upon
his inspection, they appear to heal but the King suffers.

Menkaure screams.

BAK
Who did this?

MENKAURE
Find Menkaraa.

BAK
They will my lord.

Nefetari comes to the aid of Menkaure.

NEFETARI
Call that scheming priest here at
once.

BAK
He is dead my queen. Whatever evil
he called upon us, it did not spare
him.

MENKAURE
Save my sons.

Menkaure's features change as his teeth turn to into fangs.

NEFETARI
What has become of you?

MENKAURE
Save them.

He dies and a last human breath exhales from his lips.

Nefetari weeps at his side.

INT. PALACE, MANKAURE'S SLEEPING CHAMBER - LATER

Menkaure's body has been placed on the bed.

All the brothers except Menkaraa and Seti mourn over their
father.

RAHOTEP

We must make plans for him.

RAMESES

We must find the evil that has taken him.

RAHOTEP

I understand your anger. But, we must remain strong and speak to the people.

Userkraf slams his fist onto a table.

USERKRAF

We can not let the people see us be weak or hesitant on these northern scum clans.

AHMOSE

You risk civil war by acting too harshly.

RAMESES

Then so be it.

RAHOTEP

That is not what our father would want.

Menkaure stirs in the bed.

SESOSTRIS

Rahotep. Rahotep!

They all look upon their father as he wakes from his death.

SANAKHT

He is not dead.

SESOSTRIS

How can that be?

RAHOTEP

You told us he was dead.

SANAKHT

He is. He was. He had no heartbeat. His hands were cold.

Sanakht touches his father's hand.

SANAKHT

They are still cold.

Menkaure wakes.

MENKAURE

Who stands here?

RAHOTEP

It is us. We do not understand.
Death had taken you.

MENKAURE

As you can see it has not.

Menkaure stands from the bed. He looks through his sons and listens to their heartbeats as if they were loud drums then covers his ears.

MENKAURE

What has happened to me?

RAMESES

We do not know. We have not found
what attacked you.

Menkaure feels his teeth protrude and body ache for blood.

MENKAURE

You must leave me.

USERKRAF

We need to know what attacked you.

MENKAURE

Leave me now!

RAHOTEP

As you command.

Rahotep ushers the brothers from the room.

Bak enters with Menkaraa.

MENKAURE

You must take him from here.

YOUNG MENKARAA

You're alive.

Menkaraa rushes to hug his father.

Menkaure's P.O.V.: Menkaraa's movements turn to slow motion and Menkaure moves to avoid his embrace as if moving twice as fast.

Menkaraa wraps around nothing but air.

BAK

My lord. How do you stand here
alive and move so fast?

The sound of clapping fills the room.

AZREAL

I see you are a strong king after
all.

MENKAURE

What have you done to me?

AZREAL

I've done nothing. Merely, given
you a gift.

BAK

Our king was dead.

Bak pulls a spear and attacks Azreal.

Azreal catches Bak's hand, spins him around, and then subdues
him by holding his throat with a the other.

AZREAL

He still is.

MENKAURE

Let him go.

AZREAL

I will. He is for you to feast on
now. I've had my fill tonight.

Azreal pushes Bak to the floor then reappears behind
Menkaraa.

AZREAL

Now, this one on other hand might
make for a sweet desert.

Menkaure uses his new found speed to pull Menkaraa away
before Azreal can reach for him.

AZREAL

You learn fast. There is much to
learn.

MENKAURE

What did you do to me?

AZREAL

Can't you hear it?

Azreal mimics his heart beating then closes his eyes.

AZREAL
Ba-bump. Ba-ump.

Menkaure looks down at Menkaraa as his fangs protrude. He pushes him away.

MENKAURE
What is this I thirst for?

AZREAL
If you wish to keep this gift, you must take the blood of those that stand before you.

MENKAURE
I will not.

AZREAL
You have no choice.

MENKAURE
He is my son.

AZREAL
And you are mine.

Menkaraa stands by the door watching them.

YOUNG SETI
(whispering)
Menkaraa. What is that?

YOUNG MENKARAA
I don't know.

YOUNG SETI
Come with me.

Seti pulls Menkaraa out of the room.

Bak sees the boys leave and closes the door behind them.

BAK
My lord. If it is blood you need, take mine.

AZREAL
Soon the thirst will become unbearable.

Azreal again appears behind Bak but this time pulls his head back exposing his throat.

BAK

Please. I will sacrifice myself to protect your sons.

AZREAL

Eventually, you will not listen to their pleas.

Azreal takes his finger and slices along Bak's throat.

Menkaure's eyes turn black when the smell of the blood awakens his thirst. He pounces on Bak to drink his blood.

AZREAL

Feed. Feel the warmth of it.

Menkaure stops.

AZREAL

Finish him.

MENKAURE

No.

AZREAL

FINISH HIM.

MENKAURE

NO!

AZREAL

If you do not, he will suffer the same fate as you.

MENKAURE

Then we will be brothers to this.

AZREAL

I will not have you bearing children of your own.

MENKAURE

What choice do you have? You have tried to kill me once and failed.

Menkaure speeds around Azreal but is caught by the throat.

Azreal lifts him into the air and floats higher.

AZREAL

You dare to challenge me? If I wanted to kill you, I'd have done it. But, I am amused by your resilience.

Azreal pushes Menkaure to the edge of a window.

Menkaure fights but Azreal is too strong.

AZREAL

See the coming day?

Azreal turns Menkaure toward the sunlight as it filters in before daybreak.

AZREAL

Enjoy this moment. You will never be able to look upon it again. Your thirst will never be quenched no matter how much blood you drink. You will destroy kingdoms or they will destroy you.

They turn back toward Bak dying and changing from the vampire's blood.

AZREAL

And for those you birth into our bloodline, you curse for an eternity. This is gift you have and the burden you must bear.

Azreal throws Menkaure to the floor and dematerializes before daylight pierces the room.

Menkaure's hands burn in the daylight. He closes the shutters which turns the room black.

FADE TO BLACK

BACK TO:

INT. FOREST SHACK - EVENING

Sarset prepares a meal for her parents. She looks through her supplies in the cupboards. They are almost empty.

Menkaraa P.O.V.: He stares into the shack as night falls behind him careful to not be seen.

Sarset rummages through other drawers to find honey and a small piece of gold. She studies it.

SARSET

Have we not searched these drawers before?

SARSET'S FATHER

We searched them when we first came to this place.

SARSET

I have found another gold piece.

SARSET'S FATHER

Our ancestors watch over us.

Sarset looks out the window suspicious someone's watching.

SARSET

I can't help but believe that something else watches over us.

SARSET'S FATHER

Please my child, do not grow suspicious of things unseen.

SARSET

Something else watches. I can feel it when I sleep.

SARSET'S FATHER

Have faith that our ancestors protect us.

SARSET

They did not protect my brothers.

SARSET'S FATHER

No. That was done by evil men and they gave their lives to protect us. Our ancestors chose your brothers to sit among them. Take this gift and see our family protected further.

SARSET

Our supplies will not last more than a few days. I must go into Karnak to trade for more.

SARSET'S FATHER

And that is why this gift has found it's way to you.

Sarset's father kisses her on the cheek.

SARSET'S FATHER

Go. We will be protected.

EXT. KARNAK - NIGHT

The streets of Karnak bustle with trade. Fires light the streets and songs ring from the taverns.

Sarset travels through smaller alleyways covered in a white hood trying to avoid the Arabs that patrol the streets. She finds her way to a trusted vendor, NAN, to trade her gold piece for honey and food.

NAN

Praise the heavens. I thought the Arabs had taken you.

SARSET

Shhh. My parents and I escaped.

NAN

Your brothers?

Sarset's eyes well with tears and shakes her head.

NAN

I will do anything to help.

SARSET

Thank you. But, do not risk your safety for us.

Sarset pulls the gold piece from it's concealment and gently pushes it over to Nan.

An Arabs soldier sees the piece as it changes hands.

SARSET

What can you give me for this?

NAN

Anything you wish.

Nan packs a few supplies into a bag.

SARSET

Not too much. I don't want the Arabs to see me.

NAN

I will pack what I can then take the rest to you.

SARSET

You will find my parents just outside the city as you enter the old growth trees to the north.

NAN

I will be sure to find them.

Sarset looks over her shoulder to notice the Arab watching.

SARSET

I must go.

She hurries into an alleyway.

The Arabs soldier chases her then calls to his superior.

ARAB #1

Sabur! Sabur!

SABUR

What is it?

ARAB #1

The woman you spoke of is here.

SABUR

Find the others and meet me at the
edge of the forest.

Sarset turns back to see Sabur talking to his men. Their eyes meet and he smiles back at her.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

Sarset sprints through the forest. The sounds of running footsteps follow her.

The Arabs taunt her like hunting an animal. Their sounds force her into a specific direction.

She comes to a clearing where Sabur waits for her. Arabs come from behind and circle around her.

SABUR

She is mine.

Sarset grabs a stone and throws it at him striking him in the face.

SABUR

You bitch!

Sabur lets his face bleed, grabs her, then throws her to the ground.

Sarset stands but Sabur slaps her back to the ground. He tears at her clothes then another punch to subdue her.

SABUR

Cry all you like. There is no one
here to help you now.

Just as the words leave his mouth the thud of a large animal
lands behind them.

A large lion roars startling the men.

SABUR

Kill it!

Menkaraa lands in front of Sabur more menacing than the lion.

MENKARAA

The lion is my friend.

SABUR

I don't know where you come from
but you will pay with your lives.

MENKARAA

You will pay with yours.

The lion attacks killing Sabur's men. Menkaraa, just as
lethal, throws men and Sabur against the trees then drinks
their blood.

When the screaming is over, Sarset lies ravaged and beaten on
the ground.

Menkaraa slowly walks toward her.

The lion comes to his side and they walk in tandem.

MENKARAA

We can not leave her here Ku.

The lion roars in defiance.

MENKARAA

What would you have me do?

The lions licks the blood from his mouth.

MENKARAA

Not her my friend.

Sarset passes out.

In one graceful move, Menkaraa gathers her in his arms and
speeds away with god-like speed and agility.

We focus on Sarset in Menkaraa's arms while he rushes through the forest.

INT. CASTLE, COLONNADE - MOMENTS LATER

The doors fling open. The castle is old, rustic, and seemingly not used in years caught between several eras of African history.

Ku growls in the darkness.

MENKARAA
Not now my friend.

Menkaraa moves up the stairs to a room adorned with finely carved furniture. He places Sarset gently on the bed.

Sarset turns on the pillow exposing her neck. He steps away.

Menkaraa searches around the room.

MENKARAA
Rest. I will attend to the room. It
will be ready when you wake.

The words penetrate her sleep and she nods as though she understands.

EXT. FOREST - MORNING

BES, a TWA (Pygmies) native man standing no more than four feet tall, examines the fresh blood from Menkaraa's kill. The bodies have been moved and brush covered but the blood's still fresh.

BES
He's been here.

An ache to Bes's head nearly collapses him in pain.

BES (CONT'D)
I'm coming.

INT. CASTLE, BEDROOM - MORNING

A sudden jump from the bed as Sarset wakes. She searches her surroundings for something familiar but there's nothing. She reaches for a note with elegant handwriting placed on a bedside table.

MENKARAA (V.O.)
All you need has been readied.

She walks to the door.

There's a growl from outside. It stops her from reaching for the handle.

SARSET
Who's out there?

Another growl.

SARSET (CONT'D)
Hello? Hello is anyone there?

An even louder growl. She backs away from the door.

SARSET (CONT'D)
Who's out there?

A flash of the men mauled in the forest floods her memory.

SARSET (CONT'D)
What is out there?

She searches the room noticing the meticulous placement of food and silverware. A bath made and warmed. An elegant dress from some past lays on the bed.

SARSET
Why treat me like a guest?

INT. CASTLE, COLONNADE - CONTINUOUS

Menkaraa strokes the hair of the lion in the darkness.

MENKARAA
Watch after her my friend.

The sunlight finally pierces through into the colonnade and it follows Menkaraa out.

INT. CASTLE, BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Sarset calms herself at the edge of the bed but tears fall like rain down her cheeks. She looks down at her ruffled clothing and dirt stains that ravage it. Sarset reaches for the dress to feel it's smoothness.

SARSET
Silk.

She studies the room to see more hand carved drawers, tall chairs reserved for someone of royalty, and gold leafed accents.

SARSET (CONT'D)
This is no prison.

Sarset runs her hand through the bath water.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Bes runs through the forest his small size allowing him to find holes where a larger man wouldn't fit. He comes to the edge of the forest and a cliff that looks upon a set of pyramids from an early Egyptian era.

Bes approaches the smaller of two pyramids and finds a hole.

INT. PYRAMID - CONTINUOUS

Bes lights a torch to navigate the small corridor down to a closed entrance. He presses a couple of stones and it opens. If he was any larger, the moving stone would crush him but it slides past to reveal a room untouched by grave robbers adorned with thousands of Egyptian artifacts cluttered to the ceiling.

BES

I'm here.

A figure sits quietly in a chair dressed in full Egyptian Battle armor.

Bes P.O.V. - He steps slowly toward the chair from behind.

SETI

Who else would I expect skulking
around down here?

The figure stands to reveal himself. Seti with his hair braided to one side and piercing vampire teeth removes his battle helmet.

SETI (CONT'D)

You've found him.

BES

Yes. Outside the City of Karnak.

SETI

Tell me. What has become of the
him?

BES

I did not see him. I only
recognized the signs of his
feeding.

SETI

So he feeds well?

BES
Six in total. But, there was
something else with him. He did not
hunt alone.

SETI
Another blood drinker?

BES
A lion.

SETI
He keeps odd friends.

BES
Have I not served you well?

SETI
You have.

BES
Then have I gained my release?

SETI
You would bargain with me?

BES
Only that I could return home since
we have found what you have been
searching for.

SETI
In time. I must see him for myself
but not until then. Ready yourself.

INT. CASTLE, BEDROOM - NIGHT

Sarset sits at the window looking toward the city a few miles
away. She looks toward the ground to see if she might be able
to escape down the side.

MENKARAA (O.C.)
It would be dangerous for you to
attempt such a leap.

Sarset searches but finds no one.

SARSET
Who's there?

MENKARAA (O.C.)
The keeper of this castle.

The voice seems to have come from a different direction.

SARSET
Why do you play this game with me?

MENKARAA (O.C.)
Forgive me. I do not mean to
startle you.

SARSET
Then show yourself.

Menkaraa steps from the shadows an imposing figure.

Sarset steps backwards startled by his sudden appearance.

MENKARAA
You need not worry. I mean you no
harm.

SARSET
Why do you hide in the shadows?

MENKARAA
I feared my presence would alarm
you.

SARSET
Am I a guest?

MENKARAA
You are.

SARSET
What about the beast that keeps me
captive?

MENKARAA
The beast is my friend and
protector. He was only watching
over you. Your confinement was
unintentional.

SARSET
I am not a prisoner?

MENKARAA
No.

SARSET
Then you must allow me to return..

Menkaraa cuts her words short.

MENKARAA
Your parents have been cared for.

SARSET

How do you know of my parents?

MENKARAA

You already know the answer to that question. Please, sit with me. I will answer the questions you seek.

Menkaraa motions to a couple of chairs already set in place for them.

SARSET

What are you?

MENKARAA

Again, a question to which you already know the answer.

SARSET

You are a blood drinker. Is that why I am here?

MENKARAA

No. You needed a place to recover.

Sarset cautiously sits across from him as he stares to the fire.

SARSET

It is you that has been watching over us.

MENKARAA

Yes.

SARSET

Why?

Menkaraa's stare pierces through her.

MENKARAA

I merely offered you shelter from the evil men that intrude into our land.

SARSET

You hide the truth in that answer.

Her response surprises him.

MENKARAA

To what does my answer give you distrust?

SARSET

You have been watching longer than those men have been tormenting my family. I've seen you before.

Menkaraa's silence only confirms her suspicion.

SARSET (CONT'D)

I've felt your presence as I've slept. I've seen your shadow in the woods ever since I was young. You have not aged.

MENKARAA

From your years, I will have appeared not too.

SARSET

How...

Again Menkaraa cuts her words short.

MENKARAA

We age slower and I will have appeared thirty-five to you.

SARSET

You can read my thoughts?

MENKARAA

When I concentrate, I can. You are very perceptive.

SARSET

Since they are my thoughts, I would ask you not invade them.

MENKARAA

If that is what your wish, I will.

SARSET

When will I be allowed to return to my parents?

MENKARAA

This moment if you choose. However, you should stay at least until you recover further.

Sarset hesitates to answer.

SARSET

Am I allowed to decline such an invitation?

MENKARAA

You are. I understand you question my motives. But, I assure you. Whatever your request, I will honor.

His sincerity surprises her.

SARSET

I will stay, as long as my parents are cared for.

MENKARAA

I will see it done.

Menkaraa stands to leave.

SARSET

What is it they call you?

MENKARAA

I am Menkaraa Setetsenra, son of the King Menkaure Sebekra Setetsenra III.

SARSET

You are of royalty?

MENKARAA

I am. I was. But that was long before your ancestors walked this ground. Tomorrow you will be free to wander. I apologize for your confinement.

Sarset smiles ever so slightly as he leaves.

INT. CASTLE, COLONNADE - DAY

Sarset walks through the castle enamored by it's size and beauty. She carefully approaches room after room until she finds a study with books.

INT. CASTLE, STUDY - CONTINUOUS

Sarset opens a few windows to let in the daylight. The light reveals thousands of leather bound books written by hand. She searches them for a familiar language.

SARSET

Amazing.

The books span generations. Different languages. Different eras but all in a similar handwriting. She recognizes the handwriting from Menkaraa's note.

SARSET (CONT'D)
They're his.

Sarset searches the room at the number of books to numerous to count.

SARSET (CONT'D)
How is this possible?

Sarset finds a book to read.

SARSET (CONT'D)
The Purging?

Sarset carefully handles it's pages due to the age.

BACK TO:

INT. PALACE, BEDROOM - NIGHT

Menkaure and Bak wake from sleeping.

Bak hurries to open the windows to let in the moonlight.

BAK
It is time to feed.

MENKAURE
Bak, look upon our city. The graves grow. We must slow ourselves.

BAK
You know that we can not.

MENKAURE
We must leave this city or we will destroy it.

BAK
You think about this the wrong way.

MENKAURE
How do I?

BAK
Do you remember the story of Ausar and Auset?

MENKAURE

I do. It was a story my father told me about the line of Kings.

BAK

My king, you are the risen Ausar. Reborn from death.

MENKAURE

How can I rule Kemet from the darkness? What of my family? How do I explain this curse?

BAK

My lord. You have an opportunity were the Kings before you failed.

MENKAURE

How have the Kings before me failed?

Bak senses the anger in his voice.

BAK

The all died. You are the first of your line that is the true personification of Ausar. Your rule has been godly and now you are one.

MENKAURE

An interesting idea.

BAK

You can use this gift to subdue your enemies and use the conquered as our feed. We can defy that pale demon and grow this Kingdom into an everlasting dynasty.

MENKAURE

We wouldn't need the strength of the clans or their superstitions.

BAK

You could sit on the throne forever.

MENKAURE

But, what of my sons?

BAK

As your kingdom grows, turn them as we have been turned. The house of Setetsenra will live an eternity.

MENKAURE

We can not turn Menkaraa or Seti.
They are still too young.

BAK

I will see to them personally. We
will keep them away and train them
until they are ready. I will make
them the strongest of all of us.

MENKAURE

Call the people. We will ease their
fears and lay blame to the growing
dead upon the clans. You are right.
We can use this gift to our
advantage.

Bak hurries from the bed chamber to make the arrangements.

INT. PALACE, BEDROOM - MORNING

Young Seti and Young Menkaraa sit in silence.

Nefetari enters.

NEFETARI

Boys. Come sit next to me.

The boys sit on the ground in front of her and she sits on
the bed.

YOUNG MENKARAA

What is happening?

NEFETARI

Many things you have come to know
will change.

YOUNG MENKARAA

Why?

YOUNG SETI

Can't you see it?

YOUNG MENKARAA

See what?

YOUNG SETI

She has come to warn us about our
father.

NEFETARI

That is not true. Your father is
the same man he ever was.

YOUNG SETI
Do not tell us lies.

NEFETARI
I do not tell you lies and I will
not have you speak to me in such
ways.

YOUNG MENKARAA
Why does he not come to see us
during the day anymore?

NEFETARI
That is what I've come to explain
to you. Your father wishes to do
his business during the nights now
for it suits him better.

YOUNG MENKARAA
But, what about us?

NEFETARI
You too must learn to wake by the
night and sleep during the day.

YOUNG SETI
What about the screams I hear at
night?

NEFETARI
What screams?

YOUNG SETI
Do not tell me you can not hear
what comes at night now?

NEFETARI
I don't know of what you speak.

YOUNG SETI
I asked you not to tell me lies.

YOUNG MENKARAA
Why would she lie to us Seti?

YOUNG SETI
Don't be naive Menkaraa. She knows
of what I speak.

NEFETARI
Seti. You must calm yourself. I do
not tell you lies.

YOUNG SETI

You speak in half truths. They may
as well be lies.

Menkaraa stands to defend his mother.

YOUNG MENKARAA

Seti! Why do you treat her this
way? She has no reason to lie to us
and if the King wishes us to wake
by the night. We must abide.

YOUNG SETI

She is not my mother.

Nefetari stands over them.

NEFETARI

But, I am your queen and you will
do as you're told. From now on you
both will remain to the palace. You
will wake at night and sleep during
the day. Bak will train you in the
arts of fighting and of new skills
you both must learn. These are the
wishes and commands of the king.
Will you abide?

YOUNG MENKARAA

I will.

NEFETARI

Will you?

YOUNG SETI

Do we have a choice?

YOUNG MENKARAA

Please Seti. We must.

YOUNG SETI

Only for you Menkaraa.

INT. PALACE, HALL OF KINGS - EVENING

The room fills with the kings subjects. As soon as the Sun
sets, Menkaure and Bak enter the room followed by all of his
sons.

Menkaure takes his place at this throne adorned in gold. His
sons stand behind him from the oldest to the youngest.

Nefetari takes her place next to him.

Bak raises his hands for the King to speak and the crowd quiets.

MENKAURE

People of Kemet, children of Ra,
there is much I must tell you.

The crowd stirs with questions.

MENKAURE

Apep is dead, a victim of his own
demise.

The crowd becomes unruly from the announcement.

SUBJECT ONE

We have heard he was torn to
pieces.

MENKAURE

He did not meet his end well.

SUBJECT ONE

How does a man cut and asunder
himself?

Menkaure points to Subject One.

MENKAURE

Userkaf, bring this man forward.

Subject One pulls his hood back and reveals himself as ASRET, the acting clan leader. Asret wears a robe with painted hieroglyphics and walks with a staff with the God Anubis at it's end.

MENKAURE

Asret, do you know how Apep met his
end to tell this assemblage?

ASRET

I do not.

MENKAURE

I will try to appease your
questions since you know NOT the
details and only the aftermath of
his undoing.

ASRET

I mean no disrespect. It's just
that the imperial armies are
questioning us and do not give the
reason.

MENKAURE

Asret. Your leader called upon a great evil to do his bidding and dethrone the house of Setetsenra.

ASRET

We did not know nor did-

Menkaure interrupts him.

MENKAURE

This evil did not spare him and attacked me. I have not been in your view because I was recovering from this attack.

ASRET

How can you excoriate us for the acts of another?

MENKAURE

This evil still kills among our people.

The crowd stirs in agreement and focuses their anger toward Asret.

ASRET

It was not us.

MENKAURE

The deed has been perpetrated through your sect and I will not tolerate anarchical plots in my kingdom.

The crowd becomes even more frenzied.

SUBJECT TWO

Destroy his sect.

MENKAURE

People of Kemet, be still and don't behave as angry children. Your sect as well as every religion that does not worship the house of Setetsenra as God and King will be given five days to leave this Kingdom. If on the fifth day you remain, all of you will meet your end.

Seti, enraged, holds back his displeasure when Menkaraa pulls at his arm.

Rameses smirks at Seti.

The crowd voices it's displeasure.

ASRET

This is our home. Our place of
birth.

MENKAURE

As I have spoken it, so shall it be
written. Lead him away.

The guards pull Asret from the ground and take him.

The crowd continues to voice it's displeasure.

Menkaure stands with his eyes a twinge of red glow behind
them.

MENKAURE

Silence!

Menkaure's voice echoes through the chamber bringing the
crowd to an eerie quiet.

MENKAURE

Go back to your homes and let all
those who could not enter this day
know their God is well. Let not the
clans persuade you otherwise for
they are hereby banished from the
walls of Kemet forever.

Whispers fill the hall as the King and his sons exit.

INT. PALACE, CHAMBER - NIGHT

The chamber is at the very top of the palace secluded from
the rest. A simple bed sits on each side of the room. It's
large enough to fit a sparring mat and a few fighting tools
but small enough to make it feel like a prison.

Young Seti trains among the wood made fighting tools.

Young Menkaraa enters then sits on a bed.

YOUNG SETI

How can he do this Menkaraa?

He kicks in Menkaraa's direction.

YOUNG MENKARAA

Do what?

YOUNG SETI
Banish all the clans.

YOUNG MENKARAA
I don't know the reasons.

YOUNG SETI
Everything I was born to believe
will be torn down.

YOUNG MENKARAA
It's not like that.

YOUNG SETI
The temples of my mother. The
leaders of our people. Gone.

Seti trains harder.

YOUNG MENKARAA
They plotted against him.

YOUNG SETI
As they should have.

YOUNG MENKARAA
Seti? Why do you hold this rage
against our father?

YOUNG SETI
Why do you not?

YOUNG MENKARAA
He has to do what is right for this
kingdom.

YOUNG SETI
No. He's doing what is right for
him.

Menkaraa stands to fight him.

YOUNG MENKARAA
Don't talk about him that way.

YOUNG SETI
Do you think we'd be in this prison
if that wasn't the case?

YOUNG MENKARAA
Don't talk about him that way!

Menkaraa attacks but Seti easily defends himself.

YOUNG SETI
Think about it. Whatever that beast
was, it changed him.

YOUNG MENKARAA
No it hasn't!

YOUNG SETI
It turned him into something else.
Something evil.

Menkaraa's anger filters over and he attacks wildly but Seti
subdues him.

YOUNG SETI
He smells of death. I've heard the
screams of dying. You can see it in
his eyes. The need for blood fills
them.

YOUNG MENKARAA
I don't believe you.

YOUNG SETI
See for yourself. He is a blood
King and he will make you a blood
prince.

YOUNG MENKARAA
That isn't true.

YOUNG SETI
The only reason I stay is to
protect you from it.

Seti lets Menkaraa go and walks away.

BACK TO:

INT. CASTLE, STUDY - EVENING

Sarset finishes reading the page then gently sets the book on
a table next to her.

The last rays of sunlight filter from the room.

MENKARAA (O.C.)
I see you've kept busy.

Flames rise from the fireplace to reveal Menkaraa standing
next to it.

SARSET
Good evening.

MENKARAA

I hope you've enjoyed your day.

SARSET

It was pleasant.

Menkaraa sees the book she's been reading.

MENKARAA

Interesting you would find that book placed among the thousands.

SARSET

Forgive me. I only-

Menkaraa interrupts her.

MENKARAA

Do not apologize. You were given the freedom to find this.

SARSET

How many books sit among these shelves?

MENKARAA

Over twenty thousand.

SARSET

Did you write them all?

MENKARAA

Most.

SARSET

I must have seen ten different languages.

MENKARAA

There are more.

SARSET

Do you speak all of them?

MENKARAA

Yes.

SARSET

How is it that you have come to know all this?

MENKARAA

There is much to learn about my kind. Parts of which that are unbearable.

SARSET

I do not understand.

Menkaraa lights a lantern. He walks along a row of books.

Sarset follows a few steps behind him.

MENKARAA

Imagine each of these books as a person. A lifetime's worth of knowledge in its pages.

SARSET

Each of these represents a life?

MENKARAA

A life I've taken and their knowledge filtered into mine like a memory.

Sarset gasps then cries.

SARSET

The magnitude of death you've caused overwhelms me.

He reaches for a book.

MENKARAA

Each of these books could represent ten lives and would not be enough to count them.

Sarset trembles in fear.

SARSET

You have never frightened me until now.

MENKARAA

This is why I live in solitude and only take those that prey on others.

SARSET

And that's supposed to make it acceptable?

MENKARAA

I have lived for thousands of years. It's the only acceptance I can take from this curse.

SARSET

Why have you explained this to me?

MENKARAA

Because the book you read makes me human. But, I am not and you must not forget it.

SARSET

Would you plan to make me like you?

MENKARAA

I would not wish this curse upon the worst of my enemies and assuredly not upon you.

SARSET

I would hope you are true to your words.

MENKARAA

I am.

Sarset looks into his eyes to see a warmth that is unexpected.

SARSET

How can you be such a monster and look at me with all the care in the world?

MENKARAA

You are the first person to know the truth. It's a vulnerability I have not known before.

SARSET

I am just a simple farmer's daughter. I would not hold this knowledge against you.

MENKARAA

I know.

Menkaraa looks toward the door as Ku pushes himself through it.

The lion scratches at the floor.

MENKARAA

I must leave you tonight. It would please me if I could see you again tomorrow.

SARSET

I will still be here. I've not fully recovered. Would it be alright if I continued with your book?

MENKARAA

It would.

Menkaraa vanishes before her into a fine mist then out the door.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

Menkaraa watches the shack from a distance behind the cover of the trees. He sees Nan approach the shack.

Something follows her and it rustles through the foliage.

Menkaraa ascends into the air.

Nan makes it to the shack careful to see if anyone has followed. She knocks on the door.

NAN

Tuya? Tuya? It's Nan.

The door opens and Nan enters quickly.

JAHE and KABUL, two local thugs, follow quietly through the brush then stop as they see the shack.

JAHE

She's went inside.

KABUL

Let's take her now.

JAHE

Wait. We don't know who else is in there.

KABUL

How do you know anyone else is in there?

JAHE

Listen.

They hear the voices faintly from inside.

NAN

(barely audible)

I don't where she's gone. The Arabs
chased her into the woods.

JAHE

There are two old ones.

KABUL

We can take them.

Menkaraa descends onto a large branch overlooking the two men.

JAHE

Go around to the back so they can't
escape.

Kabul slowly makes his way around the shack. When he's out of Jahe's view, Menkaraa appears behind him.

Menkaraa covers Kabul's mouth, plunges his fang into his throat, and after a few seconds Kabul falls dead.

Jahe slowly walks to the steps of the door.

Menkaraa sees him then mimics Kabul's voice.

KABUL (V.O.)

Wait. Come back around I found the
gold outside.

JAHE

Are you sure?

KABUL (V.O.)

I know the sight of gold when I see
it.

Jahe slowly creeps around the back to see no one.

JAHE

Kabul?

Suddenly Menkaraa pulls him high into air.

Jahe screams wildly as they float over the trees then descend into the river.

Menkaraa drowns him in the river deep under the darkness. The water slows Menkaraa's vampire quickness so that he appears human.

EXT. FOREST - MOMENTS LATER

Nan leaves the shack then quickly finds the trail back to Karnak.

SARSET (V.O.)
Nan?

Nan stops to search for the voice.

NAN
Sarset? Where are you?

SARSET (V.O.)
Over here.

Nan sees a hooded figure but can't make out the shape from the darkness.

NAN
Child your parents worry for you.

SARSET (V.O.)
I couldn't make it back. People are following me. Can you return and tell them I am well?

NAN
I will.

SARSET (V.O.)
Do you know of the castle hidden between the hills?

NAN
I do not.

SARSET (V.O.)
Look to your left just over the trees you can see the tower just above them.

NAN
I still don't see it.

SARSET (V.O.)
It was built to mimic the trees. But, you can see the light from it.

She finally sees it.

NAN
I've never known it was there.

SARSET (V.O.)
Find it in the morning. I will be
there waiting.

NAN
Should I bring your parents?

SARSET (V.O.)
Not now. I will come for them. Now
hurry.

Nan races back to the shack.

Menkaraa removes the robe covering him and watches her
return.

EXT. RIVER, EDGE - MORNING

Bes wanders through the forest down to the river trying to
find food. He finds the body of Jahe washed up along the
river. Bes examines the scratches on the body.

BES
Menkaraa.

Bes hears a noise coming and hides.

A popping sound and cloud form around the body. Six figures
appear wearing robes with painted hieroglyphics and full
faced masks of the Jackal God Anubis. They form a guarded
position around the body while one examines it.

PHAROAH
The unclean one has been here. He
is close.

Pharoah searches the woods and surrounding river looking for
Bes.

PHAROAH
Something else is here?

Bes slowly slides down into the water and swims away.

The six figures pull their weapons. Three with finely adorned
swords and three with impeccable bows and arrows. They search
the river bank but find nothing.

Pharoah looks into the water and a crocodile's eyes pierce
back above it.

PHAROAH
Let us return.

The cloud forms again then dissipates and all six figures are gone.

INT. CASTLE, KITCHEN - DAY

Nan with a large basket of food enters the kitchen to see Sarset napping at a table.

NAN
Child. Praise the Gods.

The sudden sound startles Sarset awake.

SARSET
Nan? How did you find this place?

Sarset embraces Nan tightly.

NAN
You told me last night.

SARSET
I was here.

NAN
But, how can that be? I clearly heard your voice.

SARSET
Are you sure it wasn't Menkaraa?

NAN
Who?

SARSET
He told me he would look after my parents.

NAN
Your parents are well. I saw them last night.

SARSET
I worry he has not kept his promise.

NAN
Who?

SARSET
Menkaraa.

NAN
Who is this person?

SARSET
He is my host.

NAN
Why have we never heard of him in
the village? And who would keep
such a place like this hidden?

Sarset carefully thinks about the question.

SARSET
Someone who does not want to be
found.

NAN
You should return at once.

SARSET
I must stay at least for another
night.

Nan searches the kitchen for food and other supplies.

NAN
Does the keeper of this castle not
eat? The only food here seems to be
what I've brought.

SARSET
There are fruits in the orchard and
vegetables in the garden.

NAN
But, nothing in the kitchen.

SARSET
This will suffice.

NAN
I will stay to watch over you.

SARSET
You must return.

NAN
I can not just leave you here with
a stranger.

SARSET
You must. I am cared for. You need
not worry. Besides, the Arabs will
grow suspicious if you are not at
your stall.

NAN

Well, let me at least fix you a meal.

SARSET

That would be generous of you.

Nan removes the supplies and organizes them on a counter.

INT. CASTLE, STUDY - AFTERNOON

Sarset pulls the books from it's place and then carefully turns the page to read.

BACK TO:

INT. PALACE, CHAMBER - EVENING

It's six years later and Menkaraa, now eighteen, looks upon the city around the palace that has expanded ten fold. Large buildings, statues, and obelisks mark the changes to the kingdom.

He writes into a journal.

MENKARAA (V.O.)

Today marks the sixth time I have watched the summer equinox from this window. My brother feels this room is a prison. I regard it as a lesson that will dictate the rest of my life.

Seti enters from the window as he has many times before.

MENKARAA

Where have you been?

SETI

It is none of your business where I go brother.

MENKARAA

Why do you hold our father's wishes with such disregard?

SETI

You clearly still do not understand what has happened.

MENKARAA

I clearly see that our father has built a kingdom far greater than the one we had.

SETI

On the backs and lives of conquered slaves.

MENKARAA

Why is it you always feel wronged?

SETI

Why is it you don't? Tell me Menkaraa. What is this prison we are confined to? What are these lessons we're supposed to be learning? Chemists? Healers? Our brothers learned to fight and lead. Now, we have all these unusual teachers.

MENKARAA

There is more to learn than what our brothers had to.

SETI

And what might that be? To hunt people?

MENKARAA

You will not bait me into another fight.

SETI

Does it trouble you that you can not answer that question?

Seti reaches for a weapon.

Menkaraa does the same.

MENKARAA

I trust my father.

SETI

How about your brothers? How many of them have you seen during the day?

MENKARAA

You will not anger me.

SETI

There is something about the day that keeps them from it. They've all grown pale and a darkness sets in their eyes.

Seti attacks and Menkaraa calmly defends.

MENKARAA

I am not a child anymore. You can not play on my emotions.

SETI

It's not your emotions I'm trying to incite.

They spar so exhaustively. It's hard to tell if they aren't really fighting. Each matches blow for blow and neither can gain an advantage.

MENKARAA

You can not overmatch me anymore.

SETI

It is the only thing that we have become equals. You need to come with me and see for yourself. It is the only way you will understand.

Bak enters the chamber and the brothers stop sparring.

BAK

You men have become strong. It will serve you well in the future. Guards!

A few guards enter the room and surround Seti.

SETI

What is meaning of this?

BAK

You are to come with us.

SETI

Do I have a choice?

MENKARAA

Why do you bring these guards for Seti?

SETI

Attend to your own fears.

BAK

It is his time.

SETI

My time?

BAK

Your training has ended. There is nothing more you can learn from this room.

SETI

I will not go willingly.

BAK

As I suspected you wouldn't. You insolent pup. But, even at your best you couldn't defeat my men.

MENKARAA

But I could negate that disadvantage.

BAK

Menkaraa, trust that we mean the best for Seti. He is to take his place among your brothers.

Menkaraa closes his eyes.

MENKARAA

I trust my father.

SETI

Your faith is blind.

MENKARAA

My faith is all I have that is mine.

SETI

I will still try to spare you from this fate.

Bak slaps Seti to be quiet.

BAK

Take him away.

The guards pull Seti out of the room.

MENKARAA

He is my brother. You will not treat him that way again.

BAK

He does not deserve the gift that will be bestowed upon you.

MENKARAA

What gift do you speak?

BAK

You will see in time.

EXT. PALACE, GROUNDS - NIGHT

Menkaraa climbs down the rope Seti had fashioned to escape the chamber during the day. He covers himself to not be recognized by the palace guards.

EXT. LAKE - NIGHT

Menkaraa walks through the city down to the lake to see all the new buildings and artwork.

Menkaure and Nefetari sit as lovers in the moonlight next to the lake.

Menkaraa stands behind a tree to not be seen.

Suddenly, Menkaure plunges his fangs into Nefetari's neck and to drink her blood. She falls limp into the sand.

Menkaraa runs toward her but someone holds him back and covers his mouth.

BAK

You were not supposed to see this.

Menkaraa struggles to escape but can't.

BAK (CONT'D)

My prince, this is futile.

INT. PALACE, CHAMBER - LATER

Guards push Menkaraa into the chamber then wait for Bak to enter.

Bak calmly enters and walks over to Menkaraa seething with anger.

BAK

You can leave us.

The guards carefully exit.

MENKARAA

What has happened to my mother?!

BAK

I assure you that she is fine.

MENKARAA

I just watched my father kill her.

BAK

She is not dead. She has merely made a choice.

MENKARAA

It did not look so.

BAK

From your perspective it would appear as though she hadn't.

MENKARAA

Then explain this to me. I do not want to believe that Seti was right.

BAK

Your brother was misguided in his assumptions. He too had a limited perspective.

MENKARAA

Can you blame him? I've watched the city grow as you've kept us in this chamber. You've kept us from experiencing the world outside of this palace and asked us to trust you. I've done everything asked of me.

BAK

You have. Your faith has been unwavering until now. I fear that it is my fault. I let Seti poison your ear hoping your strength would change him. He had to be shown the plan for our kingdom.

MENKARAA

What has become of Seti?

BAK

He has entered the next phase of his training as you will soon.

MENKARAA

Why not now? Why must I be kept from this knowledge?

BAK

You are not being kept from it. You are being taught the best lessons of it so that you will be the strongest of all of us. Continue to have the faith in your father you have always had and I assure you I will protect you.

BACK TO:

INT. CASTLE, BEDROOM - EVENING

Sarset sets the book on a table then watches the sunset.

SARSET

I can feel that you are here.

MENKARAA (O.C.)

I am.

Menkaraa lays some fruit at the table.

MENKARAA

Are you famished?

SARSET

I am fine.

MENKARAA

Very well.

Menkaraa turns to leave.

SARSET

Would you keep me company?

Menkaraa's hunger aches at him.

SARSET

Are you alright?

MENKARAA

I will be fine.

SARSET

This story is fascinating. You tell it with such emotion and detail I feel as though I am there.

MENKARAA

It is not emotion that we lose when we are turned. It is empathy.

SARSET

But, you do care or you would have not allowed me to read it.

MENKARAA

It is merely a story. That is all.

SARSET

This is not a story. Your words in the book deceive you.

MENKARAA

Do they?

SARSET

Yes. I would like to hear you speak the truth. Tell me of your history.

MENKARAA

What questions do you have?

SARSET

Why do I not know of the kingdom your father built?

MENKARAA

Because it no longer stands and another was built on top of it. As was another. And another.

SARSET

How can that be? You stand here thousands of years after this story you tell. Why doesn't your father?

MENKARAA

My father's kingdom was destroyed. As was he.

SARSET

Your kind can know death?

MENKARAA

We are the epitome of death. So, yes. We can know it.

SARSET

Is that why you only come to visit during the night?

MENKARAA

It is.

Menkaraa sits in a chair facing the fire.

MENKARAA

Warm yourself by the fire. I will
tell you everything you ask.

Sarset comes to sit at the chair next to him.

SARSET

You are unlike the monster I
thought you would be.

MENKARAA

I am every bit that monster. But,
the more time I spend with you. The
less I feel I am.

EXT. KARNAK - NIGHT

Seti walks through the city covered in this robe hiding the
battle armor underneath.

A group of Arabs boldly walk the streets.

Seti scoffs at them.

SETI

Trash.

Bes hides in the alleyway.

SETI

I see you've made it through your
ordeal.

BES

I had to swim the river.

SETI

So, why have you brought me here?

Bes points to Nan at her stall.

BES

She's the one I followed from deep
within the forest.

Seti walks over to the stall then carefully searches over the
trinkets.

NAN

What is it I can do for you?

SETI

Where were you earlier this day?

NAN

I was attending to a friend.

SETI

Does that friend have a name?

NAN

It is none of your business who I spend my day with. If you wish to purchase a trinket please do so. But, my personal matters are not your concern.

Seti smiles at her smugly.

SETI

Be careful with your words. There are some around here that would not take well to your chiding.

He reaches for an ANKE from the table and hands it to her.

SETI

I'll take this.

Their fingers rub slightly as she pulls it from him.

A flash of the castle catches Seti by surprise.

SARSET (V.O.)

Menkaraa.

SLOW MOTION: Seti pulls Nan into the alleyway before she even has time to set the ANKE into place.

Seti lifts her into the air by her throat.

SETI

Where were you?

Nan kicks and tries to scream but the hold is too tight for her to speak.

Seti releases his grip so she can answer.

NAN

Please, don't kill me.

SETI

Only if you give me the answer I seek.

NAN

I was in the hills.

SETI

That's not what I wanted to hear.

Seti plunges his fangs into her and drinks her blood. He lets her fall to the ground dead when he's finished. Seti closes his eyes.

Montage:

Nan's lifetime encapsulated into a few shots.

Birth, marriage, bearing children, meeting Sarset's parents with a young Sarset.

Nan watches the Arabs chase Sarset into the woods.

Nan talks to Sarset's parents at the shack.

Nan walks the pathway to the castle.

Nan finds Sarset asleep in the kitchen.

Nan sees Seti plunge his fangs into her.

Seti opens his eyes and looks over the trees to see the castle in the distance.

SETI

I've found you.

INT. CASTLE, COLONNADE - NIGHT

Menkaraa walks with Sarset at his side.

She gently places her hand through his bent elbow as he escorts her through to the study.

Menkaraa looks down at her hand.

INT. CASTLE, STUDY - CONTINUOUS

Menkaraa gently releases her hand so she can take a seat. He starts a fire.

SARSET

So tell me of Kemet. How could such a great kingdom fall?

MENKARAA

My brother Seti.

SARSET

Seti? You spoke so highly of him in your writings.

MENKARAA

I did. I had always looked up to him. He was the closest to me in age. But, he was a loner from birth believed to be born to a lesser of my father's wives in an attempt to bring peace between her lands and ours. My older brothers never let him forget it and I was the only one he ever spoke to about it.

SARSET

Why would he turn against your father?

MENKARAA

He was the day to my father's night. It was as though he always wanted a fight. My brother did not know himself without conflict. Had my father chosen to be the destroyer, Seti would have found a way to save it.

SARSET

What did he do?

MENKARAA

My brother plotted against the kingdom in the years we spent together.

SARSET

How did he with you constantly there?

MENKARAA

He never obeyed my father's wishes after my father was turned. He spent time looking for and building the priests that would chose to destroy my father.

Menkaraa stares into the fire.

BACK TO:

INT. CAVE - DAY

A fire burns in the middle of a dark cave. Six hooded figures stand around it.

Asret removes his hood to speak to the group. The others remain covered.

ASRET

Our sect served the king for many years. Who is he to call himself God in our stead?

YOUNG PRIEST

He is not the same king.

ASRET

Of what do you speak?

YOUNG PRIEST

He no longer travels by day and it is said that the king drinks blood from a golden chalice.

ASRET

Blood?

YOUNG PRIEST

The King thirsts for it.

The words incite hostility in the others.

ASRET

Brethren, let's not begin to share tales of unfounded rumors.

YOUNG PRIEST

They are not rumors.

PRIEST ONE

I've heard the same. The graves still grow in the city.

ASRET

Hold brethren. Why would the house of Setetsenra cause any harm to this kingdom?

YOUNG PRIEST

Because they not longer serve this kingdom. They serve an evil within themselves that requires the blood of others.

ASRET

They have become unclean?

YOUNG PRIEST

He is a blood king. A vampire. What else could have done such a horror to Apep?

ASRET

I don't know.

YOUNG PRIEST

We can not wait for them to
slaughter us all one by one.

ASRET

They allowed us to leave.

YOUNG PRIEST

They exiled us rather than tell the
truth. They made our proud religion
synonymous to villainy. They shamed
us for their actions.

PRIEST ONE

The young one is right. The king
has stolen everything we held dear.
It is why we have to meet in this
cave.

They all agree.

YOUNG PRIEST

We must build a new sect. We must
cover our faces so that the King
will not recognize us or take us as
we sleep.

They shout in agreement.

ASRET

If that is the wishes of this
council, then it will be written.

YOUNG PRIEST

The six of us must lead as one so
that no one man can destroy us with
his ambition.

ASRET

But, what if one us falls?

YOUNG PRIEST

The six of us will take new names
and lead six men who can replace us
as they will build six more to
replace them.

PRIEST ONE

For the six of us to be equals we
must take the same name.

ASRET

We will call ourselves the great house.

PRIEST ONE

Pharoah.

ASRET

Never will this council convene with out six Pharaohs. Let us prepare, we are now the Jackal, and the house of Setetsenra is the lion. We shall keep this council until there are no more blood kings on this earth.

The council of men separate. The Young Priest waits for them to exit then removes his hood to reveal Seti.

BACK TO:

INT. CASTLE, STUDY - NIGHT

Ku enters the chamber and growls his displeasure to Menkaraa.

MENKARAA

Not tonight friend. You must find your own way.

Sarset sits up still uneasy around the lion.

MENKARAA (CONT'D)

I don't believe you've been properly introduced. This is Ku.

Menkaraa gently places his hand on the lion's mane and pets him.

SARSET

You keep lions as friends?

MENKARAA

Of the animals that roam Abekulan, they are the ones that best understand me.

SARSET

Abekulan?

MENKARAA

What you know as Africa now.

Sarset yawns.

SARSET

Excuse me. These late hours are unusual for me.

MENKARAA

If you wish to sleep, I will bid you leave.

SARSET

I do not wish to. I wish for you keep me company until morning.

Menkaraa's hunger weighs on him as he covers his heart with his hand.

Ku scratches at the floor.

MENKARAA

I am staying with her. You must hunt alone tonight.

SARSET

Are you alright?

MENKARAA

I am.

Ku growls then leaves the room.

EXT. HILL SIDE - NIGHT

Seti views down into the castle from the top of the hill side.

Bes struggles through the trees down to the bottom.

Seti quietly floats down the bottom.

SETI

You make too much noise. Quiet yourself.

They take a few steps into the clearing in front of the castle then hear a lion's growl.

SETI

You said he didn't hunt alone?

BES

No.

The lion's growl becomes louder.

BES
What shall we do?

SETI
We? What will you do?

Seti dissipates beside Bes leaving him alone until Ku pounces on him.

INT. CASTLE, BEDROOM - NIGHT

Menkaraa and Sarset sit across from each other.

A figure CRASHES through the window sending shards everywhere.

Menkaraa's speed protects Sarset from injury then he focuses back at this unknown attacker.

Seti removes his robe to expose his battle leather then floats to the floor. His sandals lightly touch the ground.

MENKARAA
What is this intrusion?

SETI
You already know.

MENKARAA
Stand behind me.

Menkaraa gently reaches his arm out to place Sarset behind him.

SETI
I was never one to steal food from your plate. That will not change now.

Seti steps around the room and Menkaraa counters like a dance between fencers.

MENKARAA
She is a friend. Address her as such.

SETI
Is it prudent to befriend your food?

They remain guarded until Seti suddenly unsheathes his sword.

Menkaraa grabs a stoking iron to defend himself.

The clang of metal echoes through the halls.

Seti dematerializes and appears outside. Menkaraa follows.

A battle between the two follows out into the sky above the trees.

SETI

This is pointless.

They fight intensely but neither can gain the advantage.

MENKARAA

I will see the Ra rise before I
yield to you.

SETI

I did not come here to let you seek
your revenge.

MENKARAA

Crashing through my window suggests
you are here to finish what you
started.

SETI

Would you have let me in had I just
knocked?

MENKARAA

Never.

SETI

Come, let us talk.

MENKARAA

The time for words was thousands of
years ago.

SETI

Please. Hear me. I will explain.

MENKARAA

I do not wish to hear it.

SETI

Then take my life if you must. Just
offer me a word with you.

Seti sheathes his sword and dematerializes into the room.

Menkaraa follows making sure to appear in front of Sarset.

MENKARAA

Why would I allow you to tell me
lies?

SETI

No lies. No deceit. Just a word
amongst brothers.

INT. CASTLE, KITCHEN - NIGHT

Seti sits across a long table.

Menkaraa keeps Sarset guarded from him.

SETI

Brother. There's no need to protect
her from me.

MENKARAA

Why have you come here?

SETI

Does one need an invitation?

MENKARAA

It was you who declared war on the
house of my father. And yours.

SETI

You still do not understand. I was
young. Full of rage. And unlike you
would never sit upon the throne of
Kemet.

MENKARAA

You were never a half son to my
father nor half brother to me.

SETI

You must let this go. We have
bigger things to worry than the
wrath of an old war.

MENKARAA

Old? Your words still spit on the
virtues of the kingdom our father
built.

SETI

You call these virtues? Was it your
choice to become this thing? Was it
your choice to live off the blood
of men?

MENKARAA

You killed the ideals of our father.

SETI

You are still naive. Blindly dedicated to a forgotten age. I don't see you wear this curse as a badge of honor. The disdain you carry could fill a mountain.

MENKARAA

The hate I have for you could black out the sky.

SETI

Then you have a glimpse for what I felt feed like an animal to him.

MENKARAA

Again, why have you come? I don't wish to hear you cry like you have been wronged.

SETI

We have been brother. We were cursed to see kingdoms fall then be rebuilt then fall again. To see the incursions of outsiders burn the jungle and take the sand of the north for themselves. We've been cursed to watch the blood of our brethren sold into slavery.

Menkaraa pierces Seti's words with laughter.

MENKARAA

Don't tell me the soulless Prince of Kemet has grown a conscience. The same people you've fed upon for centuries will not change. They will continue to bleed the ground red and change the Gods to suit their needs.

SETI

Do you not care what has happened to our homeland? The land you once held so sacred that you hold this grudge against me now.

MENKARAA

I hold my grudge because your deceit killed my father.

SETI

It also saved your life.

MENKARAA

And for this I should owe you? Have you come to ask me to battle the forces that corrupt this land because you believe I owe you?

SETI

Then you are not blind to this world?

MENKARAA

I do not care for this world. Nothing you or I do will change it. We have killed thousands of evil men and yet thousands more come to replace them. So it has been for a millennia and so it will be till the next one.

SETI

What happened to you Menkaraa that even now you would turn your back on your countrymen?

MENKARAA

This happened to me. THIS! And you've become the contradiction of a lost kingdom. Our father tried to build a great continent. It was you who destroyed it. I care for nothing else now.

SETI

It seems I've taken everything from you. And for that I am sorry. I was only trying to protect you. I failed.

SARSET

May I speak? You are Seti?

SETI

I am.

SARSET

Menkaraa. Why is it that the words in your writing do not reflect the person I see now?

MENKARAA

An age has changed him and all you see is this thing in front of you.

SARSET

I don't know the kingdom of which you were heirs. Nor deny you the anger for which you must feel.

MENKARAA

Do not defend him.

SARSET

But, you are Gods amongst men.

MENKARAA

We are merely lions amongst antelope.

SARSET

You have strengths I can barely imagine. You could tear out the evil that takes this land.

SETI

You would listen to her as she speaks the words I would say.

MENKARAA

Silence! Those are the same words that seduced our father.

Menkaraa stands from the table.

SETI

That is why I acted as such ways. You knew as well as I what he'd become.

MENKARAA

I watched you turn the people against him. I will not rule as a God and watch one enemy become a million.

SETI

But you can not continue to hide and do nothing!

Seti smashes the table with his sword and it splinters.

The blow knocks Sarset back against the wall.

Menkaraa draws his sword.

MENKARAA

Leave now. Or this night will end with the death of one or both of us.

Seti turns his sword toward Menkaraa.

SETI

I am not afraid of dying.

Sarset stands between them.

SETI

Out of the way human.

SARSET

I will not move.

SETI

Would you have a woman do battle for you?

MENKARAA

Sarset, you need not put yourself in harms way for me.

SARSET

Seti. I know I can not force you to stop. With your power and strength, I am merely an obstacle. But, as someone who has heard of your family's curse and felt the words your brother has had for you. I would ask that you not cause him harm.

Sarset stands boldly in front of Seti as he looks her over.

Seti dissipates.

MENKARAA

He is gone.

Sarset breaks down in tears from her experience.

Menkaraa carefully picks her up to carry her to the bedroom.

INT. CASTLE, BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Menkaraa carries Sarset into the room and sets her on the bed. He wipes the tears from her eyes.

MENKARAA

I thank you for your bravery.

SARSET

He is the monster you believe
yourself to be.

MENKARAA

We are the same.

SARSET

No. You have not lost your empathy.
What you love was stolen from you
then you were made to endure this.
It was only hidden under years of
hate.

MENKARAA

I had felt I could no longer
endure. The pain of what I'd lost
is the same today as it was
thousands of years ago.

Sarset sits and gently rubs her fingers against his cheek.

SARSET

You have witnessed much. You are
alone and that has to be the
hardest part of your journey.

MENKARAA

I don't deserve your affection.
I've been a vile creature. I was
once the son of a great king. Now,
I hide from his enemies. I felt
myself at the end of this journey
until I saw you and thought of
Kemet.

SARSET

Is that why you have watched over
my family?

MENKARAA

Seeing you reminded me what it was
like to be human.

SARSET

What was it like to be turned?

MENKARAA

You pray for death. And it takes
just that.

Menkaraa stares into Sarset's eyes and if we was human they'd
be filled with tears.

MENKARAA

You must leave.

Sarset throws her arms around him.

SARSET

I do not want to go.

MENKARAA

You must. The longer you stay with me, the more I fear my enemies will hurt you. I could not endure that.

SARSET

Please, do not ask me to leave.

MENKARAA

I'm not. But, it is what has to be done.

Menkaraa dissipates threw her arms.

Sarset cries wrapped in her own embrace.

SETI (O.S.)

Stop your weeping.

Seti steps from the shadows of the room.

SETI

My brother is right. Your death will be eminent if you stay.

Sarset angrily rushes over to push him.

SARSET

What kind of tormenter are you?

Every time she's close enough to push he moves quickly around her.

SARSET

Do you like to play these games?

SETI

I don't need to play games. I can take your life anytime I want.

SARSET

Then do it. I am not afraid of you.

SETI

You are a bold little person.

SARSET
And you are soulless monster.

SETI
I am. At your service.

Seti takes a bow in front of her.

Sarset sees the Anke dangling from around his neck.

SARSET
Where did you get that piece?

SETI
Do you like it? It reminds me of
home. Or more to your home. I fed
upon a woman tonight that no longer
needed it.

SARSET
(softly)
Nan.

Sarset's eyes water with tears.

SETI
Your parents are alone now with no
one to care for them.

SARSET
If you do anything to harm them.

SETI
What would you do? Should I be
scared?

SARSET
This is all part of your game. If
you wanted me or my family you have
done it. So, why do you come here?

SETI
I see why he's taken to you. You
are a smart little girl. I want to
know why he listens to you.

SARSET
I will not tell you.

SETI
What?

SARSET

I will not play your game. Either take me. Or leave.

SETI

What about your parents? You may not care what happens to you but what of them?

SARSET

I will take my chances.

Seti bears his fangs then stands menacing over her.

Sarset closes her eyes ready to take them.

A wind blows through the room and Seti's gone when she opens her eyes.

Sarset rushes to find a few belongings. She reaches for a piece of charcoal to write. Sarset takes the note left for her and writes on the back of it.

SARSET (V.O.)

Menkaraa, please do not receive this letter as acceptance of your request. I leave because my parents need me. But my heart stays with you.

Sarset folds the letter and kisses it.

EXT. CASTLE, COURTYARD - DAWN

The sun rises and Sarset looks back at the castle one more time before making the trip back to the shack. She wipes away a few tears as she turns to leave.

EXT. FOREST, SHACK - DAY

A regiment of Arab forces surround the shack.

A few soldiers light fires and ready themselves to torch the shack.

Sarset's parents hurry out and fall in front of the Arab leader.

ARAB LEADER

These are old ones. How can they be the destroyer of our men?

ARAB #1

There is something else protecting them.

ARAB LEADER

Where is this protector? Why does it not come now to save them?

SARSET'S FATHER

We are just farmers. Please spare us from your wrath.

ARAB LEADER

What of my men? Who was there to spare them?

The Arab leader waves his hand as instruction to burn the shack.

ARAB LEADER

Burn it.

Sarset hears the commotion and runs to find her parents at the mercy of the Arab contingent.

SARSET

Stop this at once!

ARAB #1

That's her. That's the one Sabur was chasing.

Sarset attends to her father.

SARSET

Are you alright?

SARSET'S FATHER

It is our time. We can no longer hide from these evil men.

SARSET

I will find a way father.

The Arab leader grabs Sarset and throws her to the ground.

ARAB LEADER

What has happened to my men?

SARSET

They are all dead.

ARAB LEADER

How?

SARSET
I killed them all.

ARAB LEADER
You?

The Arab leader laughs uncontrollably.

SARSET
It is true.

ARAB LEADER
I've been in need of a good laugh.
Take them all.

The woods turn dark as if night was descending on it. The disturbance crackles and forms a cloud and six figures appear wearing robes with painted hieroglyphics and full faced masks of the Jackal God Anubis. They surround the Arab regiment.

ARAB LEADER
Are these your protectors?

SARSET
No. They are much worse.

Sarset covers her parents in a tightly wrapped hug as a battle ensues around them.

The six figures tear down the Arabs. Three use a mighty Tasheti bows and arrows. The others use impeccable swords. They are highly skilled and have flawless accuracy.

The Arab leader rushes to strike at Sarset. A sword pierces his chest and he falls to his knees as it's pulled from him.

Pharoah's mask peers down at Sarset and he slowly walks toward her. All six figures surround Sarset and her parents when all the Arabs are massacred.

PHAROAH
You are the one we seek. You have
been with the unclean one. You must
tell us where he sleeps.

Sarset stands to face him.

SARSET
I will not.

Pharoah raises his hand and three of the Arab's horses come to him.

The other figures lift Sarset's parents onto the horses.

PHAROAH

Then you will come with us.

They place Sarset onto a horse then tie her hands to the bridal. The horse speeds away despite her resistance.

INT. CASTLE, SLEEPING CHAMBER - DAY

Menkaraa's sleeping chamber rests well below the castle free from sun light. It's elegant with a canopy bed with only a single entrance.

A dark mist forms around the room and floats toward Menkaraa sleeping on the bed.

Menkaraa quickly wakes and throws a knife at the figure. It passes through the figure then lodges itself in the wall.

AZREAL (V.O.)

Your aim needs work.

Menkaraa speeds to his sword and unsheathes it looking for the figure.

The torch fires become brighter to reveal Azreal resting by the wall.

Azreal holds Sarset's letter in his hand.

AZREAL

Menkaraa, please do not receive this letter as acceptance of your request. I leave because my parents need me. But, my heart stays with you.

MENKARAA

I've waited my whole existence for you to visit me.

AZREAL

Have you? I've barely given you any thought.

Menkaraa attacks and Azreal calmly defends the sword pushing it away with his hands.

AZREAL

I expected more from you however.

Menkaraa pulls back to a guarded position to wait for an attack.

MENKARAA

Are you here to finally end me?

Azreal pierces the silence with laughter.

AZREAL

End you? No. I'm merely here to check on you. You've denied yourself food and have silly love notes placed around. I was concerned.

MENKARAA

You need not be concerned about your curse on me.

AZREAL

My curse? It's strange you would use those words.

MENKARAA

It was your curse that destroyed my family.

AZREAL

I am afraid you are mistaken. It was not I that cursed you.

MENKARAA

It was you who turned my father.

AZREAL

And it was your father that turned you. I warned him. I told him he would destroy his kingdom or it would destroy him. He didn't listen.

Menkaraa attacks but this time Azreal takes his sword from him. Azreal flips it back around to hand it back.

AZREAL

You need to change your aggression. It is not me you should be mad at. I merely want to help you.

Menkaraa pulls the sword from him.

MENKARAA

Help me? How is it you can help me?

AZREAL

By showing you the lies you've been told.

(MORE)

AZREAL (CONT'D)

I was there the day you were
turned. I watched in the distance
as your kingdom fell.

MENKARAA

Do you take pleasure in the sorrow
of others?

AZREAL

I take pleasure in showing people
the truth.

MENKARAA

And what do you want to show me is
true?

AZREAL

I'm glad you asked.

Azreal walks to the open door and pulls on a chain.

The roars of Ku echo into the room.

MENKARAA

What are you doing with my lion?!

AZREAL

Your friend has a secret.

Azreal pulls Ku fully into the room and grabs him by his mane
then lifts him into the air to throw him at Menkaraa's feet.

The lion lands with a thud in front of Menkaraa.

AZREAL

Show yourself.

The lion roars.

AZREAL

Show yourself or I will destroy
you.

Ku looks to Menkaraa and puts his head down. Slowly the
lion's mane begins to retract and shape shift into that of a
man.

The change finishes and Bak looks up to Menkaraa.

MENKARAA

Bak?

AZREAL

See the lies you've been told.

Menkaraa slams his sword onto the ground next to Bak.

BAK

I am sorry prince.

MENKARAA

I trusted you and my father. How could you have betrayed me for so long?

BAK

Your father still lives. He asked I watch over you.

MENKARAA

Lies! More Lies!

BAK

You can ask the demon.

AZREAL

He won't believe anything you say.

BAK

Confirm to him his parents live.

AZREAL

I will not. He knows what is true now.

BAK

Please.

MENKARAA

Silence! I see that I've been betrayed. I see that you still ask for my faith. You no longer have it.

BAK

The demon will not confirm this because he takes enjoyment from this.

AZREAL

Lies. It's more of an interest than enjoyment.

MENKARAA

If this is true, why have you not led them here? Why have I been made to endure this alone? This demon has shown me more truth than you ever have.

BAK

Please, do not place your faith in
this demon.

AZREAL

Kill him. Take his head or place
him in the sunlight.

Menkaraa lifts his sword.

Bak bows his head ready to take his punishment.

BAK

If this is your punishment, I will
accept it.

AZREAL

Take him for all the lies he's told
you. The deceit.

Menkaraa again crashes his sword onto the ground breaking the
chain around Bak's neck.

MENKARAA

I am unlike the both of you. Bak.
Leave me forever. For if I see you
again, I will kill you.

Bak stands looks into Menkaraa's eyes then disappears.

AZREAL

You are as stubborn as your father!
I will kill him for you.

MENKARAA

If that is to be his fate, then so
be it.

AZREAL

You would not take pleasure from
destroying this liar?

MENKARAA

It does not matter now.

Menkaraa drops his sword and it clangs on the floor.

Azreal picks up the sword and holds it mercilessly at
Menkaraa.

AZREAL

Perhaps I should just kill you.

MENKARAA

My existence is all that's left for
you to take.

Azreal punches the sword into the wall next to Menkaraa with
a scream.

AZREAL

I see now.

Azreal picks up the note gently from the floor.

AZREAL

Your life isn't the only thing I
can take.

MENKARAA

She has nothing to do with this.
She is just a mortal.

AZREAL

Just a mortal? I see it in your
eyes that she isn't.

MENKARAA

Nothing will come by harming her.

AZREAL

I don't need to harm her. Far worse
things can be done to inflict
wound.

Menkaraa snarls at him.

MENKARAA

You will not harm her.

AZREAL

I don't have to. You've chosen that
for her.

Menkaraa's anger builds.

MENKARAA

I will destroy anyone that harms
her. Including you.

AZREAL

That is anger I wish to see.

Menkaraa breaks the sword free then points it at Azreal.

MENKARAA

I will hunt you forever.

AZREAL

Forever is what I have. But, if you wish to save her, the time is now. Your father's enemies have already captured her. I'll be waiting.

Azreal dematerializes into a fine mist letting the note float to the ground.

Menkaraa screams in anger.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

The ground thunders with the sound of hooves.

Sarset jostles mercilessly on the back of the speeding horse. Branches cut at her. Through the forest Sarset sees her parents suffering the same way. Sarset closes her eyes.

SARSET

Menkaraa. Please don't come. They take me to get to you. Please don't come.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

Menkaraa speeds through the forest tracking the horses from the shack.

EXT. RIVER, EAST SIDE OF THE NILE - DAY

Sarset slumps over the horse sleeping. It drinks from the water before crossing.

EXT. RIVER, UNDERWATER - DAY

Menkaraa swims the river deep below to stay out of the daylight. The water hinders his speed.

EXT. DESERT - DAY

It's a few days later. The horses carrying Sarset and her parents finally reach their destination, a temple surrounded by desert and an outpost for Arab travelers.

A group of six hooded figures takes each of the three. The robes these men wear are simpler than the ones worn by Pharaoh as if it signifies rank but the masks are the same.

Sarset looks over at her mother and father being separated. A figure pulls Sarset from the horse.

SARSET

Please release my parents.

FIGURE #1
That is not possible.

SARSET
They are old and worn from this
travel. I beg you to release them.

FIGURE #1
You must be questioned as will
they.

SARSET
They do not know of why they've
been taken.

FIGURE #1
Then your answers will decide their
fate.

The figure pushes at her to move. Sarset pushes back knocking
off his mask.

The man is pale, bald, and his eyes squint in the daylight.

SARSET
You are just a man.

The figure secures his mask in place.

INT. DESERT TEMPLE OF WADI MAHARAKA - MOMENTS LATER

The six figures walk Sarset through the temple. Other figures
train to fight and shoot arrows in a courtyard.

SARSET
(quietly)
They are all just men.

They come to a chamber at the end of walkway. The doors open
as they approach then quickly close behind them.

A row of torches light a hallway to a single room at the end.

FIGURE #1
You must enter alone.

Sarset walks into the room to reveal six figures in robes
with fully painted hieroglyphics and full faced masks of the
Jackal God Anubis.

PHAROAH
Enter.

In the center of the room sunlight pierces the chamber on to a single chair.

Sarset reaches the center then looks over the six figures that circle around her.

SARSET

Why have you taken my family and I?

PHAROAH

It is us that will ask the questions here.

SARSET

Not until you answer mine.

PHAROAH

Silence! Do you think this is a game we play? We know where you have been.

SARSET

Then why do you need to take my family and ask me questions? You clearly know all and have seen all.

Pharaoh rushes from his chair to stand before her.

PHAROAH

We have ways of loosening your tongue. This is a serious war and if you stand between us, only harm will follow.

SARSET

You call this war? A continent of people is crashing around you. Thousands go missing at the hands of others. And you hunt for one man.

PHAROAH

Man? You believe he's a man? It is an evil. A scourge that will devour a continent if it is not stopped.

SARSET

He only preys upon people like you. You are the evil here.

PHAROAH

Do have feelings for this evil? Is it why you protect him?

(MORE)

PHAROAH (CONT'D)

Your eyes deceive you. He is not what he appears to be to your senses.

SARSET

I do not need my senses. I only need my heart.

PHAROAH

I see. You love a creature older than the history your ancestors have past down to you. Do you think you are the first?

Pharoah walks around to whisper in her ear.

PHAROAH

Do you think you will be the last?

SARSET

You will not sway me against him.

PHAROAH

It doesn't matter. If what you believe is true, he will come for you and we will be waiting. If it isn't, you will die anyway and we will wait for the next one he takes to his chamber.

Sarset's eyes well with tears.

SARSET

I wish I could see.

PHAROAH

See what?

SARSET

When Menkaraa kills you.

PHAROAH

Guards!

The figures from outside the room enter.

PHAROAH

Take her to the Arab. Tell him we do not need answers. Only pain.

FIGURE #1

Are you sure?

PHAROAH

It is necessary to summon the
unclean one.

The figures grab Sarset by the arms to drag her away.

EXT. RIVER, UNDERWATER - DAY

Menkaraa waits for the sun to set. He closes his eyes to meditate.

BACK TO:

INT. PALACE, CHAMBER - NIGHT

Menkaraa paces back and forth watching the city burn from his window. He tries to open the door which has been wedged shut from the other side.

MENKARAA

Release me! Release me so I can
fight!

Menkaraa races to the window to look out and can see Jackal faced figures invading the palace. He steps out but there is no where to grip.

The door explodes open and Menkaure followed by Bak enter.

MENKARAA

Father! What is happening?

Menkaure, wounded by the battle, holds his injuries.

MENKAURE

The clans that I banished now seek
to destroy me. They have found a
way to negate my strength.

MENKARAA

How can I help?

BAK

You can do nothing. Your father
needs time to heal.

MENKAURE

We do not have time.

BAK

Then you must turn him now.

Menkaure looks into Menkaraa's eyes then places his arms around him.

MENKAURE

I love you my son.

Menkaure's fangs protrude and strike into Menkaraa's neck.

Menkaraa falls to the ground in pain as the blood turns him.

MENKAURE

Bak. Watch over him.

BAK

For as long as I live, I will
protect him.

Menkaure hurries out the door as Bak watches Menkaraa turn.

Four figures enter the room and draw swords on Bak.

Bak draws his sword and they battle. A fifth figure comes over to Menkaraa and draws an arrow from his pack, places it into his bow, then pulls it taut.

Menkaraa stares up at the figure while fighting the pain of his transformation.

Bak fights to reach Menkaraa but is trapped by the others.

The figure releases the arrow and it buries itself into the floor. He removes his mask.

SETI

I can't.

Seti scoops Menkaraa into his arms and vanishes out the window.

The others see Seti pull Menkaraa from the room.

BACK TO:

INT. TORTURE CHAMBER - DAY

Guards pull Sarset into the room. She fights and struggles with them.

TORTURER

Ahh! Place her in the chair.

They place her into a chair then tie her hands and feet to it.

SARSET

Let me go!

TORTURER
What do we have?

FIGURE #1
She is yours to do as you please.

TORTURER
No questions?

FIGURE #1
None that we need.

The torturer claps with joy. He races over to a grinding wheel to sharpen a cutting tool.

Figure #1 looks toward the torturer.

TORTURER
You don't need to watch. Leave me!

The figure hesitates before looking back then leaving.

The torturer hums.

TORTURER
Maa ismuk?

Sarset turns to look at this man.

He is unwashed and covered in dried blood.

Sarset looks around the room to see all the torture tools that hang a quick grasp from the chair.

The grinding stops and the torturer stands next to her.

TORTURER
I like to get my work all over me.
It gives me a sense of
accomplishment.

He raises his tool to show her it's finely sharpened edge.

SARSET
You will not break me.

The torturer grins showing all of his fowl teeth.

TORTURER
I don't need to.

We pull out from behind Sarset and the torturer begins his cutting.

Sarset lets out a blood curdling scream.

EXT. RIVER, UNDERWATER - EVENING

Menkaraa hears the screams and opens his eyes. He ascends to the water's surface as the last rays of sunlight reflect off it. When he reaches the surface, he ascends into flight.

INT. TAVERN - NIGHT

Seti, covered in his hooded robe, sits quietly in a dark corner watching patrons carouse. Sarset's screams filter into his ear.

SETI

Torture?

Seti pulls his hood back to make sure he's heard it. The screams filter into his ears again.

SETI

I know that voice.

EXT. DESERT, OUTPOST - CONTINUOUS

Seti looks down the road toward the temple. The screams go unnoticed by the other people in the outpost but Seti can hear them clear as day.

He follows the sounds to a small entry way.

Figure #1 and Figure #2 stand guard just outside of it's door.

Seti peeks around a wall to watch them.

FIGURE #1

He will kill her.

FIGURE #2

Most likely. He is a master of pain.

FIGURE #1

We should not have left her.

FIGURE #2

That is not our concern.

FIGURE #1

Do you not feel bad about hurting that woman?

FIGURE #2

No. It was our orders.

FIGURE #1

Have you ever questioned why? We search for these things. But, have you ever seen one?

FIGURE #2

No. Would you want to?

Seti removes two arrows from his pack and pulls them taut in the bow. He releases them. The first kills Figure #2 instantly. The other sails through Figure #1 and attaches him to the wall.

Seti speeds to quiet the figure. He removes the figure's mask and covers his mouth.

SETI

See me? I built your order. Now, I come to destroy it.

Seti plunges his fangs into the figure and drinks till he's dead. He pulls the arrows from the figures and quietly moves their bodies into the brush then cleans the gold tip of the arrows with a cloth.

INT. TORTURE CHAMBER - CONTINUOUS

Seti slowly walks down a hallway with his bow and arrow at the ready. It leads down to a room at the end. Seti dissipates into a mist then reappears in the room holding his bow and arrow toward the torturer.

The torturer stands with his back turned grinding a cutting tool.

Seti looks to see Sarset badly tortured, strung high into the air, and head slumped to one side. He listens for a heartbeat and hears it.

SETI

And she calls me a soulless monster.

Seti quietly pulls the arrow taut then releases. It pierces the torturer's skull which fractures into pieces along the wall. The body falls to the floor twitching.

He quickly cuts Sarset from her bonds and holds her close.

SARSET

Menkaraa?

Sarset fades in and out of consciousness. She recognizes Seti.

SARSET

No! No!

Sarset tries to push him away.

SETI

You will be alright. Be still.

Seti carries Sarset out of the room.

EXT. DESERT, OUTPOST - MOMENTS LATER

Seti carries Sarset out of the chamber and carefully places her into the ground. He searches over her wounds cut deep from the torturer.

SETI

You are strong one.

SARSET

Where is he?

SETI

Be still. Conserve your strength.

Seti tears at his robe to make strips for a tourniquet then ties them around Sarset.

SARSET

Convince him to help his people.

Blood turns the tourniquet dark red.

SETI

Your wounds are too deep. You will not survive.

Sarset looks into his eyes and sheds a tear. She raises her hand to his cheek.

SARSET

Tell him. I love him.

Her eyes close and her head slumps.

SETI

I must try.

Seti gently pierces his fangs into Sarset. He closes his eyes to focus.

Sarset's bleeding stops and wounds heal.

MENKARAA

NO!

Menkaraa screams so loud it feels like thunder. He unsheathes his sword and crashes down upon Seti.

Seti dissipates before the sword lands and it punctures a hole in the ground.

MENKARAA (CONT'D)

Why?!

Menkaraa turns to look for Seti who reappears a few steps away.

SETI

I had to.

MENKARAA

I should have known you would find a way to injure me.

SETI

It is not what you think. I did not bring her here.

MENKARAA

Then why do you stand in this place with her blood drained before me.

SETI

You must trust me. She will survive this.

MENKARAA

Draw your weapon.

SETI

Please, believe me.

MENKARAA

Draw it!

SETI

We are equals. We will only destroy each other.

MENKARAA

Then that is how it must end.

Menkaraa readies his sword as Seti pulls his bow.

Menkaraa attacks.

Seti launches a volley of arrows in succession. Menkaraa blocks them with his sword and speeds toward Seti. At the last second Seti pulls his sword and defends. A loud clang echoes through the outpost.

SETI

You realize where you are brother?

MENKARAA

I do not care.

SETI

You are in the heart of your father's enemy.

MENKARAA

An enemy you built which only confirms why I am here.

They continue to battle.

SETI

You do not understand. I came here to destroy them. To amend a wrong I had made against you.

MENKARAA

Against me? What about my father? What about Sarset?

SETI

They turned out to be casualties of my selfishness.

The sounds of popping and crackling start from the torches that line the street.

SETI

They know we are here.

A cloud forms around them and a regiment of Jackal Warriors appear in front of them with Pharoah leading the way.

MENKARAA

They only come for me.

SETI

No. They come for both of us.

MENKARAA

Why?

SETI

You. Because I could not finish you that night.

MENKARAA

The hunter has become the hunted.

SETI

You have a choice to make. Either we can fight together or die alone.

PHAROAH

Even your strength can't defeat all of us.

SETI

Where are the other five?

PHAROAH

Searching for the rest of your family in places all over this world.

SETI

I will find them all. And destroy them.

MENKARAA

As will I.

Menkaraa looks over toward Sarset still motionless on the ground.

SETI

Are you ready brother?

MENKARAA

I am.

SETI

She loves you brother. As do I.

A great battle ensues. Swords clang. Arrows fly without mercy.

Seti and Menkaraa fight together to strike down the warriors. When each warrior falls another rises to take it's place.

An arrow travels directly at Seti. He jumps and spins catching it mid-flight then strings and returns it toward the attacker striking him down before touching the ground.

Menkaraa uses his sword with precise accuracy to cut them down and block the onslaught of arrows.

Seti and Menkaraa fight back to back never more than a few feet apart.

PHAROAH

Lead them toward the river. We must slow them down.

The Warriors retreat to a shallow stream of water.

They push Seti and Menkaraa slowly toward it as they fight.

As Seti's and Menkaraa's feet hit the water their actions slow. The fighting becomes harder but they are still able to prevail.

Almost all the warriors have fallen except Pharoah and a few men.

SETI

I will take the rest of them.

Pharoah runs back toward the temple and Menkaraa chases after him. He throws powder in the air and a cloud forms. It circles around Menkaraa.

PHAROAH (O.S.)

We know all your weaknesses.

MENKARAA

Parlor tricks.

Menkaraa ascends into the air out of the cloud. A arrow punctures his arm and he falls back to the ground.

PHAROAH (O.S.)

We have searched for your kind for centuries. We have studied everything about you.

MENKARAA

Then you have wasted your life.

A sword flies through the cloud and Menkaraa blocks it. He breaks the arrow lodged in his arm then pulls out the tip.

PHAROAH (O.S.)

Do you feel my arrow? It's laced with a plant that is deadly to you.

Menkaraa focuses on healing but can't.

MENKARAA

I am already dead. You can not take something I've already lost.

Pharoah emerges from the cloud to attack.

The two battle. The swords echo through the outpost.
Menkaraa, slowed by this injury, maintains his defense.

Seti appears behind Menkaraa.

SETI

Let me take him brother.

Pharoah falls back holding his sword at the ready.

MENKARAA

No. I will finish this.

SETI

You are lost Pharoah. The council
will no longer have six.

PHAROAH

Seti. We are taught the lessons you
gave our order to defeat them. Why
do you fight with him?

SETI

He is my brother.

Menkaraa takes his sword to out duel Pharoah and pierces his
chest.

PHAROAH

Another will rise to replace me.

Pharoah falls to the ground dead.

Menkaraa looks down onto Pharoah then pulls his sword from
the body. He reaches for the mask.

SETI

It does not matter. They are all
nameless. Whatever identity they
had was lost years ago.

MENKARAA

I need to see.

Menkaraa removes the mask to reveal a blank stare of man pale
from lack of sunlight.

MENKARAA

You did this.

SETI

I did. But, I can undo this. I just need your help.

MENKARAA

What of Sarset?

SETI

Go to her.

Menkaraa dissipates back to Sarset but her body is missing.

MENKARAA

Where is she?

SETI

I don't know. You interrupted the process of healing. I don't know if any of my poison remained in her system.

MENKARAA

How could you not have turned her?

SETI

There is much you still need to learn. Allow me to teach you.

MENKARAA

This night does not change my feelings. But, if I can find her, I will consider it.

SETI

I will wait for you until then. The Ra comes. We must go.

Daybreak filters over the outpost with bodies upon bodies left in it's aftermath.

Menkaraa looks toward the sunlight approaching then dissipates a second before the rays invade the space.

FADE OUT.

THE END