

KOKOPELLI

Written by

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EPISODE ONE - KOKOPELLI

FADE IN:

EXT. TEOTIHUACAN RIVER BANK PARK - EARLY EVENING

Couples dressed in fine feathered cloaks walk along the stone-lined river through a garden of exotic trees and many upright stone stele honoring past kings and powerful gods. Larger stele line the opposite shore with the great pyramid and palace complex in the background. COLTAL, 18, leans against a white stele watching the passing couples with cold envy.

COLTAL

First night in the greatest city on earth, and I'm on duty!

He slaps himself on the forehead. A young couple pass by holding each other closely. They look at him suspiciously. He pulls his cloak up and fumbles in the folds, pulling out a clay blunt-style pipe stuffed with dried weeds. He opens a pouch, pulls out a fluff of fibers, blows on a black spot in the center, but nothing happens. As he blows harder he's startled by, ARABL, 24, unexpectedly appearing right in front of him, holding out a glowing coal.

ARABL

Fire, brother?

Coltal looks up, almost dropping his dead coal.

COLTAL

Uh.... Thanks. Uh.... Brother.

ARABL

You're welcome.

He leans in and lights his clay pipe, puffing out a big cloud of smoke. He looks suspiciously at Arabl, yet offers him the pipe. Arabl smiles, but politely declines.

ARABL (cont'd)

I couldn't help but notice your colors. You're a member of the Tikal team. Welcome! Welcome to Teotihuacan, City of the Gods!

He sweeps his arm around indicating all the brightly painted stone structures in all directions glowing in the orange setting sun.

COLTAL

We're here to beat you in the games.

ARABL

I know. But don't bet the farm. Enjoy your stay and don't let losing a ball game spoil your visit. I'm sure you're very good from where you come from. This, on the other hand, is the big time, so no shame in losing to the best.

Arabl puts away his glowing coal, smiles broadly and walks away toward the river. Coltal watches calmly while fingering a jade knife he had hidden in his hand. When Arabl disappears over the stone river embankment, Coltal quickly puts away his pipe and follows, still holding the knife. When he gets to the embankment, he peers down to the river and sees Arabl near a sewage outlet flowing offal into the river. Arabl pulls a large wicker basket coated in tar from a niche in the embankment, puts it in the water, climbs in on his knees and paddles across the slow flowing river to the opposite side.

COLTAL

Now why would the Teotihuacan ball captain visit a sewer?

SERVANT GIRL #1, 16, appears from behind a large stela on the opposite shore, making a soft whistling sound. Arabl steps out of the basket, ties it up, and disappears behind a stela with the Servant Girl.

COLTAL (cont'd)

And the plot thickens like a shit-filled river.

He wrinkles his nose and wraps a cloth around his face as he settles down to wait.

EXT. PALACE HIDDEN GARDEN - CONTINUOUS

JUJU, 16, wearing a flowing gown, walks aimlessly in an enclosed exotic zoo and gardens attached to the palace. There are many animal sounds. Suddenly, a jaguar growls loudly and she freezes, looking around fearfully.

JUJU

(quietly)
Is that my pet?

ARABL O.C.

G-r-r-o-w-a-l! Your loving jaguar
has returned.

Arabl appears from behind a bush and she rushes to him jumping into his arms and passionately kisses him. They stay locked together as he turns in place holding her tight until he lets her down slowly. They stare into each others eyes adoringly. He lowers his hands and slipping them under her gown, feels along her hips and body. Dropping to his knees, he reaches underneath her billowing gown and caresses a bulbous belly.

ARABL

I thank the gods nobody knows our
little secret yet.

JUJU

I'm afraid it's not that easy,
Arabl. All it takes is one servant
to blab. And if my father finds
out--

Arabl stands up with a serious look and holds her in his arms. She cries softly.

ARABL

It's okay, my little hummingbird.
It's almost over. After I win the
games next week, I'll be made
noble, we'll be able to marry and
then I can parade you in front of
everybody, forever. My boy will one
day be Supreme Lord and I will
spend eternity making you happy,
Juju.

Arabl kisses her, but Juju grimaces.

JUJU

But what if something happens? What
if you're injured and someone else
wins? Then what? You could end up
sacrificed.

ARABL

That's just a bad dream. No one has
defeated the Serpent Eagle team.
It's the one thing I can truly
promise without any help from the
gods. I will win and I will have
you as my bride!

She puts her fingers to his mouth.

JUJU

Shhh! That's blasphemy. Don't anger the gods now. We need all the help we can get.

Arabl is not listening. He keeps up his attempts at kissing her, stroking her hair. Juju smiles weakly.

JUJU (cont'd)

My servants gossip about Tikal's prince, Monkey Python. He's boasting to all the nobles he will win. He's never been defeated--

Arabl touches his fingers to her mouth.

ARABL

When will the baby come?

JUJU

Spider Lady says soon, but I should stay quiet and not get excited if I'm going to carry till after the game.

ARABL

Don't be afraid my love. I will never let anything happen to you or our baby.

They kiss passionately sinking down on the grass, slowly undressing each other.

EXT. TEOTIHUACAN RIVER BANK PARK - LATER THAT NIGHT

Coltal shivers still watching the other side of the river. Faint light appears from behind the big stela. Arabl appears next to Juju carrying a small clay lantern. They kiss for a long time, finally separating slowly. Arabl descends the bank to the basket boat and paddles back across the river. Juju blows him a kiss and disappears. Coltal pulls the jade knife out, but ducks behind a nearby stela just as Arabl walks by holding a paddle and whistling. Coltal reemerges after Arabl passes disappearing in the dark.

COLTAL

My lord will not like this.

He smiles wickedly.

COLTAL (cont'd)

Not one bit.

INT. THRONE ROOM SUPREME LORD'S PALACE - NEXT DAY

ARAX, 32, dressed in his finest regalia, sits on a platform overlooking the royal chambers and dozens of nobility. XLANGL, 45, stands by his side dressed plainly with a small headdress and a giant golden breast plate. Seated opposite Xlangl, SPIDER LADY, 47, sits, adorned with a black feathered costume emblazoned with a red "X" that resembles a venomous spider.

XLANGL

Our Supreme Lord welcomes the lords
of the great houses of the Five
Nations.

(whispers aside to Arax)

Go ahead, just like we rehearsed.

ARAX

Now?

XLANGL

Now.

NXMUL, 23, captain of the Tikal team, and Arabl stand at attention in the first row of captains and kings attending the ceremony.

ARAX

(slow and deliberate as if
barely memorized)

Lords! And Ladies! Almighty Tlaloc
has commissioned these games
celebrating my first Katun as your
Supreme Lord. The winning team will
be pronounced the greatest
ballplayers in the world. The
winning captain will be honored by
the gods of Teotihuacan with royal
status and marriage to my only
daughter, the virgin princess
Jujuleptxlotl.

The crowd stomps their feet in unison, causing a buzz of ankle bells in approval.

INT. ANTIROOM BEHIND THE THRONE ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

Two young servant girls, SERVANT GIRL #1, 16, and SERVANT GIRL #2, 15, are peeking behind several overlapping hanging tapestries, listening to the ceremony. Servant Girl #1 laughs when she hears the word "virgin."

SERVANT GIRL #1
The old clueless queer doesn't know
a thing.

SERVANT GIRL #2
It's bound to come out soon,
though.

SERVANT GIRL #1
(pointing out through the
curtains at the ceremony)
Look at our team's hunky captain.
That's Juju's man.

SERVANT GIRL #2
Oh my. Yes. I would have a hard
time waiting for that too.

SERVANT GIRL #2 (cont'd)
(pointing through the
curtain, higher)
And look at Spider Lady on the
throne.

SERVANT GIRL #1
She's a brave woman to keep this
secret.

SERVANT GIRL #2
She must. Juju is like a daughter
to her. And the best midwife in
Teo, second to none. She alone
knows how to delay the birth until
the game is over. And then...the
gods will see to it that Teo will
have its new prince, and the young
royal lovers will live long as
happy and proud parents.

SERVANT GIRL #1
I don't know, but I don't think the
gods—work that way. When men make
plans, the gods laugh.

INT. SPIDER LADY'S TAVERN - ONE WEEK LATER NIGHT

A group of nobles are lounging on cushions, drinking and
smoking pipes. SERVANT GIRL #1, enters and goes to the back
where a skinny wrinkled SPIDER LADY SERVANT, 50, sits alone
at a table. Servant Girl #1 sits at the table.

SERVANT GIRL #1

I was told to give this to Spider Lady. My mistress will be needing her soon.

She slides a leather pouch across to him. He grabs it and puts it in his robe. He pushes a folded leaf packet over to her.

SPIDER LADY SERVANT

Give her this powder for the pain. Bring her here when the contractions happen often and regular.

Coltal enters and sees Servant Girl #1 and Spider Lady Servant at the rear. He pulls his hood up and sits quietly nearby.

SERVANT GIRL #1

You must not say a word of this to anyone. Xlangl will punish severely any who do.

He smiles at her with missing teeth. She rises and walks to the door. Coltal turns away briefly as she passes by. Coltal gets up, walks to the back and sits down opposite Spider Lady Servant. Coltal pushes a golden nugget across the table. Spider Lady Servant looks up with a wicked grin.

SPIDER LADY SERVANT

And what can I do for you?

EXT. BALL COURT MONTAGE - THREE DAYS LATER

Two teams in full regalia enter the ball court marching in opposite directions waving to their fans at the top of the court walls. The players strip down to padded playing suits, dyed with their representative colors and begin volleying the ball from player to player.

The nobility above the walls are dressed in colorful feathered costumes and shaded by large fans. They argue and wager vigorously. Supreme Lord appears on his palanquin carried by four matching slaves all dyed white. Two young boys ride with him, pampering him.

An old warrior missing the lower part of his arm and dressed with black and white feathers blows a whistle and drops the ball at the center of the playing field. Both teams rush for it from opposite ends. When they encounter each other at the ball, half the players assume offense and start pushing and

shoving the other team's defensive players, making way for their captain to get at the ball first.

Nxmul bats the ball using his padded arm to Coltal, who bats it on to others. The offensive Tikal team push and beat their way inside the opponent's court while Nxmul and Coltal pass the light and fast rubber ball back and forth, keeping it from Arabl's defending team.

An offensive player from Arabl's team breaks through the Tikal line and tries to bat the ball out of the air. He is immediately hit by Tikal players and beaten to the ground. They are dispersed by the whips from the referee, but the offensive player is left severely beaten and bloody. Slaves run out to pick him up and haul him off the field.

The game becomes more furious the closer one team gets to the hoop, bouncing it off the arena wall and controlling the ball in the opponent's court. Arabl breaks through the Tikal defense and the ball is passed to him over their heads as he jumps high hitting it with his shoulder through the hoop.

The crowd goes wild. Supreme Lord is handed money bags as he jumps up and down with joy hugging his two boys.

Coltal goes behind the wall at the end of the court and secretly puts obsidian blades inside his arm padding. Nxmul runs up, sees what he's doing, pats him on the back and runs away. The whistle sounds and Coltal returns to the court.

Coltal bumps into an opponent and the player recoils in the mele' bleeding profusely from deep cuts. The ball court becomes slippery from blood. Arabl spies Coltal bumping and cutting another player. He tackles him and while tangled on the ground, plucks out one of the blades and deeply cuts Coltal's right wrist. Coltal runs from the field clutching his arm squirting blood. Nxmul attacks but slips on some blood. Arabl bats the ball through the hoop using his arm pad, winning the game. The crowd goes wild again. Nxmul gets up from the ground covered in blood with glaring hatred in his eyes.

Arabl is carried on the shoulders of his teammates around the court to the noise from his fans.

Supreme Lord dances in place as he is lifted on his palanquin and turned in circles. More money bags are thrown onto the revolving royal platform as the young boys struggle to collect them all.

END MONTAGE:

EXT. OUTSIDE BALL COURT - CONTINUOUS

Nxmul finds Coltal behind the court binding his wrist with bandages. Spider Lady Servant, lurks nearby. Nxmul pulls Coltal close and hisses at him.

NXMUL

Give me one reason why I shouldn't give your heart to Tlaloc for this!

COLTAL

My Lord. I failed you. I should have cut him first. But I have just learned something very important.

NXMUL

What could be more important than losing to Juju's secret lover?

COLTAL

Knowing that Juju is giving birth right now at Spider Lady's.

Nxmul freezes, then begins seething with even more anger.

NXMUL

Are you telling me I've been betrayed!? Made the fool!?

Nxmul holds up a small bag in his hand. He pauses and then drops it at Coltal's feet.

NXMUL (cont'd)

Here, buy a slave for the sacrifice. You might still prove useful, even if you can't handle a sword anymore.

He deliberately bumps Coltal's bandaged arm then leaves ignoring him.

COLTAL

(Coltal has a nearly useless right hand for the rest of the story)
O-o-w-w-w! Thank you lord! Thank you. I'll be your undying servant for life!

INT. SPIDER LADY'S TAVERN BACK ROOM - NIGHT

Juju squats over pillows while SPIDER LADY kneels in front. Servant Girl #1 stands behind supporting Juju as she

contorts and cries out in pain. Spider Lady gives her a potion to drink.

SPIDER LADY

Here. Drink, my sweet princess.
Push when you feel the pain.
Breathe! Keep breathing!

JUJU

A-a-a-i-i-e-e-h! Come my little
one! G-a-h-a-e-e-i-i-a! Oh mighty
Gods!...help me!

Suddenly Nxmul flings open the door. His team players are seen behind him cornering and killing two servants.

NXMUL

IT'S TRUE! You've been despoiled by
a common snake!

SPIDER LADY

You can't be here! Get out!

NXMUL

I'm Monkey Python, son of Stormy
Sky, prince of mighty Tikal! She
was to be my virgin wife!

Nxmul grabs Spider Lady, pulling her away from Juju.

NXMUL (cont'd)

WHORE! This heresy must stop!

JUJU

I-i-e-e-a-g-g-h! He's coming!

Juju bears down, screaming. Suddenly a blue and pink baby boy flops out onto the pillows still attached to his mother. Spider Lady drops to her knees, carefully picks up the baby, and bites off the cord. She hands the infant to Juju, then turns back, confronting Nxmul.

SPIDER LADY

Get out, you filthy dog!

She beats on his chest. Nxmul slaps her aside. He snatches the baby away from Juju.

NXMUL

I'll take care of this!

He swings the baby over his head but it slips out of his grasp and slams against the wall behind Servant Girl #1. Juju screams and pounds Nxmul with her fists.

JUJU

A-i-e-e You murderer! Loser! Arabl
will have your head! I will eat
your still-bleeding liver!

Servant Girl #1 scoops up the baby, wraps him hurriedly in cloth, and runs from the room.

NXMUL

You were promised to be a virgin
princess and I was cheated by that
old queer you call a father. You're
coming with me! Tonight!

Nxmul grabs Juju and throws her over his shoulder. Spider Lady attacks him as he carries Juju out of the room, taking a powder from her robe and throwing it in his face.

SPIDER LADY

I curse you, Monkey Python! Tlaloc
will eat your black heart from the
inside out!

INT. COURTYARD SUPREME LORD'S PALACE - LATER

Servant Girl #1 runs into the palace courtyard carrying a cloth bundle and screaming.

SERVANT GIRL #1

Help! Help! The prince is injured!
I need help!

She kneels placing a small bundle of bloody cloth on the floor. Two guards, GUARD ONE, 25, and GUARD TWO, 20, carrying large obsidian spears, hurry into the courtyard followed by Xlangl.

XLANGL

What's going on?!

More servants enter and Servant Girl #2 goes to the bundle and carefully unwraps it. Xlangl looks down at the shaking and crying baby. A large bruise on his back bends his spine at an odd angle. The baby gasps for air and cries pitifully. Xlangl looks up at Servant Girl #1 with anger.

XLANGL (cont'd)

I warn you, your next words might
be your last.

SERVANT GIRL #1

My lord! I'm sorry. I should have
killed the monster who did this!

XLANGL
Is this Juju's baby?

Servant Girl #1 shakes with fear but nods yes.

XLANGL (cont'd)
And Serpent Eagle Captain, Arabl,
the father?

Servant Girl #1 looks up fearfully. Then with quivering lips
nods yes, looks down and begins crying. Xlangl nods to
Servant Girl #2 kneeling over the baby.

XLANGL (cont'd)
Take the baby to my rooms and tend
to it.

Servant Girl #2 picks up the bundle and leaves. Xlangl helps
Servant Girl #1 up.

XLANGL (cont'd)
Calmly now. Where's Juju and her
guards? Was the baby born that way?

SERVANT GIRL #1
No! Tikal captain do this! He very
angry, kill guards, try kill
prince, maybe kill Juju. I grab
baby and run.

XLANGL
You did well. Go to your room and
say no more.

He gives her a jade nugget. She backs away bowing.

XLANGL (cont'd)
Captain!

GUARD ONE
My Lord!

XLANGL
Take some warriors to Spider Lady's
tavern and bring back Juju. If you
see the Tikal ball captain, Monkey
Python, arrest him.

GUARD ONE
Immediately, sir!

XLANGL
Oh, and one thing more. I suspect
an inside traitor. Interrogate all
(MORE)

XLANGL (cont'd)
 who work for Spider Lady and find
 the culprit.

GUARD ONE
 I'll personally see to it.

Guard One rushes out.

XLANGL
 Sergeant!

GUARD TWO
 Lord!

XLANGL
 Send orders to have Serpent Eagle
 Captain assemble his warriors on
 the plaza as soon as possible. Tell
 him to prepare for long travel.
 Then sound the general alarm and
 have five of our best warrior clans
 ready to march with full gear by
 daybreak.

GUARD TWO
 Sir! Yes sir!

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. PYRAMID PLAZA AVENUE OF THE DEAD - LATER THAT NIGHT

It is raining and Arabl stands at attention with his warrior
 clan. In the background other warriors are assembling into
 troops. Xlangl walks out of the palace followed by two
 slaves, an old man carrying a large basket on his back and a
 large bosomed woman.

Xlangl hands a folded skin to Arabl.

XLANGL
 Here's a map of the northern
 hinterlands and a royal pass. Take
 your son to my daughter,
 Popoxtalgipta. She is a well-known
 shaman living among the cliff
 dwellers.

ARABL
 Please, lord! Let me and my men
 save her from that monster.

Xlangl just looks at him with pity.

XLANGL

That *monster* is the son of Stormy Sky, the great grandson of Jaguar Paw, supreme lord of Tikal. You have awakened forces far beyond your station. If anybody attempts to rescue Juju, he wouldn't hesitate to sacrifice her to his unholy gods. Your impertinence has brought us to the verge of war. Supreme Lord mercifully forgives you but commands that you deliver the boy safely to Popo and then disappear for a while. I'll send for you when it's possible to return.

Arabl, blinking back tears and with stiff lips, holds his arm up while staring at Xlangl. He turns and brings it down pointing at the road. His warrior clan turns and begin quick marching followed by the two slaves and Arabl. They disappear in the rain leaving Xlangl watching with sadness.

INT. THRONE ROOM SUPREME LORD'S PALACE - NEXT DAY

Xlangl and Supreme Lord, confer together looking at a table top 3-D display of the Five Nation Empire. A good looking naked young boy massages Supreme Lord.

XLANGL

We arrested the traitor at Spider Lady's who informed Monkey Python about Juju. He has volunteered for sacrifice later this afternoon, if he survives the rest of the interrogation.

ARAX

Oh I love a good torture. Is there anything left to watch?

XLANGL

I'm afraid he's in no condition to provide any further entertainment, my lord. However, I have recieved a parchment from Monky Python.

ARAX

This has been my worst fear all along. My father should have struck the old king of Tikal, Stormy Sky, many years ago when the stars

(MORE)

ARAX (cont'd)
 favored it. The gods never reward
 good deeds.

He pats the boy on the butt sending him away.

XLANGL
 Timing is everything, my lord.
 Unfortunately, the stars do not
 predict human madness. Monkey
 Python says he has taken your
 daughter as his rightful wife and
 queen. If we try to intervene, he
 will sacrifice her.

ARAX
 I'm cursed! My father predicted
 that his warrior sons would wage a
 final war, settling the ancient
 battle between the two forms of
 Quetzalcoatl, the feathered serpent
 or the flying serpent. Instead he
 got me. And I have lost my little
 dove. What am I supposed to do?

XLANGL
 The house of Tikal proudly proclaim
 they have the true Quetzalcoatl,
 the feathered serpent, and should
 rightly rule the Five Nations.
 Stormy Sky has ambitions on
 Teotihuacan and your Serpent Eagle
 clan since his grandfather
 conquered the last Mayan city
 holdout, Copal. Now, his son, holds
 your only child as his queen
 implying to the common people that
 we are just having a family feud.
 To the Tikals, it is a great
 victory. Your clan blood is now
 mixed with theirs, whether you like
 it or not.

ARAX
 My daughter was brazenly stolen.
 The honor of the god's require that
 I capture and sacrifice the thief.
 If I don't, it will look bad to the
 other noble clans. But the stars
 tell me to be cautious. I don't
 know what to do!

He sobs as Xlangl pats him on the back.

XLANGL

I was your father's regent for many years and his last words to me were to watch after you. You're very special, he told me, and I have tried to be both a wise adviser and your closest confident.

ARAX

Indeed, you have been the father to me that I never knew in mine. But I get so confused about diplomacy and politics that I just can't keep up. It gives me headaches that only my pretty little boys can cure.

XLANGL

First of all, your lordship has dispatched several warrior clans to blockade Tikal trade routes. Total war is out of the question for now. But we secretly have the key to ultimate victory, your newborn grandchild.

ARAX

That broken baby! He could never grow up to be lord. My astrologers say the stars have already rejected him. He doesn't show up in any astrological predictions.

XLANGL

The only power you have left, my lord, is the idea of a prince in hiding, ready to contest any potential usurper's claim.

Arax makes an ugly face thinking about it. He absentmindedly picks up a little wooden model sitting near the 3-D map. It looks like a miniature palanquin but instead of a throne in the middle, there is a tripod pivoting a skinny tapered stick with a small leather pouch attached to the small end. A small macrame weaving hangs from the short end.

XANGL

As long as all the other noble clans think your grandson is alive in hiding, we're safe and so is Juju. Your lord's power exists because all trade routes pass through here and the nobles are powerful because of that trade. When wealth flows, it ultimately

(MORE)

XANGL (cont'd)
flows to the wealthy. No one wants
to upset that.

Arax holds up the wooden model.

ARAX
What is this thing anyway? Are you
planning to build a boat to return
to your home in the east? Please
don't leave me. I would be lost
without you!

XLANGL
It's not a boat. It's something I
saw as a boy in Egypt. I've been
working on it in secret at my
seashore palace. Just in case
things get really ugly.

ARAX
I hope they don't and the stars are
with you. As usual, you speak like
a god and not a vengeful man. Do as
you see fit, old friend and give me
more warning when I have to dress
up for ceremonies. I must now find
some solace in my little toys.

Arax claps his hands and several young boys enter laughing
and dancing.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. TIKAL PYRAMID - DAY

Aerial view of a large city surrounded by brown farm fields
slowly zooms in showing Tikal's great pyramid complex.

SUPER: "TIKAL ROYAL PALACE - SIX MONTHS LATER"

The view focuses in on a set of buildings behind the largest
pyramid next to a ball court.

INT. TIKAL LORD'S PALACE - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Juju is reclining on pillows covered with feather blankets.
She looks pale and haggard. Four priests burn incense, chant
and wave feathers over her.

NXMUL

No more delays! My doctors tell me you are perfectly fine and capable of another child.

JUJU

No my lord. I am still very ill. Surely I will die if...

NXMUL

Enough! I have put up with your female problems too long. You are now my wife and you must produce a new heir to the Supreme Lord's throne. The doctors tell me you bleed on schedule and this is your fertile time.

JUJU

No! I will never give you a child! I hate you!

NXMUL

All the better. Hold her!

He rips off her blankets revealing her naked body. The priests grab hold of her limbs and two pull her legs apart as she struggles to fight them.

JUJU

Let me go! Eeeeeiiiyaaaa!

NXMUL

Stuff a rag in her mouth!

One priest holding her arm, forces a wad of cloth into her mouth.

NXMUL (cont'd)

Come here you whore wife! Let me pay you for your pleasure.

Nxmul strips his loincloth off, kneels in front of her and pulls her body up by the buttocks and penetrates her violently. He thrusts into her repeatedly while she thrashes and attempts to scream.

NXMUL (cont'd)

Ugh! Take that! Aagh! And that!

He pulls out a knife and makes slight cuts in her skin while continuing to rape her. He crudely scratches a picture of a monstrous face on her belly until he arches his back in

orgasm. He makes more cut marks on his groin and hers mixing the blood together as he loudly chants prayers.

NXMUL (cont'd)
A-a-a-a-a-g-g-h! Gods of the
underworld! Give me a demon spirit!
Bring me power!

The outline of the cuts begin to glow red while Juju struggles and Nxmul laughs maniacally. A black spirit wisp with the head of a serpent suddenly appears whirling around the room and then flows into Juju's vagina. She arches her back and attempts to scream once more before collapsing. Nxmul steps back holding the knife high dripping blood as he cries a guttural scream of triumph.

NXMUL (cont'd)
Y-i-h-y-i-h-y-i-h-e-h-e-i-i-e-i!

EXT. DESERT SPIRIT WORLD - DAY

SUPER: "NORTHERN SONORAN DESERT - ONE YEAR LATER"

The desert sand is glowing intensely pink. The desert trees and shrubs are bright fluorescent green. The sky is bright lavender. A baby blue rabbit bounces into view and stops next to a multi-colored sparrow. The rabbit shakes itself and flashes colors, then distorts with a large hump on its back and short spindly hind legs. The face morphs to child-like, smiling with bright eyes. He listens carefully to the sparrow singing. The rabbit sits up on his back legs unsteadily as a large jaguar with stripes approaches and opens her mouth as if to engulf the rabbit. A huge tongue leaps out and licks the rabbit. The jaguar kisses it and curls around it purring.

POPO
My little Koko rabbit listens to
sparrows in the Nagual. You're
going to be a natural.

An orange sun dances over the distant neon-green glowing mountains.

EXT. DESERT NEAR POPO'S HUT - CONTINUOUS

The colors fade to desert browns and the rabbit slowly turns into a young naked male child, KOKO, 18 months, with a bent spine, held in the arms of a woman, POPO, 32, sitting on a large rock near a plain adobe hut.

POPO
 (singing a lullaby)
*Sleep softly my sweet baby, sleep
 tight to my breast. Tomorrow is
 rushing to us, so now sleep caress.*

The baby smiles and snuggles in her arms. She rocks him gently to sleep.

INT. TIKAL LORD'S PALACE - NIGHT

SUPER: "TIKAL ROYAL PALACE - MONTHS LATER"

Juju lies on her pillowed platform thrashing and gripping pillows tightly. She contorts her body and breathes rapidly. SLAVE WOMAN #1, 16, and SLAVE WOMAN #2, 16, attend to her, wipe her brow and offer her a drink from a small pot.

SLAVE WOMAN #1
 Here. Take this. The doctor said it
 will ease your pain.

She sips from the pot and then has a strong contraction. Slave Woman #2 stands back fearful. Slave Woman #1 helps Juju get into a squatting position.

SLAVE WOMAN #1 (cont'd)
 I'll hold you. Breath and push!

Juju bears down and stifles a scream. Nxmul comes into the room followed by Coltal dressed in priests black robes.

COLTAL
 We must make a sacrifice now if we
 are to summon a spirit from the
 underworld to help your son be
 born. We need clean innocent blood.

NXMUL
 It's too late to bring someone up
 from the pens.

Nxmul turns suddenly facing Slave Woman #2. Before she can react, he slashes her throat.

NXMUL (cont'd)
 Quick! Help me put her on the
 alter.

Coltal looks mildly shocked. Nxmul signals for him to pick up the dying woman. Coltal complies. They place her on the alter. She bleeds into channels carved in the stone, all leading to a spout where the blood pours into a clay bowl.

COLTAL

My lord. I'm afraid if we use
female blood, we might...

NXMUL

Man or woman, my loins have made
the next Supreme Lord!

JUJU

Oh my gods! A-a-h-h-r-g! E-e-i-i-k.

Coltral goes to Juju and stuffs an ugly paste in her mouth.
She fights against it but swallows some.

COLTAL

The spirit world of the gods needs
to be revealed to the baby while
still in the womb. Datura and some
morning glory seeds should help.

Juju gags but he massages her throat and she swallows more.
Slave Woman #1 gives her some pulque'. Juju begins to show
signs of being drugged as she weaves about, drooping her
head. Her abdomen begins to glow a sickly green.

JUJU

I can't see you! All I can see is
swirling black shapes. Go away!

She flails her arms. Her groin glows greenish yellow and
black wispy plumes leak out of her vagina. She screams.

NXMUL

Wait for the blood!

He picks up the bowl of blood and runs to the bed where he
holds it under Juju. Juju contorts her body rigid and Slave
Woman #1 supports her and she pushes hard. A baby explodes
out with a whoosh of green gas and trailing a glowing
umbilical cord.

COLTAL

Catch him in the bowl!

The baby hits the bowl splashing blood and making sizzling
sounds. Nxmul drops the bowl and stumbles backward. Juju
collapses. Slave Woman #1 stands aghast for a moment and
then rushes to the baby and cuts the cord with a knife.
Coltral reaches down carefully and lifts the bowl up holding
a dark baby covered in blood, pulsing with green glowing
eyes.

COLTAL (cont'd)

It's a girl!

Coltal looks fearfully at Nxmul.

NXMUL

I don't care. My child will give
birth to the next thousand lords of
the civilized world!

Nxmul takes the bowl and holding it high, begins chanting.

NXMUL (cont'd)

May the great dark gods below,
Claim this child. Make her your
own.
Bring your will and power to Tikal,
Rule us with glory and honor.
Let Xixichupaka conquer all!

FADE TO BLACK

INT. POPO'S ADOBE HUT - NIGHT

SUPER: "NORTHERN SONORAN DESERT, 510 CE. Four years later"

A single oil lamp lights up the interior of Popo's adobe hut. KOKO, 6, sits cross-legged on a reed carpet playing music on a small flute. POPO, 36, is kneeling before the corner fireplace, grinding herbs in her metate. Rows of small pots line a wall behind her. Koko plays a sad song that makes Popo stop momentarily and look up at the boy. A tear appears in her eye. Koko stops playing and hobbles over near Popo where he sits down beside her and tugs at her robes. She looks down at him, flashes a smile and continues grinding.

KOKO

I love you Mama-Popo. I want to
make you happy.

She continues grinding with a thin smile on her lips. She stops, looks at him again and speaks with a soothing voice.

POPO

I love you more, Mea-Koko. You're
getting very good. I love hearing
you play. It makes me feel warm and
pleasant. It makes me happy, even
when I cry.

KOKO

I love playing it. I want to spread
joy like we spread seeds in the
spring. It grows wherever it lands.
Like your lessons.

(MORE)

KOKO (cont'd)
 (recites)
 Love is better than hate.
 Smart is better than dumb.
 Give is better than take.
 Truth is better than lies.
 Include is better than exclude.
 Nature is better than god.

Koko claps his hands excitedly.

POPO
 (proudly)
 You're absolutely right!

She puts down her mano stone, turns to Koko with her arms spread apart. Koko happily falls into her arms for a big hug smothered with kisses.

POPO (cont'd)
 Since you were brought to me, you
 have made this lonely old woman
 happier than I could ever want.

KOKO
 Tell me again! Tell me the story of
 how I came to live with you.

Popo holds him in her lap and tells the story.

BEGIN FLASHBACK MONTAGE

EXT. POPO'S ADOBE HUT - NIGHT

POPO
 (narration over montage)
 It was a cold and rainy night. I
 heard a racket outdoors. When I
 looked, I saw a troop of Supreme
 Lord's warriors, still dressed in
 ceremonial clothes but dirty and
 tired.

Arabl approaches with his warriors much reduced in numbers. He carries a bundle in his arms. When he gets to the hut, Popo appears in the doorway.

ARABL
 Are you Popomagipta?

Popo nods her head yes.

POPO

(narration over montage)

They had been running hard for weeks just to bring you to me. Their leader, Serpent Eagle, delivered you to me on the orders of Supreme Lord himself and my father, Xlangl, the chief regent.

Arabl hands her the folded skin he was given by Xlangl.

ARABL

Your father commanded and the god's allowed that I bring you my son, Kokopelli, Supreme Lord's grandson and heir to the throne.

Popo reads the skin and looks up as he pushes the bundle into her arms. Popo opens the bundle carefully exposing the tiny squirming deformed baby.

POPO

I'll take care of him from here. You can go.

Popo turns back into the hut. Arabl returns to his warriors, goes to each one, kisses them, and walks away alone into the darkness. The remaining warriors look at each other and slowly walk away but one begins running after Arabl.

POPO (cont'd)

(narration over montage)

He sent you to me to keep safe from your Grandfather's enemies and to educate and train you for your eventual destiny.

END OF MONTAGE

KOKO

What's a destiny?

POPO

It's a possible future you already know about.

KOKO

What if I don't know about it?

POPO

Then that's fate.

EXT. TULUM HARBOR DOCKS - DAY

SUPER: "PORT TULUM, NEWLY CAPTURED BY TIKAL, 510 CE"

Several large sea-going sailing canoes are tied up along several wooden wharves sticking out into a large harbor. One stands out consisting of two sea-going canoes with a platform between them. A palanquin carrying COLTAL, 26, approaches the wharf where there are many storage buildings and lots of activity. Coltal is dressed in elaborate black priest's robes with an ugly black headdress in the shape of a monstrous raven. Dark skinned Mayans line the road bowing in subjugation as the palanquin passes. Someone in the back throws a rotten tomato. He ignores it with the wave of his hand. Warrior priests rush into the crowd and drag out a random victim. He's beheaded on the spot. At the wharf, the slave carriers lower the palanquin to the ground. Everyone around gets on their knees and bow down to the ground. Coltal steps down and is greeted by BASKING SHARK, 35, plain-robed, dark-skinned wearing a shark jaw headdress.

BASKING SHARK

Welcome great Priest of Tikal! I am Tulum's finest sea trader, Basking-Shark. Your presence honors this humble servant.

He bows deeply and waits. Coltal takes his time, wanders around Basking Shark, looking over the port area and watching all the activity in the distance. He stares at slaves who are running to and from the boats hauling cargo both ways. Slaves are carrying large heavy pots seemingly without much effort as they rush about quickly.

COLTAL

Cut the diplomatic snake shit. Tell them to go about their business.

Basking Shark straitens up and waves for everybody to disperse.

BASKING SHARK

As you command.

COLTAL

Our great lord, Monkey Python has sent me to verify your reports.

Basking Shark puts his hands together and bows deeply again.

BASKING SHARK

I am so happy our small work has not gone unnoticed. We strive to
(MORE)

BASKING SHARK (cont'd)
 help our great lord in any way we
 can.

COLTAL
 You have been sending twice the
 amount of taxes for trading on the
 sea than we first required. Just
 exactly what are you doing that is
 so lucrative?

BASKING SHARK
 Aha, finally someone takes notice
 of our unworthy efforts. Follow me
 your Lordship and I'll show you.

He leads Coltal to a nearby adobe storage building where
 many slaves are bringing in large bales of bundled leaves.

BASKING SHARK (cont'd)
 One of our newest and largest
 canoes has just arrived from the
 hinterlands far to the south where
 the Inxka live. These barbarians
 work and thrive high up in the
 mountains where clouds dwell,
 without having to breath hard or
 lose strength like lowland humans.

Coltal grabs a bunch of green leaves from a bale passing by.

COLTAL
 What are these leaves for? This
 looks like simple cooking leaves.
 We have avocado leaves for that.

BASKING SHARK
 But your lord, this is not food for
 humans. This is for the slaves.

COLTAL
 Slaves! What do you mean? My lord
 does not send expensive canoes out
 to the hinterlands so you can bring
 back food for slaves!

BASKING SHARK
 It's not food, my great lord. It is
 a drug. Along with the new more
 powerful tobac from the north
 hinterlands, slaves become addicted
 and work twice as hard with fewer
 complaints and fewer guards.

Coltal looks carefully at the next slave bringing in a heavy bundle and sees he has a cheek puffed out on one side of his face and he's chewing on something.

BASKING SHARK (cont'd)

We learned how the Inxka prepare it, with ashes and then chew it like jerky. It gives the Inxka extra strength and endurance for working at high altitudes. We found that if we mix this with tobac and feed this to the slaves, after a short time, they come to demand it.

Coltal looks at the slaves working the port and he notices they all have a puffy cheek.

COLTAL

(musingly)

And they work twice as much?

BASKING SHARK

Yes my lord. It will revolutionize how work gets done. With this drug, we can grow more crops for more nobles producing more trade and more money. It is truly a great advance.

COLTAL

How much of these leaves do you have?

BASKING SHARK

Enough for all the slaves in Maya, for now. The new cargo canoe that has a palanquin strapped to two large canoes carries ten times the load as a single canoe. Give me a couple more years and we'll have enough for all the slaves of the Five Nations.

COLTAL

Excellent. It will be needed. It will definitely be needed.

INT. POPO'S ADOBE HUT - DAY

KOKO

What's a god?

POPO

Oh Koko, if you could only hear
yourself when you get older.

Popo invites Koko to sit in her lap.

POPO (cont'd)

Gods are imaginary beings we invent
as characters in our myths and
origin stories.

KOKO

Are there gods in the spirit world?

POPO

Only if the spirit results from a
widely held belief, like a religion
for instance. The imagined
characters become spiritually real,
and thus can appear in the Nagual.
Be careful with religion however.
People use the god myth to justify
ordinary crimes against humanity.
Religion forces humans to believe
in absurdities, making them capable
of unholy atrocities.

KOKO

I like my spirit world. Animals
talk to me and I learn songs from
them. I would love to live there.

POPO

Some day, many Katun's from now,
you'll dwell in the spirit world of
your making. I'm sure yours will be
a wondrously happy one!

She tickles his side and he laughs. She kisses him on his
tummy and face. She turns him over and kisses his hump. He
giggles and squirms with delight.

EXT. DESERT SPIRIT WORLD - EVENING

SUPER: "NORTHERN SONORAN DESERT, 514 CE"

The mountains are glowing fluorescent in the distance and
swaying to some eerie flute music. A hawk stands on a cliff
edge next to the hunchback rabbit, bigger now, that
undulates slowly. Next to the rabbit is a little green
gecko. They all seem to be frozen observing all the movement
and action of the spirit desert below. The hawk looks down
at the rabbit.

POPO, 39, (V.O.)

First we must be quiet until our
inner voice stops.

The rabbit fidgets its nose concentrating. In the distance,
multicolored coyotes dance together, sometimes biting and
sometimes playing, but mostly having sex.

KOKO, 9,

Joining the spirit of the talisman
gives me new eyes. I see and
understand things I can't put into
words. But why a rabbit? Why not a
wolf or a snake or yours, the
jaguar?

POPO,

Sh-h-h-h-h! It's not always your
choice but it's always right. Now
quiet the inner voice. Observe with
respect and humility. Go with the
feeling of the spirit that finds
you.

The vibrancy of the undulating scenery slows. The music
becomes dissonant broken tempos. The dancing and associated
sex acts of the coyotes become slower, more fluid almost
choreographed. The trees stop spinning and grab onto the
earth while Serpent Eagles fall out of the sky shedding
their wings and feathers, turning into snakes.

POPO, (cont'd)

Vision is a re-creation of just the
highlights of what's possible in
the spirit world. We must open our
mind's eye, our spirit vision, with
the help of the sacred drugs. They
allow spiritual perception, showing
us what exists in dimensions where
only spirits can dwell.

KOKO,

Do we all end up in this place?

POPO,

No. The spirit world is as infinite
as our conscious experiences. We
build a unique spirit world from
living a purposeful life, a
warrior's life. If our purpose is
goodness and kindness, then our
spirit world will be eternally
happy and satisfying. If our
purpose is evil, then our spirit

(MORE)

POPO, (cont'd)
 world will yield nothing but
 frustration and pointless struggle.

The rabbit shivers. The gecko runs away. The hawk puts its wing around the rabbit reassuringly.

POPO
 You will be a spirit warrior who
 moves softly but purposefully,
 changing forever the world and its
 destiny.

KOKO
 I'll be a warrior of happiness and
 songs.

POPO
 Of course you will.

The distant scene slowly speeds up and the purple sun begins racing across the sky. Dirty black clouds swoop down out of nowhere, partially blocking their view. Dust devils spring up all around them and animal spirits run for cover. The hawk backs away from the cliff. A dust devil strikes the group of coyotes and they yelp in pain as one disappears in smoke and fiery embers.

POPO (cont'd)
 This is not good. Come quickly.

The hawk turns and flies a short distance away landing on a pile of rocks. The rabbit scampers after her and darts behind the rocks just as a large menacing dust devil passes close by changing the colors around it from pastels to shades of gray.

KOKO
 What's happening, mama-Popo?

POPO
 Evil priests using drugs to control
 slaves. They poison the Nagual. We
 must leave. Hurry, follow me.

The hawk takes flight and circles, dodging dark dust devils and watching over the rabbit as it runs as fast as its bent body will allow. The colored scene begins to melt and blend with an ordinary Sonoran desert near sunset.

EXT. SONORAN DESERT - CONTINUOUS

Long dark shadows stretch out from the mesquite trees and saguaro cactus. Popo and Koko turn back into their human

forms. Popo runs ahead of Koko, deftly dodging brush and cholla cactus. She stops in an open clearing as Koko catches up. They turn and see behind them in the distance, a line of shabbily dressed skeleton-like priests with torches herding a group of bound slaves on a forced march.

KOKO

Mama-Popo. I'm scared. Who is that?

POPO

They're religious priests. It's their religion to enslave people and use them for evil purposes.

KOKO

What's religion?

POPO

Most people don't like to think for themselves. They invent religions and appoint leaders who tell them what they want to hear while they enslave and corrupt the innocent.

Popo spits angrily, turns around and holding Koko's hand tightly, walks calmly away.

INT. SPIDER LADY'S TAVERN - NIGHT

Two robed individuals, BASKING SHARK, 39, and MOAN CHOC, 22, share a table at the rear.

BASKING SHARK

Pay attention Moan Choc. I'm going to show you how to do business. It matters not where you are, all drug deals go down the same.

MOAN CHOC

Why is that?

BASKING SHARK

Haven't a clue. Drugs are drugs and it has it's own culture. Just watch.

A young lady, SPIDER LADY ASSISTANT, 20, approaches.

SPIDER LADY ASSISTANT

Spider Lady will see you now.
Please leave any weapons here.

Basking Shark and Moan Choc look at each other and then untie their sword belts and lay them on the table. Spider Lady Assistant turns and walks to the rear door, where a big warrior looks them over carefully and then opens the door. It is very dark inside. Spider Lady Assistant walks in.

SPIDER LADY O.C.

Come in my friends. I've been expecting you Basking Shark and Moan Choc. The gods tell me you are trustworthy.

Basking Shark and Moan Choc look at each other quizzically.

INT. SPIDER LADY'S BACK ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Basking Shark walks inside followed by Moan Choc. They pause, blinking from the darkness, there is only dim red light on one wall where a painting of a spider beast with long octopus arms going out in all directions embracing all manner of animal headed gods. Two large cushions sit in the middle of the room.

SPIDER LADY O.C.

Please be seated. May I offer you some refreshing cacao pulque?

BASKING SHARK

Ah. Sure. Pulque would be nice.

Spider Lady Assistant returns with two frothy clay cups in the shape of a squatting crocodile god.

BASKING SHARK (cont'd)

This stuff is okay, right? I mean I don't want to meet any gods before we do our business.

Spider Lady slowly appears sitting on a raised platform near the rear of the room next to the red wall painting. She is dressed in an elaborate red and black costume with a giant insect head and many legs and arms going out like streamers.

SPIDER LADY

And our business today is...?

BASKING SHARK

I won't lie to you. I'm a drug smuggler. I smuggle by sea-going canoes. I have new drugs at very low prices.

SPIDER LADY

What kind of new drugs?

Basking Shark gives Moan Choc a smirk.

BASKING SHARK

My gracious lord, we have for sale drugs from far off lands. It is well known you are the person for trading drugs for the royals in Teo.

SPIDER LADY

I simply dispense drugs and sometimes provide medical help. What drugs do you have and what diseases do they cure?

BASKING SHARK

They don't cure diseases so much as they improves performance.

He hands her a bundle of leaves.

BASKING SHARK (cont'd)

I can provide as much of this as you might require. In return, I'd like to buy any skin-walking drugs that come from the northern hinterlands.

SPIDER LADY

My web is thin but long. I already know about your canoes using Chachalacas as a secret harbor. If Xlangl were to find out you're violating the Tikal blockade, I don't think he would be very business like. You were smart to come to me. I can help you. But let me explain how it's going to work.

INT. TIKAL LORD'S PALACE - DAY

Nxmul sits on his raised platform surrounded by a few priests and Coltal, dressed as a chief priest bearing new tatoos on face and arms.

NXMUL

Xlangl has convinced Teo nobility that Supreme Lord's bastard grandson still lives. He seems to

(MORE)

NXMUL (cont'd)
conveniently forget where his
daughter and granddaughter live.

COLTAL
He'll soon learn of your power.
They may have all roads out of Maya
blocked by manned fortifications,
but we've found a way around.

NXMUL
Xlangl will find them. He sees all
from his skin-walking.

COLTAL
I know the drugs that make Xlangl
so powerful. I am collecting some
now and soon will be able to
confront him on his own ground.

NXMUL
And you'll look so lovely stretched
out on top of the pyramid of the
sun, feeding the gods with what's
left of your black heart.

COLTAL
If my lord pleases, I humbly put
forward a plan for your approval.

NXMUL
I'm listening.

COLTAL
We are smuggling our new slave
drugs to Teo. The Tlaloc priests
are creating a whole new kind of
slave replacing all conventional
slaves. It will disrupt the very
basis for Teo's existence.

NXMUL
But how does that put me on the
royal throne?

COLTAL
I humbly suggest, we give our new
drugs to all the noble clans of
Teo. If they become addicted, think
of the power it gives you.

NXMUL
I'm humbled by your evil genius.

FADE TO BLACK

EXT. CLIFF DWELLERS VILLAGE - DAY - SIX YEARS LATER

SUPER: "LAND OF THE CLIFF DWELLERS, 520 CE"

POPO, 45, and KOKO, 15, walk along a path cut out of sandstone cliffs. Popo has a hemp-woven back-pack and Koko carries a large round melon. They walk around a corner and before them appears a cliff dwellers village high above a river canyon and overhung by a shelf of red sandstone. Koko marvels at all the adobe houses hanging off surrounding cliffs with pathways cut out of stone connecting them.

POPO

On market day, farmers bring crops for sale and trade. Traders from distant lands will be here. The flute maker will be here too.

KOKO

Oh I hope so. I would really love one of his flutes. They sound like real birds.

They enter a large open area in front of many levels of adobe apartments climbing up the cliff wall. There are colorful stalls set up, some with food and some with animals and some with rare objects from foreign lands.

POPO

I'll see. But first, I must meet a trader here today from far away Maya. He wants to buy special drugs and medicines. Can you stay here until I'm done?

KOKO

Sure, I'll sell my melon. Maybe get enough shells to buy a new flute.

POPO

Okay, but don't wander off and don't take any drugs without me.

KOKO

No problem. I only had a little.

Popo gives him an ugly look.

KOKO (cont'd)

I'm joking. It was only hemp tea.

Popo relaxes and smiles.

POPO

I hope so! You still need guidance,
you naughty little monkey. Be good
and I'll be back soon.

Popo leaves and Koko looks around, spots a small open area near a wall, spreads out his serape on the ground and puts his melon on it. He sits cross-legged behind it with his back to the wall. He takes out his wooden flute from his robe and begins playing. Three young boys enter the plaza in a boisterous mood. They taunt some of the vendors and steal some tomatoes. The bigger of the boys, BIGGEST BOY, 16, sees Koko and approaches with his friends.

BIGGEST BOY

Hey! Who are you?

Koko stops playing the flute.

KOKO

I'm Kokopelli, adopted son of
Popomagipta, daughter of Xlangl,
member of the Serpent Eagle clan.
Who are you?

BIGGEST BOY

(mockingly)

I'm Koko puke face and I look ugly!

The boys laugh. One of them throws a tomato and hits Koko in the face. Another boy kicks the melon and it rolls away.

KOKO

Hey! Stop that!

Koko stands up and in the rush accidentally steps on his loose loin cloth causing it to fall down. He stands naked.

KOKO (cont'd)

Give that back to me!

Suddenly the plaza goes silent and everyone stops and gapes at the naked deformed boy.

KOKO (cont'd)

What!?

The biggest boy starts laughing and then others follow suit. Koko looks down where everyone is looking and sees his long penis dangling out.

BIGGEST BOY

You're just a freak! Nobody would
claim you as human!

ALL BOYS
Freak! Freak! Freak!

The Biggest Boy kicks the melon breaking it into pieces.

Popo and a large teenage girl, BEBE, 17, enter the plaza and stop when they see Koko standing naked. Koko quickly pulls up his loin cloth. Bebe looks up at Popo's angry face, turns back and runs directly at Biggest Boy, tackling him to the ground.

POPO
No! Stop Bebe!

She climbs on his back and grabs his arm twisting it behind his back until Biggest Boy cries out in pain.

BEBE
Say you're sorry! Say it!

BIGGEST BOY
I'm sorry! I'm sorry! Let me go!

POPO
Bebe! Let him up. We don't hurt other people.

Bebe looks back at Popo, slowly lets go of Biggest Boy and stands up with a bounce. Biggest Boy runs away following his friends. Bebe shouts after him.

BEBE
And next time, pay for the melon!

Koko rushes to the side of Popo as Bebe joins them. Koko hides behind Popo.

POPO
It's okay Koko. She's with us from now on.

BEBE
(proudly)
Yeah, Popomagipta is my new owner!
I will kill and die for my owner!
Just point someone out and I'll show you.

She looks around the plaza with an ugly face. Everyone watching, looks away and returns to their business.

POPO
Slow down, Bebe. We don't allow violence in our home.

BEBE

How about outside? If you like, I can drag them outside before I slit their throats.

POPO

No slitting throats! We are peaceful and love all life.

Bebe just looks at her questioningly.

BEBE

I don't understand but you are my new master. I will do as you say. Is this your son?

Bebe carefully finds Koko's hand and pulls him from behind Popo.

POPO

This is Kokopelli. Koko, meet your new sister, Bebepuente, a former Mayan slave. The Mayan trader insisted on giving her to me as a bonus for selling him peyote. I took her so she could be free.

Bebe beams with the introduction.

BEBE

I like being a slave. It better than being free and have to worry about what I'm supposed to be doing. Should I worship this god or that one or whether I'm wearing the right costume or making the right sacrifice. Did anybody ever tell you you're well hung?

Koko blushes and shakes his head *no*.

BEBE (cont'd)

Well you are and you're going to be a very popular young man some day. I know these things and more. Do you want to hear what I know?

Koko shakes his head *yes*.

BEBE (cont'd)

Well let's get started. Where do we live?

Bebe looks back and forth from Popo to Koko and takes them both in hand and walks purposefully from the plaza.

POPO

You're going to be some daughter.

BEBE

No no. I'm the 'slave' daughter. I like that better.

Bebe reaches across and pokes Koko on his hump.

BEBE (cont'd)

And I'll be your 'slave' older sister. I'm going to take good care of you.

EXT. POPO'S ADOBE HUT - NEXT DAY

Bebe wakes up before dawn, goes outside with an empty deerskin water bag and returns shortly pouring water into the big clay pot. Popo wakes up from the noise.

POPO

You don't have to do that.

BEBE

I don't see any other slaves around here.

Bebe goes to the built-in adobe fireplace in one corner and begins making a fire.

POPO

Well, as far as I am concerned, you're free.

Bebe turns suddenly staring at Popo with tears welling up in her eyes.

BEBE

I can't be free. I'd have no place to go. No place to call home. I'd be stolen by thieves and sold to priests for sacrifice. Please don't set me free!

POPO

It's okay, Bebe. You can stay. But I don't believe in slavery. All god's creatures must be free. You can be my daughter and have a home here as long as you wish.

Bebe smiles, wipes away a few tears and goes back to work on the fire.

KOKO

Good morning, mama-Popo. What's she doing?

POPO

If I'm not mistaken, she's fixing us breakfast.

EXT. SONORAN DESERT - DAY - ONE YEAR LATER

SUPER: "ONE YEAR LATER - SONORAN DESERT"

POPO, 46, carrying a basket on her arm, leads KOKO, 16, and BEBE, 18, on a collecting trip in the desert.

POPO

Look here under this mesquite tree next to the arroyo. Water flowed here recently and the mushroom living underground, blooms by pushing up flowers.

KOKO

Wow, that's a lot of flowers.

BEBE

I'll help. Which ones should we pick, all?

POPO

The long spindly ones are psilocybin. The red capped ones with white spots are amanita mascara. don't forget to remove the white dots. They contain arsenic and can kill you if you don't remove them first.

BEBE

Mother Popo. You're so wise. I could make up songs about you.

BeBe hums to herself as she helps Koko collect the mushrooms. They move on and Popo leads them to a huge cholla cactus.

POPO

Don't ever touch this cactus. It will grab you and never let go until you cut it out.

BEBE

Oh my! An evil plant.

POPO

Be careful but look closer.

Bebe approaches cautiously and bends down to look in a hole exposed at the bottom of the bush. Growing just inside is a patch of little barrel cacti with grayish buttons on top.

POPO (cont'd)

The most sacred cactus uses a larger more dangerous cactus as its guardian.

BEBE

Like a mother and children.

Popo smiles and notices that Koko is listening raptly to everything Bebe says.

POPO

Use a tree branch to brush away any cholla on the ground and then carefully spread your serape, crawl in and cut just the buttons on top of the biggest barrels.

Bebe carefully follows her instructions. She crawls on your stomach into the hole just far enough to cut the buttons and hand them out. Koko holds up a handful to Popo.

KOKO

Wow! I'm getting high just looking at them.

INT. POPO'S ADOBE HUT - NIGHT

Popo prepares some dried mushrooms, slicing them and mixing with hot tea.

BEBE

So what kind of animal will I transform to?

Popo sits down opposite Koko and Bebe, hands them cups and they tepidly sip the hot tea.

POPO

It's not an animal but an animal spirit. A talisman. It has all the aspects of an animal and you are simply joining your spirit with
(MORE)

POPO (cont'd)
 it's spirit forming a whole new
 spirit. Now quiet your thoughts,
 enter the Nagual and wait for your
 talisman to reveal itself.

They hold hands and relax as reality changes to the spirit world. The room moves about, distorting and then filling with neon colors.

KOKO
 I feel something new. Its colorful
 and floating.

Koko begins to merge into a colorful blue macaw. Popo begins taking on the shape of a desert hawk.

BEBE
 I feel it too!

Bebe begins to change into a translucent color-flashing hummingbird. She becomes small and flaps her wings fast causing a humming sound. She flies up suddenly and bumps into the ceiling.

KOKO
 Squawk! Be careful!

She bounces around the room while the hawk and macaw stand on a chair back watching the action. Popo appears human again and catches Bebe's hummingbird, pulling it down to where Bebe reappears, her head spinning.

BEBE
 Wow! That was great! When can I go
 again?

Bebe suddenly vomits while holding her thumbs up.

INT. TIKAL LORD'S PALACE - DAY

COLTAL, 32, dressed in priestly black robes, vomits into a clay pot being held by a servant priest. NXMUL, 37, dressed as a Mayan king with giant headdress and multi-colored robes, sits on a raised throne and watches with impatience.

NXMUL
 You call that magic? You said this
 drug was the secret behind Xlangl's
 skin-walking. All you've
 transformed into is a sick dog not
 even worth eating.

Coltal wipes his mouth with his robes gasping for breath.

COLTAL

My Lord. I feel it's happening. It just takes more drugs and training. Unfortunately I don't have a lot of drugs left to work with but I think I know where they come from.

NXMUL

Meanwhile Xlangl spies on us from the Nagual disguised as an eagle or bat or god knows what. We must break his hold on Supreme Lord. I intend to march on Teo before the second Katun celebration. With his daughter and granddaughter in the lead, I will, once and for all, take that which belongs to me. You must find a way to eliminate that foreign witch who stands in our way. You think you can do that?

COLTAL

If that SPIDER LADY SERVANT with his weird headdress can fly like an eagle then I can at least fly like the raven who drives the eagle mad.

NXMUL

You smell! Here, have some more pulque.

Coltal takes a big gulp and spits it out.

COLTAL

I must travel to Teo as a priest where I know I can find the drugs I need.

NXMUL

While you're there, you must use your new Nagual powers to eliminate that godless wizard.

COLTAL

I shall do my best, which'll be the worst for him.

INT. POPO'S ADOBE HUT - DAY

Bebe and Koko are working on the floor when Popo approaches hiding something behind her back.

POPO

I have a surprise for you Koko.

She pulls out a beautifully carved and decorated bird-bone flute. Koko jumps up and down with happiness and delight. He takes the flute and holds it high above his head.

KOKO

Oh my gosh! I love you! I love you!
Thank you!

He hugs Popo and Bebe as he dances around them.

EXT. POPO'S ADOBE HUT - EVENING

Koko sits on a nearby rock and plays a beautiful haunting melody on his new flute. Popo and Bebe sit nearby weaving baskets and listening. Other villagers slowly appear out of the dark to sit politely and listen to the music.

BEBE

See? Everybody likes music.

Soon the crowd grows to many dozens. When Koko finishes, they clap and make noise, shouting for more. He begins playing another song and this time Bebe steps forward and sings a song along with him.

EXT. POPO'S ADOBE HUT - NIGHT - THREE YEARS LATER

SUPER: "Land of the Cliff Dwellers, 523 CE"

KOKO, 18, is sitting on the floor playing his flute softly. BEBE, 20, lies next to him singing along. Popo, 48, grinds herbs at the table.

BEBE

*'Let none be sad or ponder the
world. Behold our flowers and
beautiful songs. Find joy in them,
our dearest friends. They'll soothe
the pain of bitter sorrows.'*

They finish the song and Popo dabs at her eyes.

POPO

That's so beautiful. Where does it
come from?

BEBE

I don't know. I've just always known it. Maybe someone sang it to me when I was a baby.

KOKO

She taught me the melody but my little swallow added something to it. It's about love and how life has few pleasures unless we provide them.

POPO

Have you found any pleasures?

Popo smiles slightly and goes back to work.

KOKO

Music!

BEBE

Are you sure?

KOKO

Of course. Isn't it yours?

BEBE

Maybe, but what about love? You know, love between a warrior and a maiden. Sex!

KOKO

I know about sex. I watch the animals. I know humans do it too, but it seems so...you know...yucky!

Popo snickers.

BEBE

What about you, mama-Popo? Don't you think when a man loves a woman, its magical and like dandelions blowing in the wind or frost on a winter morning?

POPO

Oh, my innocent child. Like all romantics, you have it completely backwards. First comes pure love of a mother and child and then comes the love and respect of a father looking out for his family. Finally, young men and women come

(MORE)

POPO (cont'd)
together sharing sexual pleasure
and call it love, but mostly it
just makes babies.

Bebe looks at Koko who wrinkles his brow in consternation.

BEBE
So if you love me like a mother,
does that mean I should give you
pleasure like my previous owner
demanded. He made me call him
daddy.

Popo chokes and coughs loudly trying to clear her throat.

POPO
No way! It's better that young
people do the pleasure sharing
among themselves.

BEBE
Koko and I love each other like
family, can we share pleasures?

Popo pauses and looks at Koko. He looks a little embarrassed
but he stares back waiting for her reply.

POPO
You clever little hummingbird.
You've maneuvered me into a corner.
But, from what I learned from my
father, sharing sex is something
strictly left up to whomever is
doing the sharing. It's a simple
animal process that's pleasurable
to humans, just like eating, or
taking a good poop, that ensures
the continuation of life. The
emotional reward makes us want to
do it over and over and over again
until we get it right.

The two kids giggle.

POPO (cont'd)
Until you make babies and then the
first two loves kick in and the
latter one wanes with time.

Popo smiles. Koko turns to Bebe.

KOKO
I told you she would say it was
okay.

Popo frowns.

POPO

I didn't say that. All right, what have you two been up to?

BEBE

Nothing! Sort of...

KOKO

Yet.

They giggle.

KOKO (cont'd)

But we've been exploring. It's amazing how different we are, you know, down there, and up there and well, all over. Yet we both think the same when it comes to what we want or get, you know, excitement, orgasm and then warmth and cuddling.

Popo looks back and forth between them.

POPO

I can't tell you no or yes, that's up to you and the moment. Just be very careful and only make life when you think it's right for both of you and you are ready to gain the next two levels of love.

They giggle again. Bebe tickles Koko and he grabs her as they roll over the top of each other.

POPO (cont'd)

(urgently)

You understand, Bebe! Don't go all the way for the last fourteen days of your lunar blood cycle, unless you actually want a baby.

BEBE

I know. My daddy taught me that.

More giggling as they entangle in each others robes.

POPO

(to herself)

And just like children everywhere, not a drop of attention or caution.

She shakes her head and goes back to work.

INT. THRONE ROOM SUPREME LORDS PALACE - DAY

ARAX, 46, relaxes on his raised platform covered in pillows. XLANGL, 65, sits nearby on floor cushions. Several young boys, all about ten to twelve years old are serving Arax by waving fans, serving food and grooming. Two young boys are working on his toe nails.

XLANGL

We have blockaded Mayan trade for years and yet, Tikal grows more powerful and rich. Our expensive fortifications aren't stopping the money.

ARAX

My astrologers say they have Venus on their side. My daughter may already dwell in the underworld and my throne will go to a Tikal bastard.

XLANGL

Our spies report your daughter is still treated like a queen, although a captive queen. Her offspring from Monkey Python, a princess named Xixichupaka, has been pronounced a god by their Tlaloc Priests at the age of twelve.

ARAX

My granddaughter? A god? Already? At least they recognize my contribution. For the first time, my astrologers tell me all is as it should be. Funny, it doesn't seem that way.

He strokes the hair of one of the boys tending him.

XLANGL

What's more troubling, my lord, is that normal sacrificial captives and offerings are being turned into working slaves under the control of the Tlaloc priesthood.

ARAX

How is that any of our concern? I support the priest-hood as all good god-fearing nobles do.

XLANGL

Corn production is almost two-fold with these new slaves. Many free-born farmers and ex-warrior guards have lost their jobs. The land-owning nobles grow rich from the new arrangement even though the price of corn is collapsing and young people are leaving their villages and moving to the city looking for work but causing crime and homelessness instead.

The toenail trimming slave boy cuts too close.

ARAX

Owch! Curse you little devil!
 (forgivingly)
 Kissy, kissy. I don't mean it.
 (back to business)
 How do sacrificial captives out produce professional slaves? That doesn't sound right.

XLANGL

It seems they hook them on a new drug combination that Mayans somehow smuggles into Mextec in large quantities. This new drug makes slaves work harder, longer, with less food and, surprisingly, with less armed guards.

ARAX

I'll simply have a couple of chief priests brought in for torture. We'll get to the bottom of this.

Xlangl gets up and goes to the table with the 3-D map of the Five Nations.

XLANGL

They may not know themselves. We've blockaded all the land routes which leaves only one other way. But with only simple canoes, how can they cross an open sea carrying much of anything?

ARAX

Lords are supposed to control their borders, aren't they?

XLANGL

Yes, and we may have a big hole in yours.

Xlangl indicates the long shoreline east of Teotihuacan.

XLANGL (cont'd)

I have a feeling that Mayan sea traders may have solved the problem.

ARAX

I know you. You have a plan, don't you?

Arax picks up the little wooden model of sticks and bits of hemp fibers and looks it over carefully.

XLANGL

Spider Lady controls the local drug trade. She knows what we need to know.

ARAX

I could have her tortured first if you like. Loosen her tongue a bit.

XLANGL

And once loose, who knows what it will say. No, let me go to her and talk. We're old friends and maybe she'll know something that can help us.

ARAX

You have strange ways, Xlangl. You truly must be from a far off land where alien gods can afford such high ideals. Here, we just eat our enemies and absorb their spiritual power.

XLANGL

I wish it were that simple. We must bide our time and strike only when we have overwhelming odds in our favor.

ARAX

Be careful old friend. Such talk
can end in unpredictable ways. I
don't know what I would do without
you. Let me send guards with you.

XLANGL

No. I don't want to frighten her.

ARAX

Our city is full of homeless
peasants turned criminal looking
for easy targets. Be very careful.

XLANGL

Don't worry, my friend and lord. I
still have some tricks up my
sleeve.

EXT. SONORAN DESERT - DAY

Bebe and Koko are walking slowly through the desert
searching the ground.

BEBE

There's been no rain. I don't see
any mushrooms.

KOKO

Keep looking. Popo's supply is
getting low and she's counting on
us to find more.

BEBE

Here's another peyote cactus.

Bebe gets on her knees and carefully trims two buttons off
the top of the cactus cluster. She stands up but can't see
Koko.

KOKO O.C.

I'm over here. I found an arroyo
with mud in the bottom.

Bebe walks a short distance and looks down into the arroyo.

BEBE

Did you find mushrooms?

KOKO

Oh boy, did I. Take a look!

He stands up revealing a bunch of mushrooms growing out of an old log partially submerged in mud.

BEBE

Mama's going to love that.

EXT. SONORAN DESERT - LATER THAT NIGHT

Koko plays his flute sitting in front of a fire. Behind the fire is a rock cliff peppered with pictographs. Bebe is standing on another rock halfway up the wall and with a long pointed flint blade, pecks at the cliff.

KOKO

(singing a cappella)

*Far away, I'd rather fly away,
Like a bird that's here and gone.
A man gets tied to earth and clay,
He gives the world its saddest
song,
Its saddest song.*

He plays a melody on his flute and Bebe pecks away at the cliff rock keeping the rhythm of the song and humming along. The image looks like Kokopelli.

BEBE

Do you ever think that destiny of yours might change our lives?

KOKO

Why do you ask that? I don't know what a destiny is but if it's mine, I don't think you have to worry.

BEBE

Maybe your destiny is just to play music and make people happy. You don't have to go back to where you came from and prove anything.

KOKO

I know. Popo said it's better to have the freedom of fate than the certainty of destiny. Don't you agree?

BEBE

What would I know? Slaves don't have destinies, just duties. You play music and my duty is to help you. Chipping on the rocks is just good advertising.

KOKO

You think I look like that?

INT. DRUG TAVERN FRONT ROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT

Dim light reveals several groups of patrons smoking and drinking. OLD WARRIOR #1, 40, talks quietly with OLD WARRIOR #2, 45, while drinking pulque' from clay pots made to look like the heads of monstrous gods.

OLD WARRIOR #1

If I don't find a new client soon,
I won't have a feather to buy
tortillas let alone another cup.

OLD WARRIOR #2

Those damned priests are all taking
our jobs. They use drugs instead of
old fashioned fear to control their
slaves. Where does that leave us?

OLD WARRIOR #1

The damned nobles still make their
profits. They don't care who keeps
their asses safe anymore. We need
to make Teotihuacan great again!

Xlangl enters covered in a plain cloak and hood. He pauses, moves to the rear approaching two guards standing next to the rear door. He nods at them and they ignore him. He scratches on the door which opens a crack, and then opens wider letting him in.

OLD WARRIOR #2

See. There goes one now. He
disguises himself as a peasant but
walks with the haughtiness of a
noble. I wager he has more wealth
than he could possibly need while
we starve.

A black priest sitting in a corner, sees Xlangl, gets up and leaves in a hurry.

OLD WARRIOR #1

I wonder why a lord like that has
to visit a place like this? Why
doesn't he send a slave for his
needs, like everyone else?

OLD WARRIOR #2

He did look like he was carrying
something. I think we should stick
(MORE)

OLD WARRIOR #2 (cont'd)
 around. I feel the gods throwing
 some fortune our way.

INT. DRUG TAVERN BACK ROOM - NIGHT

SPIDER LADY, 65, overly dressed with lots of colorful feathers relaxes on cushions as she smokes an elaborately carved pipe in the shape of demons. Xlangl relaxes nearby on more cushions. She hands him the smoking pipe.

SPIDER LADY
 Darling, what are you doing walking
 around outside of the palace like a
 common farmer? I thought you only
 fly with the eagles these days.

XLANGL
 My love, my needs require I come as
 a humble servant.

He takes a big draw on the pipe, holding his breath and then exhaling smoke.

SPIDER LADY
 I am fully aware of the needs of
 important people. It's what I do.

XLANGL
 Of course. The spider sees
 everything from the vantage of the
 web. I have something for you.

Xlangl hands back the pipe and a large brooch of gold and turquoise shaped into the two Quetzalcoatl gods, feathered serpent and flying serpent, intertwined. She examines the brooch closely and takes a long draw on the pipe.

SPIDER LADY
 The myth of Quetzalcoatl being born
 as opposites, battling over control
 of the world. What part of your
 body do I have to lick to earn
 this?

She smiles wickedly at him.

XLANGL
 As much as I would love that, my
 needs are much more palatable.
 Tlaloc priests are using captive
 slaves and some kind of new drug
 making them work harder and cheaper
 than normal slaves. What is this
 (MORE)

XLANGL (cont'd)
 new drug and how are they getting
 so much of it?

SPIDER LADY
 You know, in my business, it is not
 good manners to ask questions about
 where things come from.

XLANGL
 I thought you had no love for
 Tlaloc priests, or Tikals. Pardon
 my ignorance, but why are you doing
 business with them?

SPIDER LADY
 My dear, you should know that you
 keep your friends close and your
 enemies even closer. What if I ask
 the questions and you provide the
 answers?

XLANGL
 Your wish is my command. Ask away.

SPIDER LADY
 Why do Tlaloc priests make regular
 pilgrimages to Chachalaca's
 pyramid?

XLANGL
 By sea.

SPIDER LADY
 I'm sure you already know that. The
 real question is why are they
 expanding the docks to handle many
 sea-going canoes at once.

XLANGL
 I think a trip to my seashore
 palace is in order. Care to come
 along for the sun and sea?

SPIDER LADY
 I'd love to but it would ruin my
 complexion. By the way, it just so
 happens that some of your Nagual
 drugs have arrived from the
 hinterlands. I sort of promised
 them to someone else, but you
 should have them.

He takes her hand and kisses it tenderly.

XLANGL

You are indeed a lovely flower of
desire and I, the humble bee,
accept your kind offer.

They kiss.

EXT. STREETS OF TEOTIHUACAN - NIGHT - LATER

Wearing a large hood covering his face and carrying a woven bag, Xlangl walks calmly along a dark narrow street between two-story adobe buildings. He stops to look up at the Milky Way brilliantly lighting up the sky making shadows even less distinct. He hears a sound of shuffling feet. Looking ahead, a band of black priests well-armed with spears and swords turn into his avenue. Xlangl pulls his hood further over his head and stands aside as they pass. The priest in the lead, Coltal, stares at the hooded figure. Xlangl reaches into the bag and pulls out a dark shriveled mushroom.

COLTAL,

Stop! You there! What are you
doing?

Xlangl turns as he chews revealing his face to Coltal.

XLANGL

You talking to me?

COLTAL

Grab him! He's the heretic alien.

Xlangl begins running and the priest warriors pursue. A priest with a spear stops to throw. Xlangl morphs into a colorful feathered Jaguar who springs up in the air and over the spear. The Jaguar roars and turns, facing the on-rushing priests. The priest in front swings a sword at the giant cat but the cat springs first and lands on the warrior, ripping his sword arm off with one shake. The cat swats another priest disemboweling him. Blood and limbs fly everywhere as Coltal backs up in horror. He fumbles in his robes and brings out a dark object. The jaguar finishes tearing up the last priest and looks around. It spots Coltal cowering in a dark corner who shakily stuffs the object in his mouth and begins chewing rapidly. The giant cat advances on him, roars and bounds through the air directly at the horrified high priest just as he turns into a large black raven. The Jaguar swipes its paw at the bird as it awkwardly passes by leaving a few black feathers flying. The raven squawks, flies out of harm and disappears over the top of the nearest adobe building. The raven lands on the edge of the building. The cat roars and walks back to where it left the shoulder bag turning back into Xlangl. He bends over to pick up the bag

when he suddenly jerks, eyes wide open, he looks around seeing Old Warrior #1 holding a spear shaft sticking out of his back.

OLD WARRIOR #1
 Pardon me, my lord, but I saw what
 you did with that bag and I need
 what's in there more than you.

Xlangl attempts to say something but blood bubbles out of his mouth and he collapses. Old Warrior #1 pulls the spear out and stands watching. He hears the squawk of a bird nearby but ignores it. He picks up the bag, looks inside, looks around and starts walking away. As he rounds a corner Coltal suddenly confronts him, grabs his spear and jabs it in his throat. As he staggers backward, Coltal removes the bag from his shoulder as the Old Warrior collapses.

COLTAL
 Sorry, I need this more than you.
 But thank you for your service.

INT. POPO'S ADOBE HUT - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Popo is alone working at her table when she suddenly goes rigid. She cries out in pain.

POPO
 E-i-i-o-o-h! What's wrong!? Father!

She closes her eyes tightly in a grimace of pain.

INT. BEDROOM SUPREME LORD'S PALACE - NIGHT - LATER

XLANGL lies on his bed surrounded by servants softly crying with SUPREME LORD, 63, standing nearby who is surrounded by his young boys and many warriors standing guard in the background. A servant places a gold disc on each eye of Xlangl, slips a jade stone in his mouth and stands back as other servants begin spreading red ocher on the body and wrapping it in red and white cloth.

ARAX
 (weepingly)
 My old master. You couldn't have
 picked a worse time for your trip
 to the underworld. I don't know
 what I'm going to do!

Arax begins crying and all his young boys follow suit.

FADE OUT: