

I. R. E. A.
SEASON1: THE INITIATE
EPISODE1: THE KING IS DEAD, LONG LIVE THE KING

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Original script

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INT. ROYAL BEDROOM. DAY.

The royal bedroom is spacious, with expensive solid wood furniture. A large bed with many pillows occupies the central space of the bedroom. In the corner is a royal suit of armour with a blue gold crown on its head. On one wall is the coat of arms of the Blue Royal House that rules the Blue Fortress. Above the bed, on the wall, is a very large painting of King Chinedu in a majestic position, dressed in expensive clothes, with the Blue Gold Crown on his head and the Blue Sceptre in his right hand. Next to another wall is a large fireplace in which a fire is burning. In front of the fireplace are two large wooden chairs with precious stones. There are cushions on the chairs and two small footrests on the floor next to them. The curtains are tightly drawn, and sunlight from outside comes through the large windows.

On the big bed, wrapped in blankets, lies King Chinedu. He is breathing heavily and keeping his eyes closed. The upper half of his body is slightly raised as he sits on large pillows.

Also in the royal bedroom are two doctors in ankle-length white coats and brown tunics. They wear brown caps and have white gloves on their hands. The two doctors work at a long, black table on which are several glass containers of various shapes and sizes, utensils of all kinds and wooden boxes of herbs. The doctors are assisted by two apprentices dressed in ankle-length robes, with caps on their heads and straps around their waists, all light green.

A physician has prepared a tincture which he takes from the table and brings to the king. He approaches the king and bends carefully towards him, bringing the vial of tincture to his lips. The king feels the liquid on his lips and opens his mouth slightly, and the doctor pours the tincture. The king swallows and the doctor withdraws.

The king opens his eyes and looks at the doctor who had remained by the bed. The two looked at each other for a moment, and the doctor approached the king.

CHINEDU

(speaks with difficulty)

Let Grand Master Okigbo come to me.

The Doctor bows his head in respect, turns away from the King, goes to the table where he leaves the bottle of tincture and beckons an apprentice to come to him. The apprentice, a young, dark-haired, fat boy, hurries towards the doctor.

The doctor says something in his ear, after which the apprentice quickly goes to the large wooden bedroom door, opens it and disappears outside.

INT. GREAT HALL OF THE HOUSE OF NUMBERS. DAY.

The Great Hall of the House of Numbers is very spacious, with a very high ceiling, stone walls with very large and high windows that let in a lot of light.

The Scribes are seated in three parallel rows, starting on the left from the large wooden door and ending on the right at the podium on which is a large wooden table. Next to the big table is a wooden chair with a very high backrest on which Master Ayaju sits. He supervises the Scribes.

Each Scribe is dressed in an ankle-length blue robe with the hood pulled back and a wide blue girdle fastened in the middle of the body. On their feet, Scribes wear blue sandals. Each Scribe sits at a wooden desk on which are their writing pens and the sheets on which they write. Under the desk are stacks of white sheets that the Scribes use to write. There are 30 Scribes in the Great Hall, ten in a row.

Most Scribes work for one person. Some are simple people, others are rich, dressed in expensive clothes. Some Scribes have two or three people.

From his chair, Master Ayaju looks around the room and observes a heated discussion between a Scribe and a tall, fat man with a large beard ending in a thin, braided tail with blue gold rings attached. The man is dressed in expensive clothes and his fingers are covered with rings. Behind him is an old man dressed in old clothes, with very long, shoulder-length white hair, a large, unkempt beard and a lost, crazed look.

The fat man is Noble M. and he is arguing with a Scribe, while gesturing and pointing at something on the sheet on the wooden desk. The Scribe shakes his head in disagreement. The crazy old man behind Noble M. is the White Fisherman who ignores the two, he is in his own world and looks around without understanding anything. The Scribe wants to leave his desk, but Noble M. grabs him by the right arm and holds him in place.

Master Ayaju got up from his chair and walked towards the two. The Master has a blue robe like the Scribes, but over it he has a black tunic and a black girdle in the middle. On his feet, the Master wears black boots.

SCRIBE

I don't do that.

M.

Listen to me, you stupid scribe. As long as I pay you, you'll do exactly as I command.

SCRIBE

Keep your money. What you are asking for, is a scam.

M.

(squeeze Scrib's arm hard)
That's how I got on with the owner.
Don't piss me off, Scribe.

Master Ayaju has just arrived near the two and intervenes in their discussion.

AYAJU

Hello!

The two suddenly stop arguing and turn their heads towards Master. When he sees him, the Scribe yanks his arm from Noble M's hand and bows to the Master. Noble M stares at Master Ayaju. The two look at each other.

SCRIBE

Master Ayaju, I apologise for our quarrel.

Master Ayaju and Noble M. stare into each other's eyes. After a moment, Master Ayaju asks.

AYAJU

What's it about?
(and he looks at Scrib)

SCRIBE

Noble M. commissioned me to draw up a contract to buy the White Fisherman's house. When it came to writing down the amount of money the Noble was to give the Fisherman, I wanted to write three thousand blue gold coins, as much as the house was worth. Noble M. stopped me and asked me to write the amount of 30 blue gold coins, saying that he had made an agreement with the White Fisherman. But I don't believe that.

Master Ayaju turns to Noble M. and looks into his eyes. The two look at each other intensely. The Scribe addresses the Master.

SCRIBE (CONT'D)

Look at the White Fisherman,
Master.

Master Ayaju takes a half-step to the side and looks at the White Fisherman behind Noble M. The fisherman is in his own world, mumbling something inaudible and wandering his eyes around the room without looking at anything in particular. Master Ayaju walks over to the wooden desk, picks up a writing pen and dips it into the inkwell. On the sales contract are written only strings of Numbers. Ayaju writes, at the end of a string of Numbers, 3000, puts the writing pen in its place, picks up the sheet, blows over what he has written and hands it to Noble M.

AYAJU

(looks Noble M. straight
in the eyes)

Noble M. you don't owe us any
money.

Ayaju and Noble M. look at each other for a few seconds, after which the Nobleman snatches the contract out of the Master's hand, turns and, full of rage, heads for the door of the Great Hall as he rips the contract into pieces and throws them on the floor.

The Master looks after Noble M. as he nervously walks away, then looks at the Fisherman who is in his own world.

AYAJU (CONT'D)

What happened to this fisherman?

SCRIBE

His wife and twins, a girl and a boy, died three years ago. Someone unknown killed them. It all happened when the White Fisherman was at sea.

AYAJU

Noble M.?

SCRIBE

Some say yes. But there's no evidence to charge him with murder.

AYAJU

Isn't Noble M. the friend of Master Ijere?

SCRIBE

Yes, Master Ayaju.

AYAJU

And why did he come when I'm on watch?

SCRIBE

He is in a hurry to leave with two ships for four months on a business trip.

AYAJU

(approaching the White Fisherman)

He'll be back when Master Ijere's on watch to fix his problem.

(Ayaju strokes the White Fisherman's hair)

But until then, take care of this man. Give him something to eat and drink.

Alongside Master Ayaju comes Apprentice Amos.

AMOS

Master.

AYAJU

(turns to the Apprentice)

Yes, Amos.

AMOS

Grand Master Okigbo calls you to him.

AYAJU

(to Amos)

Pick up, this mess.

(Ayaju points to the pieces of paper torn by Noble M.)

Then Master Ayaju heads for the big wooden door, and the Scribe follows with the White Fisherman.

INT. GRAND MASTER'S OFFICE. DAY.

It is a large room with stone walls and a large fireplace, where the fire burns. A very long, solid wooden table on which are laid a lot of papers, books with thick covers, some closed, some open. A very long and sturdy wooden table, on which are laid a lot of papers, thick-covered books, some closed, some open. A large desk, also made of black wood, sits against a wall and has a very high backrest next to it. There sits Grand Master Okigbo.

He, too, is dressed in the hooded blue robe of the Order of Numbers and has over it the black tunic of the Masters of the Order. Supported by the high backrest, is the Ebony Rod, which belongs to the Grand Master.

Grand Master Okigbo reads from an old, thick, brown leather-bound book. The large solid wood door of the cabinet opens and Master Ayaju enters. He closes the door behind him, approaches the desk where the Grand Master is sitting and bows to him.

AYAJU

Grand Master, I'm here.

The Grand Master looks up from his book and gestures to Ayaju to sit on a wooden chair in front of the black desk. Ayaju sits down and waits for the Grand Master to speak. The Grand Master resumes reading from the book in front of him. Two or three moments pass, then Okigbo slowly closes the book and turns his head towards the fire in the hearth. He stands for a moment, then looks at Ayaju.

OKIGBO

My dear Master...the time is coming...King Chinedu is ready for the Great Passage, after which I will follow him, as I have done all my life, I have followed my king to protect him and to follow him everywhere.

Grand Master Okigbo closes his eyes and Master Ayaju looks at him. The two remain silent for a few moments.

The big wooden door to the Grand Master's office opens and Nonso, Okigbo's apprentice, enters and closes the door after him, then approaches the Grand Master.

NONSO

(bows before the Grand Master)

Grand Master, the King wants you to go to the Palace.

Grand Master Okigbo opens his eyes and looks at Master Ayaju.

OKIGBO

You see, Master Ayaju? How quickly time passes? Help me, please.

Master Ayaju gets up from his chair and approaches the Grand Master, helping him up from his chair. Apprentice Nonso looks at the two. The Grand Master takes Ebony Rod and, leaning on Ayaju's arm, starts for the cabinet door.

INT. PRINCE OKOT'S LIVING ROOM. DAY.

The room is large and has a long wooden table with many chairs around it. At one end of the table is a large, high-backed chair on which Prince Okot sits. The prince is a young man under 30, blond, blue-eyed and wearing expensive clothes. His wrists are full of gold bracelets and black leather.

In the room there is a hearth where the fire burns. The walls are full of swords, bows and arrows, crossbows and many hunting trophies: deer heads with large antlers; two very large bear skins; wild boar heads with large, arched tusks and sharp points.

Prince Okot sits on a chair and looks at a portrait in his hands. It is of Princess Ukamaka, daughter of King Green, ruler of the Green Fortress. Okot is very pleased with Princess Ukamaka and talks to his trusted advisor, Lord Down.

OKOT

My dear Lord Down, I can't believe my eyes. Princess Ukamaka, daughter of King Green of the Green Fortress, is divinely beautiful. Tell me what I'm seeing isn't real.

DOWN

Your Excellency, how does think that a servant so humble and devoted to you, as I am, can lie to you. I've seen her with my own eyes, My Lord.

OKOT

Really, she's so beautiful?

DOWN

My Lord, shie's ten times more beautiful in reality.

OKOT

You lie, Lord Down, you lie.

DOWN

Kill me, My Prince, I will die of joy knowing that I have served you with devotion and faith and have never lied to you.

Prince Okot continues to look enthusiastically at Princess Ukamaka's portrait.

OKOT

I've fallen in love, Lord Down.

The Prince gets up from his seat, leaves the portrait on the table and walks around the room.

OKOT (CONT'D)
How's Dad doing?

DOWN
I understand that very badly, My Lord. I'm afraid the glorious King Chinedu doesn't have long to live.

Prince Okot opens the door and steps out onto the terrace outside.

EXT. TERRACE OF PRINCE OKOT'S ROOM. DAY.

Okot takes a few steps onto the terrace.

The sun is setting, but still shining in the clear sky.

Lord Down approaches Prince Okot slowly and waits in silence. After a moment, he addresses the Prince.

DOWN
(slowly)
Prince.
(Okot doesn't hear him,
then Down speaks up)
Prince!
(Okot winces slightly and
Down continues)
Grief will sweep the entire Blue
Fortress when our beloved King
dies. But our suffering will last
as long as it takes because it will
be followed by the joy of Your
ascension to the Throne of the
Royal House of the Blue Fortress.

Lord Down fell silent and sat humbly behind the Prince, pleased to have another opportunity to flatter him. Okot continues to stare into space, but addresses the Lord Down.

OKOT
Will it, Lord Down? Will the people
of the Blue Fortress rejoice after
my father, who gave them 52 years
of wealth and security, departs
from the world of the living?

DOWN

(speaks prophetically)

Blessings, safety and wealth will
bring to the Blue Fortress, the
reign of Your Majesty, Prince Okot.
And all this will make the Blue
Fortress unique not only in this
world.

Prince Okot is surprised by the tone in which Lord Down spoke these words, which are powerful and seem like a prophecy, so he turns his head towards him. Lord Down stares off into the distance, overcome with pathos as he says these words, but now he notices that the Prince is staring at him, so he is intimidated and lowers his eyes humbly. Okot turns his head, looks at the horizon and sinks back into thought.

The door to Prince Okot's room can be heard opening, then footsteps approaching the terrace entrance. Lord Down turns and sees a soldier waiting by the terrace door. Down walks over to the soldier who says something in his ear, then the soldier bows his head in respect, turns and leaves. Down approaches Okot.

DOWN (CONT'D)

My Lord, I have just learned that
Grand Master Okigbo has entered the
Royal Bedchamber.

Lord Down is silent. The Prince says nothing for a few moments, then sighs.

OKOT

A new Era seems to be on the
horizon.

INT. ROYAL BEDROOM. DAY.

The large wooden door of the royal bedroom has just been closed by the apprentice sent to fetch Grand Master Okigbo, who is standing in front of the bed on which King Chinedu is sitting. Doctors and their apprentices are gathered by the king's bed. Chinedu beckons them to leave. The Medics and Apprentices bow and leave the Royal Bedroom.

In front of the bed remains the Grand Master leaning on the Ebony Rod. The door to the royal bedchamber can be heard closing. There is silence in the bedroom. King Chinedu lies on his bed, his body raised slightly on pillows and his eyes closed. Standing in front of him, leaning on his Rod, is the Grand Master, who also has his eyes closed. A few lamps illuminate the room. The two of them stand there in silence for a moment, two, three.

The King opens his eyes, slowly. And the Grand Master opens his eyes slowly and the two look at each other for a moment or two.

OKIGBO

You will pass into eternity soft
and smooth, my shining King...You
are ready.

King Chinedu smiles, turns his head and looks through the high window at the clear sky where the sun is setting.

KINEDU

Thanks for everything, my good
friend.

(The Grand Master bows in
sign of respect)

Two more requests. The last ones.

(The Grand Master looks at
King and waits)

Lay your old bones next to me,
Grand Master.

(The King shows him a seat
on bed next to him)

The heir to the throne of the Royal
House of the Blue Fortress is my
son, Prince Okot. You will conduct
the enthronement ceremony after my
death.

(Grand Master bows head in
sign of submission)

For King Okot to have a long and
prosperous reign, the Blue Fortress
must have a complete, perfect
Knowledge, and the Numbers we know
and that our founders gave us, now
no longer respond to the new times.
Numbers must find their match to
reign in the modern age to come.
Just as night has the day and man
the woman; Numbers must find their
match. You must find it.

The King is silent, exhausted from the effort of saying so much. The Grand Master listens quietly to the King, looking down, leaning on the Ebony Rod. A moment, two, three, the two fall silent.

KINEDU (CONT'D)

(in a hushed voice)

And give this strong pair to King
Okot... that he may reign with
it... more and better... than I
did....

The King silences, breathes, stops, breathes again, stops again, breathes in and fills his whole chest with air, then takes a long exhale and stops. The king stops breathing. One moment, two, three.

Grand Master Okigbo got up from his bed and looked at the King who was no longer breathing. Okigbo lifts the white sheet and covers King Chinedu completely, then closes his eyes and sits beside the bed, leaning on the Ebony Rod.

AMOS' DREAM

Amos, Ayaju's apprentice, dressed in his scarlet robes, stands in a thick white forest. The trees with their branches and leaves, the grass, the ground, everything is white. Amos walks through this forest carefully and looks around him. He stops and studies a branch and leaves of a white tree, he sits on his knees and studies the grass and the earth, all are white. Amos stands up and makes a few steps.

Next to him, Amos hears branches breaking. Amos turns suddenly in the direction from which the noise came and stands still. The apprentice looks carefully at the trees, leaves and grass, investigating where the noise came from.

Amos can hardly make out, in the completely white vegetation, two very dark, small and perfectly round eyes, then a long white snout with a white nose and two white, very pointed and straight ears. Amos also sees a head that continues with a long neck, then a body and two legs. There is a White Doe looking at Amos without moving. Amos makes a move towards the White Doe, who gets scared and runs away. Amos looks after her and notices black spots on its fur in the form of strange markings. But the White Doe disappears into the White Forest.

Amos can't see the White Doe anymore, so he turns and takes a step. Suddenly, he slips because he's on the edge of a precipice. He tries to hold on to the edge of the cliff, but fails, his hands slip and Amos falls into the cliff. As he falls, he notices that the cliff walls are bright red. The apprentice becomes so frightened that he begins to scream.

VOICE

(off)

Amos!!! Amos!!!

INT. CELL OF AMOS AND NONSO. NIGHT.

Amos sleeps on his narrow, short, wooden bed. Nonso, Grand Master Okigbo's apprentice, tries to wake him. Amos wakes suddenly and looks at Nonso.

NONSO

You're dreaming bad again.

Amos recovers and closes his eyes. Nonso returns to the wooden table where there are two bulky books, papers and writing pens. Also on the table are two thick, lighted candles. Nonso resumes reading from a book on the table.

The two's cell is poor, with two beds, a wooden table between the beds, next to the wall, and on the opposite wall a wooden chest with a large lock on the latch. Beds have hay instead of mattresses wrapped in sacks. Amos has his scarlet sandals under his head instead of a pillow. He looks at Nonso.

AMOS

You've been learning numbers all night.

NONSO

(learning at the table)

I want to get Scribe, Amos. My master, the Grand Master, trusts me to succeed.

AMOS

I can't make sense of these numbers.

NONSO

(learns and replies to Amos)

You have to repeat them until you learn them, so do the Scribes and Masters.

AMOS

But they don't make sense.

NONSO

(stops learning and looks at Amos)

You're wrong, my friend. For example, this string of numbers represents a cow's milk production in a given month. These numbers indicate the owner, these numbers indicate the month, and the others indicate the quantity of milk.

AMOS

That's what I understood. But I don't remember the strings of numbers for houses, grains, births and all the damn strings that are written in these huge books. I'm a fool.

NONSO

(who resumed learning)
You're just in a rush.
(writes something on a piece of paper, then looks in the thick book in front of him)
Dreaming of the White Forest, again?

AMOS

(looking at the ceiling with thinking away, so no answer immediately)
Yes. At first it's very interesting.

NONSO

And then?

AMOS

A color hits me.

NONSO

Purple Lake?

AMOS

No, this time I didn't drown in Purple Lake. This time I fell into a red-walled chasm.

NONSO

(stops learning and looks at Amos)
That's new, right?

AMOS

And I saw something else new.
(Nonso looks at Amos and waits to find out what it is)
I saw a Doe.

NONSO

White?

AMOS

A White Doe, yes, and the fur on its body had some strange black markings. I've never seen them before. I don't know what they are.

(Amos shuts up a bit)

And her eyes were very dark, very beautiful... human.

Outside there is the sound of a bell. It rings once. Pause. It rings a second time. Pause. The bell rings a third time. Pause. The two listen.

AMOS (CONT'D)

The king died.

The bell rings one more time.

EXT. BLUE FORTRESS STREETS. DAY.

On one street there are many people, women, men, children, young and old, all with blue flowers in their hands. People talking, soldiers trying to keep the crowd close to the walls of the houses so that the centre of the street is clear.

At one end of the street is the Royal Palace gate, which is open. In the palace courtyard are nobles, women and men, all holding blue flowers. A stone staircase leads to the first floor, which has a wide open wooden door.

On the walls of the houses and in the courtyard of the Royal Palace are flags with the coat of arms of the Royal House of the Blue Fortress. The flags have black ribbons attached to them.

People on the streets talk to each other, as do nobles at the Royal Palace court.

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INT. THRONE ROOM OF THE ROYAL PALACE. DAY.

In front of the throne, which is on a podium, is the coffin with the body of King Chinedu. Many flowers and blue wreaths are around the coffin. On the left side of the coffin, Masters Ayaju and Ijere, and on the right side, Grand Master Okigbo, read from books. The Grand Master has a thick book placed on a wooden desk, while Ayaju and Ijere hold the books in their hands.

The three read in silence and concentrate on what they are doing. Behind them, stand the Apprentices, Amos behind Ayaju, Chimananda behind Ijere and Nonso behind the Grand Master. And the Apprentices read from the books they hold in their hands. There is no sound of what they are reading, only a continuous murmur.

Queen Halima, wife of King Chinedu, sits on her throne to the left of the royal throne. She is dressed in a very dark blue dress and wears a veil covering her head and half of her body.

Prince Okot kneels beside the coffin at the feet of the king, who has his head towards his throne.

The room is illuminated by large torches stuck on the stone walls on which are many flags with the coat of arms of the Royal House of the Blue Fortress on which black ribbons are attached. Near the large wooden door of the Throne Room are nine soldiers, dressed in blue gala uniforms. One soldier carries a large flag with the coat of arms of the Royal House, and two others hold long spears in their hands.

Prince Okot is dressed in military uniform, with a sword at his belt, and is kneeling beside his father's coffin, staring at the ground.

The Grand Master, the two Masters and the Apprentices continue to read. At one point, the Grand Master raises the Ebony Rod and strikes the floor of the Throne Room with force. Suddenly everyone stops reading.

The Grand Master continues to read to himself, picks up his Rod and strikes, again, the floor. Queen Halima rises to her feet and sits beside her throne. The Grand Master continues to read, raises the Rod and strikes the floor again. Prince Okot stands up and goes to the Grand Master who continues to read. Six soldiers walk over to the King's coffin and sit three on each side of the coffin. The Grand Master stops reading and starts for the door. He reaches the door, stops, picks up his Rod and slams it to the floor. The six soldiers pick up the coffin and head for the Throne Room door. Queen Halima follows the coffin, and behind her comes Prince Okot.

The Grand Master raises his left hand and the two soldiers, who have lances, open the large wooden doors of the Throne Room. The soldier with the coat of arms of the Royal House comes out first and is followed by the two soldiers with lances, then the Grand Master, who is followed by the coffin with the lifeless body of King Chinedu, then Queen Halima, Prince Okot, Masters Ayaju and Ijere and the Apprentices Amos, Nonso and Chimananda.

EXT. ROYAL PALACE COURTYARD. DAY.

The soldier with the coat of arms of the Royal House emerges from the door on the first floor of the Royal Palace, at which point the inner courtyard falls silent. The funeral cortege descends the stone steps and passes through the courtyard. Flowers are thrown on the open coffin with the body of King Chinedu. The funeral cortege exits through the gates of the Royal Palace.

EXT. BLUE FORTRESS STREETS. DAY.

The funeral cortege walks through the streets of the citadel which are filled with a silent crowd throwing blue flowers on the open coffin carried by the 6 soldiers. The funeral procession is followed by the nobles, and after them by the simple, poor people, fishermen or merchants, poorer or richer.

The funeral procession arrives in a large square and stops in the middle of the square near a fountain. Ayaju and Ijere open their books and begin to read, in hushed voices, strings of Numbers, and the Grand Master goes to the fountain, dips the top head of the Rod and sprinkles the open coffin of King Chinedu. He does this three times. A bell begins to ring.

In that square there is a large, imposing building, on the front of which is written: House of Numbers. It is the headquarters of the Order of Numbers. The funeral procession ascends the steps to the great wooden gate of the House of Numbers which is open and enters the building. Nobles and the rest of the crowd remain in the Great Square which is completely full.

INT. HOUSE OF NUMBERS. DAY.

The funeral cortege crosses a huge hallway, bypasses the staircase that leads upstairs and enters through a door underneath the staircase.

EXT. NUMBER HOUSE CEMETERY. DAY.

The cemetery has alleys, trees, simple or rich tombs and stone tombs of various sizes. The graves have gravestones with numbers written on them. Above the entrance doors to the tombs are carved small coats of arms containing Numbers.

Out of the door leading to the House of Numbers, which is wide open, comes the soldier bearing the coat of arms of the Royal House, followed by the soldiers with lances, the Grand Master, the open coffin, Queen Halima, Prince Okot, the two Masters and the three Apprentices.

The funeral cortege walks down the central alley, while the bell is heard ringing in the distance. The procession stops in front of a large tomb, with the coat of arms of the Royal House of the Blue Fortress carved above the gate. The soldiers remain outside, and the Grand Master, the soldiers carrying the King's coffin, the Queen and the Prince enter the tomb. The two Masters and the Apprentices also remain outside.

INT. REGAL TOMB. DAY.

The tomb is large, the walls are full of Numbers indicating which kings are buried, other places are empty. The interior is lit by torches because little light comes in through the three small windows. The soldiers place the coffin on a table and move away a little. The Grand Master stands at the dead King's head, and the Queen and Prince at his feet. The Grand Master raises the Ebony Rod. The Masters open their books. The Grand Master strikes with the Rod, the floor. The Masters start reading, not understanding what they're saying, only occasionally hearing Numbers. After a moment or two, the Grand Master picks up the Rod again and slams it to the floor. The Masters stop reading. The bell is heard in the distance. The Grand Master takes from the coffin crown and royal sceptre of blue gold. Three soldiers take the coffin lid, put it over the coffin and nail it shut. The Grand Master, Queen and Prince step back a little, and the six soldiers pick up the coffin and place it on an empty shelf in the wall.

The soldiers exit the tomb as the Queen approaches the coffin in the niche in the wall. Everyone stands still for a moment, two, three. The Grand Master returns to Prince Okot, he kneels down in front of him, and the Grand Master puts the crown on his head, takes him by the shoulders and lifts him to his feet. The two stand facing each other, and the Grand Master gives the royal sceptre to Okot. The Grand Master leaves followed by Okot, while the Queen remains standing by the place where King Chinedu's coffin is.

EXT. NUMBER HOUSE CEMETERY. DAY.

The Grand Master emerges from the Royal Tomb, followed by Okot, who wears the crown on his head and holds the royal sceptre in his right hand. The Grand Master approaches the soldier carrying the large flag with the coat of arms of the Royal House, he lowers the flag, and Okigbo snatches the black ribbon from him and throws it on the ground and steps on it.

The bell continues to ring, slowly. Grand Master starts down the alley, followed by Okot, who also steps on the black ribbon, then comes the soldier with the coat of arms of the Royal House who also steps on the black ribbon, then the Masters and Apprentices.

The Grand Master, Okot and the others arrive at the entrance to the House of Numbers and enter the building.

EXT. LARGE SQUARE. DAY.

In the square people wait in silence. The bell can be heard tolling slowly in the distance. From the House of Numbers comes the Grand Master alone. He picks up the Ebony Rod and strikes it on the floor. The bell can be heard ringing. The Grand Master is upstairs on the steps in front of the main entrance to the House of Numbers. The bell is silent. The Grand Master takes a side step and says.

OKIGBO

The King is dead... Long live the King.

And King Okot came out of the door of the House of Numbers with a crown on his head and a sceptre in his right hand. The crowd in the Great Square begins to applaud. Okot looks proud and salutes the crowd.

Suddenly, Grandmaster Okigbo collapses straight as a log, tumbling down the stone steps.

INT. QUEEN HALIMA'S BEDROOM. NIGHT.

Queen Halima's bedroom is not large and is simply furnished. The walls are red brick with white mortar showing between them. An archway divides the bedroom into two parts. On one side is a simple bed with white sheets and small pillows, attached to one wall. On the opposite side is a large stained-glass window with scenes of a green forest, with trees, deer, roe deer and a female wild boar with her young. In the other room of the bedroom are two large wardrobes and, on the opposite side, a large mirror with a small table in front of it and a wooden chair. On the table are all sorts of perfumes, brushes and other things the Queen uses daily for her toilet.

On another wooden chair, in a dark corner, sits Madame Lucretia, the Queen's trusted servant, who is quietly weeping. The bedroom is half-lit by torches that sit in iron brackets fixed to the walls.

The wooden bedroom door slowly opens and Queen Halima enters and closes the door behind her.

The queen is dressed in the clothes she wore at King Chinedu's funeral. Halima is tired and leans against the wooden door for a few seconds. Madame Lucretia sees her, stops crying, gets up from her chair and goes to the Queen. Madame Lucretia kneels before the Queen and begins to cry again. The Queen takes Lucretia's head between her palms and presses it against her dress. The two remain like that for a few seconds, then the Queen takes Lucretia by the shoulders and lifts her to her feet. Tired, Halima goes and sits down on the wooden chair in front of the mirror. Madame Lucretia stops crying and removes the queen's long veil. Halima closes her eyes and stays that way for a second or two. Then she says to Lucretia.

HALIMA

Lucretia, I didn't want to go through this. I was hoping to die before my King. But it doesn't always happen as we wish.

Madame Lucretia dropped her chin and began to cry again, slowly. The Queen pulled her down, and Lucretia knelt beside her and laid the head in the Queen's lap. The two remained like that for a moment or two.

LUCRETIA

(raises her head towards the Queen and says softly)
My Queen...

HALIMA

(interrupting Lucretia)
I know. You want to see him one last time.

Lucretia weeps and covers her face in the Queen's dress. Halima takes a bell from the table in front of the mirror and rings it. After a second, the bedroom door opens and the Captain enters. He approaches the Queen.

HALIMA (CONT'D)

Captain, take Madame Lucretia to Grand Master Okigbo. With absolute discretion, please, and return safely. I'll be waiting for you.

The captain bows in respect and Lucretia takes the Queen's left hand and kisses it. Halima places her right hand on Lucretia's head.

HALIMA (CONT'D)

Go on, I'll wait for you. Lately I have neither day nor night.

INT. GRAND MASTER'S BEDROOM. NIGHT.

The bedroom is not very large and is modestly furnished. A bed in the middle of the room is attached to a wall with the Order of Numbers coat of arms on it. In one corner, on a special wooden table sits a bowl with floral designs, and under it a pitcher for personal hygiene. A long white towel is also attached to the wooden table.

The room is lit by torches. Grand Master Okigbo is lying on the bed, with only Apprentice Nonso in the room waiting for a sign from his Master. On a small table are some bottles of tinctures.

The Grand Master looks at Nonso and waves his hand. Nonso approaches him.

OKIGBO
(in a very quiet voice)
Call the Masters to me.

Nonso bows in respect and exits the bedroom. The Grand Master is left alone for a moment, two, three. The wooden bedroom door reopens and Nonso reappears, closing the door behind him. Nonso approaches Okigbo and whispers.

NONSO
Madame Lucretia's here, Grand
Master.

Okigbo turns his head towards him. Nonso doesn't know if he was heard, so he repeats.

NONSO (CONT'D)
Madame Lucretia...

Okigbo beckons the Apprentice to let Madame Lucretia in. Nonso bows in respect, goes to the wooden door, opens it and beckons. Madame Lucretia appears in the doorway, Nonso steps aside and Madame Lucretia enters and stops, looking towards Okigbo. Nonso steps out and closes the door.

In the bedroom there are only Madame Lucretia and Okigbo. Lucretia approaches the bed of the Grand Master who is looking at her. Madame kneels down on the bed and kisses the Grand Master's right hand.

OKIGBO
Lucretia, thank you for everything.

Lucretia weeps as she holds the Grand Master's hand. He closes his eyes. The two remain like that for a few moments. Lucretia stops crying and raises her head towards Okigbo. He opens his eyes and looks at the woman.

LUCRETIA

Thank you, for the gift you've
given me in my life and for
everything... for everything...

OKIGBO

(smiles to Lucretia)

The gift you gave me. The true
meaning of my life, **you** gave it to
me.

LUCRETIA

I love you. Farewell.

Okigbo looks at Lucretia. She pathetically kisses his hand
and rises from the ground.

OKIGBO

I love you, to.

(Lucretia sits beside the
Grand Master's bed and
looks at him without
crying, as if she has
come to terms with what
is happening)

Goodbye.

Lucretia looks at Okigbo for a moment, two, three. No more
crying because she's reconciled to what's about to happen,
with the death of the Grand Master.

Lucretia turns and goes to the bedroom door and knocks.
Okigbo closes his eyes. The wooden bedroom door slowly opens,
Lucretia steps out, and Nonso enters, closes the door behind
him and approaches Okigbo's bed. Nonso looks at the Grand
Master who opens his eyes and looks at him.

NONSO

I'll get the Masters.

Okigbo nods approvingly, and Nonso moves away from the bed,
reaches for the wooden door, opens it, steps out and closes
the door behind him.

INT. THRONE ROOM OF THE ROYAL PALACE. NIGHT.

The Throne Room is well lit by large chandeliers with dozens
of candles. At a long table, nobles drink and eat. At the
head of the table sits King Okot. Servants enter and leave
the room with trays of food and bottles of drink. Everyone is
merry, eating and drinking. In one corner, a few
instrumentalists are playing.

Dancers enter the hall and cheer the nobles. A circus performer appears and throws fire from his mouth.

It's noisy, there's eating and drinking, King Okot is laughing and cheerful. Into the Throne Room enters Lord Down who goes to King Okot and whispers something in his ear. The King listens to what Lord Down is saying.

INT. OKOT KING'S CHAMBER. NIGHT.

King Okot enters the chamber, followed by Lord Down.

OKOT
(to the Lord)
Repeat what you told me, I didn't hear anything.

DOWN
Your Majesty, Grand Master Okigbo will appoint his successor this evening.

OKOT
Is he dying?

DOWN
Yes, Your Majesty.

OKOT
To follow his King so quickly, like a faithful dog?
(Lord Down falls silent)
And who is he going to appoint?

DOWN
There are 6 Masters in the Order of Numbers, but only two are important. They are the ones who accompanied the Grand Master at today's ceremonies: Masters Ijere and Ayaju.

OKOT
(thinking)
Do we have a favourite?

DOWN
Yes, Your Majesty.

OKOT
Who?

DOWN
Master Ijere.

INT. GRAND MASTER'S BEDROOM. NIGHT.

The Grand Master sits alone on the bed, eyes closed. The door opens and the 6 Masters enter, the last two are Ijere and Ayaju. Behind them enters the Apprentice Nonso who closes the door. The Masters sit in front of Grand Master Okigbo.

OKIGBO
My work in this world ends here. I
will go to serve King Chinedu in
the world of the dead. Tomorrow
will be the Sacred Numerological
Ritual.
(Okigbo pauses. The 6
Masters fall silent and
wait)
Now I will choose my successor.

Nonso approaches the Grand Master's bed and helps him sit up straighter on the pillows, then takes the Ebony Rod and gives it to the Grand Master. He holds Rod with his right hand next to the bed. No one moves, everyone stands and waits a moment, two, three.

Master Beardless goes first to the Grand Master. He picks up the Rod and strikes the floor with it. Master Beardless bows in respect and takes a few steps to the side. Next comes the Master Without a Left Eye who sits in front of the Grand Master. Okigbo picks up the Rod and hits the floor. The Master Without the Left Eye bows in respect and joins Master Beardless. In front of the Grand Master sits the Master With Gloves. Okigbo hits the floor with the Rod. And this Master bows and joins in the other two. The Master Gentle is next. Okigbo hits the floor with his Rod. The Master Gentle bows and joins the other Masters.

That leaves Ijere and Ayaju. Neither is moving. The Grand Master is waiting. One moment, two, three. Okigbo closes his eyes. Ijere and Ayaju don't move. Ijere looks at Ayaju who stands with his chin on his chest, eyes downcast, and cries softly. Ijere is nervous and can barely stand the tense atmosphere. Okigbo waits quietly, eyes closed. Ijere is increasingly nervous. Ayaju doesn't move and cries without a sound. Ijere can hardly bear the tense atmosphere. The other 4 Masters stare at Ijere, who is disturbed by these stares and finds it increasingly difficult to bear the atmosphere in the Grand Master's Bedroom.

Suddenly, Ijere takes a step and sits in front of the Grand Master with a tense look and a broken face. Okigbo opens his eyes and slams Rod hard into the floor.

Ijere is changing her face. He is shocked. He doesn't move. He stares into the eyes of Okigbo who is also looking at him. One moment, two, three. Ijere continues to stand in front of the Grandmaster, his face contorted with anger and his left hand visibly shaking. Okigbo holds his gaze and stares into Ijere's eyes.

The Master Gentle approaches Ijere and gently grabs his left arm. Ijere flinches, looks at the Master Gentle, wrenches his arm from the Master's grasp and, full of rage, storms out of the room, slamming the door behind him.

Ayaju can't control herself and starts crying her eyes out. The Grand Master lays his limp head on the pillows, exhausted from all the effort, and Ebony Rod falls to the floor. The Master Gentle picks up the Rod from the ground and approaches the Grand Master, who is completely exhausted and can do nothing more. Master Gentle places the Rod in Okigbo's hand. The Grand Master, with his last powers, opens his eyes. Ayaju approaches Okigbo who, assisted by Master Gentle, hands Ayaju the Ebony Rod. Crying, Ayaju picks up the Rod, and the Grand Master collapses, exhausted from the effort.

INT. OKOT KING'S CHAMBER. NIGHT.

King Okot and Lord Down are talking.

OKOT

Can, Master Ijere, be trusted?

DOWN

He can be trusted, Your Majesty, because he is smarter than Master Ayaju and that allows him to do something that we... sorry... that Your Lordship will be able to use.

OKOT

What is it?

DOWN

Adaptation, Your Majesty. His intelligence allows him to adapt to the challenges that are required of him.

OKOT

(smiles)

While Ayaju...

(MORE)

OKOT (CONT'D)
 (and the king leaves the
 idea unfinished)

DOWN

Exactly, Your Majesty, you are thinking very correctly. Master Ayaju is very stubborn, narrow-minded, cannot anticipate events and cannot adapt to reality.

OKOT

I know him so well. We just grew up together.

DOWN

Master Ayaju will be a danger to your lordship; instead, Mas...

OKOT

(interrupts Down)
 But we cannot influence Grand Master Okigbo to choose as we wish.

DOWN

Wise thinking, Your Majesty, when you urge patience. We must accept the succession and prepare for the future to achieve what we want.

EXT. BLUE FORTRESS STREETS. NIGHT.

The large square in front of the House of Numbers is dimly lit by tall lanterns. A cat crosses the square slowly. The main door of the House of Numbers suddenly opens and, in a rush, Master Ijere emerges. Very nervously, he descends the steps and reaches the square, which he quickly crosses.

Master Ijere walks down an alley in the Blue Fortress. At one point, Ijere turns right into another alley, even smaller and narrower, lit only by a lantern. Master Ijere passes under the lantern, and his shadow grows small, then larger. Ijere reaches a wooden door and knocks with the iron hammer attached to the door. After a few moments, the window of the door opens and a man's head appears, tattooed on his face. The man is holding a lit torch.

IJERE

It's me, open up.

The man looks at Ijere for a moment, then closes the window and opens the wooden door. Ijere enters and the door closes behind him.

The door is very dimly lit by the lantern that stands in the narrow street.

Amos, Ayaju's Apprentice, appears and stops by the wooden door. He investigates the door, the house, the place, and looks down the street. After carefully searching the place, Amos leaves.

INT. NOBLE M'S HOUSE. NIGHT.

In a large hall, well lit by a large chandelier, with many candles and torches stuck on the walls, is a long wooden table, around which are many wooden chairs, and at the end of it, on a high-backed throne, sits Noble M. He is fat, dressed in expensive clothes, his beard is neatly trimmed, and he has many rings on all his fingers. Around him walks nervously, Master Ijere gesticulating as he speaks.

IJERE

Cursed be the slave of Okigbo and
in the grave. May he have no peace
in the afterlife for all the evil
he has done. Why? Why did he
choose Ayaju?

(turning to the Noble M.)

I was supposed to be Grand Master.
(and punches the table)

M.

But you're not his son.

IJERE

(nervously walking around)
His bastard. Yeah, his bastard.
Some have the right to rape their
oath of chastity and celibacy
because they serve the great King
Chinedu. And the King, if you are
faithful to him, forgives your
sins.

M.

If you don't know how to flatter,
Master Ijere.

IJERE

I don't know and I never will.

M.

But now it's over. The King is
dead, long live the King.

IJERE

And it all repeats. Ayaju is Okot's former playmate from when they were both young.

M.

It was, well put, Master Ijere.
(Ijere looks at Noble M.)
The new King is more... wise.

IJERE

(sits on a chair next to Noble M.)
How much wiser? How did the fool become wise?

M.

(pretending to be dissatisfied with the way Ijere talks about King Okot)
Please, Master, do not forget that he is now our new King, whom we serve with devotion and... wisdom.

IJERE

(looking for a moment, two at Noble M.)
And what is the name of our King's wisdom?

IJERE (CONT'D)

(smiles, amused by the wit of his interlocutor, but does not answer immediately, waits a second or two)
Does it matter the name or what this wisdom can do?

IJERE (CONT'D)

Noble M. don't play with me.

M.

(becomes serious and slightly threatening)
Or else what, Master Ijere?

IJERE

(he has nothing to do and calms down)
Patience is not one of my virtues,
Noble M.

M.

(with a placatory voice)
Try to become friends if you want
to get what you want.

Ijere takes the bottle of wine from the table, fills the glass and drinks it all at once.

M. (CONT'D)

But maybe it's all a lie, and
Master Ayaju is not the secret son
of Grand Master Okigbo.

Ijere refills his glass of wine from the bottle on the table, sips his drink, then looks at Noble M.

IJERE

That's right, there is no evidence
that Ayaju is Okigbo's secret
bastard. Nor is there any proof
that I'm drinking with you tonight
and breaking a Master's oath. And
you, Noble M., if you were in the
grave and I were dying, the
evidence of my drinking wine
tonight would be gone forever. Now
that King Chinedu is dead and
Okigbo is dying, who else can tell
the truth?

M.

Queen Halima.

IJERE

(starts laughing)
That's right, then ask her if Ayaju
is Okigbo's secret bastard, see if
you can.

M.

I can't right now.

IJERE

If you can't, then the bastard
becomes Grand Master, and the scum
who doesn't deserve to live will
lead our Order.

M.

Isn't he worth living?

IJERE

Exactly, Nobile M., vice and its
offspring must be eliminated.

(MORE)

IJERE (CONT'D)

We must preserve the pure Order of Numbers.

M.

(underlines one thing important to him)

And obedient to the powerful, Master Ijere.

This statement is not to Ijere's satisfaction. He looks into Noble M's eyes, which are staring at him, but Ijere has nothing to say, nor does he want to approve, but he doesn't want to argue with Noble M either. So Ijere looks down, fills his glass with wine and downs it in one gulp.

INT. GRAND MASTER'S BEDROOM. NIGHT.

In the room are only Apprentice Nonso and Master Ayaju kneeling before the bed where the Grand Master lies between life and death. Nonso stands between the bed and the bedroom door. The door slowly opens, Nonso turns and sees Amos, Ayaju's Apprentice, and beckons him in. Amos enters and closes the door behind him and, with Nonso, retreats to a dark corner of the room.

AMOS

I've been watching Master Ijere.

NONSO

Why?

AMOS

I saw him when he walked out of here. His face was transfigured with hatred.

NONSO

He wanted him to receive the Ebony Rod from the Grand Master. When he saw that he didn't get it, he didn't want to leave.

AMOS

He always wanted to succeed Grand Master Okigbo.

NONSO

That's what the Grand Master didn't like, his desire to succeed at all costs.

AMOS

Master Ijere is malicious, hateful
and plotting all the time.

NONSO

That's how the Grand Master thought
of him.

AMOS

And now, in the middle of the
night, he went to Noble M's house.

NONSO

Where?

AMOS

At Noble M.

NONSO

I don't know him, who is he?

AMOS

Nonso, don't learn so much, your
head is full of Numbers.

NONSO

Who's Noble M.?

AMOS

The richest ship owner in the Blue
Fortress. Owns 3 large ships and 5
small ones. And lots of fishing
boats. He owns more than half the
fishermen's houses in the harbour.
What I say is half, over three-
quarters. And keep buying.

NONSO

He wants the whole port?

AMOS

Don't laugh, Nonso.

NONSO

I'm not laughing, Amos, but the
wicked with the wicked become
brothers, while the good find no
match.

AMOS

(points to Okigbo)
He's dying, right?

NONSO

Yes. He handed the Rod to Master Ayaju and fainted. He now stands between the two worlds and awaits the Sacred Numerological Ritual to teach Master Ayaju all the knowledge that the Grand Masters have been teaching since the founding of the Order of Numbers.

The two Apprentices fell silent and looked at Grand Master Okigbo who was sitting with his eyes closed on the bed and a certain transparent aura hovering over his body.

Next to the bed, at Okigbo's feet, kneels Master Ayaju who holds the Rod in front of him with both hands, pressed against his forehead and resting on the floor.

The two Apprentices emerge from the dark corner, approach Master Ayaju and sit silently behind him.

The transparent aura on the Grand Master's body emits a cold, white light.

INT. GREAT HALL OF THE HOUSE OF NUMBERS. DAY.

In the Great Hall of Scribes, the wooden desks are crowded against the stone walls, and the middle is occupied by all the members of the Order of Numbers. From the large wooden door on the left stand the Apprentices, then in the middle are gathered the Scribes, and the 6 Masters stand on the right in front of the podium. On the podium is a large wooden table on which sits the uncovered coffin with the body of the Grand Master who lies between life and death. The transparent aura covering the Grand Master's body is stronger and emits more cold white light. Ebony Rod is placed on the coffin next to the body of the Grand Master.

It's quiet. Master Ayaju leaves the other Masters and climbs the podium next to the coffin. He looks, for a moment, at those gathered in the Hall of Scribes.

AYAJU

According to the rank that Grand Master Okigbo has granted me before all the Masters of the Order of Numbers, that of being His Lordship's Successor, it is my duty to begin the Sacred Numerological Ritual.

(MORE)

AYAJU (CONT'D)

(Ayjau pauses and looks at those present in Scribes' Hall who are looking at him. Ayaju raises his right hand)

Is there anyone in this room who is entitled and has evidence that I have **not** been appointed successor to Grand Master Okigbo?

(Ayjau stares at Master Ijere who looks down, but when he hears these words he looks up and stares at Ayaju, who continues)

If so, come here and say so!

Ayaju continues to look at Ijere. The two look at each other intensely. Ijere would like to stand on the podium next to Ayaju and move his body a little. Then Ayaju continues.

AYAJU (CONT'D)

If not, shut him up forever!!!

(Ijere is hit by these words and remains still, but stares at Ayaju who continues)

Now, Masters of the Order of Numbers, let us raise the coffin with the body of Grand Master Okigbo.

Ayaju bypasses the coffin and sits back next to the Grand Master's head on the left side. In turn the other Masters sit beside the coffin, two in the middle and two at the feet of the Grand Master. The last to approach the coffin is Master Ijere, who sits next to Ayaju, at the Grand Master's head, to the right of the coffin. Ijere and Ayaju look at each other, a moment, two, then Ayaju commands.

AYAJU (CONT'D)

Attention!!!

(the crowd in the Scribes' Hall is divided into two groups, with an open aisle in the middle)

Masters... pick up the coffin.

The 6 Masters pick up the uncovered coffin on which the body of Grand Master Okigbo lies between life and death, step off the podium and walk down the aisle to the wooden door that begins to open. Some Scribes weep. The Masters with the coffin walk down the aisle, reach the wooden door and exit the Scribes' Hall.

INT. THE CENTRAL HALL OF THE HOUSE OF NUMBERS. DAY.

The Masters with the coffin descend the grand staircase to the ground floor, where King Okot and a few courtiers are sitting. Next to King Okot is Lord Down.

The Masters with the coffin arrive in front of the king, who bows his head in respect. So do the other courtiers.

The Masters with the coffin walk forward and out the wooden door which is under the large marble staircase in the central hall of the House of Numbers.

EXT. NUMBER HOUSE CEMETERY. DAY.

The 6 Masters carry the uncovered coffin, on which the body of Grand Master Okigbo lies between life and death, down the central alley of the cemetery. They walk slowly, while the Grand Master's body exudes a shimmering, translucent, increasingly consistent aura.

The Masters with the coffin arrive in front of the Tomb of the Grand Masters which has above the entrance a string of Numbers and the coat of arms of the Order of Numbers. The door opens and the Masters begin to descend a stone staircase. The last to descend the stone staircase are the masters Ayaju and Ijere.

From outside, the silhouettes of the two can be seen disappearing down the stairs.

INT. TOMB OF THE GREAT MASTERS. DAY.

The interior of the tomb is very large. On the walls are niches where the bodies of former Grand Masters lie, as well as others that are empty. In the middle is a large stone cube.

On this cube is placed the uncovered coffin with the body between life and death of Grand Master Okigbo. The interior is lit by torches in iron brackets attached to the walls.

After the Grand Master's coffin is placed on the stone cube, the Masters step aside so that only Ayaju remains next to the Grand Master's coffin. After a moment, two, three, Ayaju kneel, as do the other Masters. There is silence. Ayaju stands with closed eyes beside the coffin of the Grand Master. Ayjau begins to murmur something, it's not clear what he's saying, but the occasional Numbers can be heard. After a while, the other Masters began to murmur softly, still strings of Numbers.

The white light emanating from the translucent aura on Grand Master Okigbo's body begins to turn green. The Masters continue to murmur strings of Numbers. The green aura slowly moves towards Ayaju and when it touches him it turns blue. A stream of energy connects Grand Master Okigbo's head to Master Ayaju's. From Okigbo, the flow of energy leaves green and at Ayaju it turns blue and enters the Master's body. The flow of energy between the two continues as the Masters kneel and whisper the Numbers.

After a while, the flow of green energy ends, it has completely left Grand Master Okigbo's body and the last remnants of blue energy enter Master Ayaju's body. After the transfer of knowledge from Okigbo to Ayaju is complete, Ebony Rod slowly begins to tremble. The 5 Masters get up and, one by one, climb the stone staircase towards the exit. Ijere stares hatefully at Ayaju, who kneels with his eyes down. Abanos's Black Rod shook a bit harder. Ijere suddenly twists and starts quickly up the stone staircase, reaches the top, emerges from the tomb and the heavy iron doors close behind him.

Ayaju opens his eyes. Ebony Rod shakes loudly. Ayaju rises to his feet, his eyes bulbous and his face congested. The Rod vibrates strongly. With speed and strength, Ayaju grabs the Rod, lifts it into the air and drives it, hard, into the floor.

The stone cube begins to move to one side. There is a hole under the cube. Ayaju is very surprised, takes a flashlight from the wall and lights the place. There are steps carved into the stone. Ayaju descends those steps. Ayaju arrives in a narrow corridor carved in stone. The steps have ended and Ayaju walks down that corridor with a torch in hand to light his way. After a while, Ayaju enters a small room, not very high, with a small stone pedestal. On that pedestal is an iron object, which consists of two small, equal pieces that are joined in the middle. Ayaju looks at this object and gently touches it.

Then Ayaju begins to inspect the small room. On the stone walls you can see traces of the tools used to build the room. On one wall, Ayaju sees a hollowed-out footprint shaped like the strange object on the stone pedestal in the middle of the room. Ayaju examines the shape carefully, feels it, goes to the pedestal and takes the iron object and places it on the wall.

The wall begins to move sideways and a light enters the small room. As more and more light entered the small room, the wall revealed a passageway. Ayaju passes through that passage.

EXT. WHITE WORLD. DAY.

Ayaju is in the World where everything is white, the earth, the plants. Ayaju stands on a white rock wall on a mountain. Below is a white forest and in the distance a white beach next to white water. From Ayjau a path leads down to the White Forest.

Ayaju looks carefully at this new world. A moment, two, three, then he turns and steps into the passage he came through.

INT. TOMB OF THE GREAT MASTERS. DAY.

Ayaju is in the small room and takes out the two pieces of iron joined in the middle of the wall that is beginning to close. Ayaju places the two pieces on the stone pedestal and starts back down the narrow aisle. Ayaju climbs the stone steps and re-enters the great hall of the Tomb. Ayaju puts the torch back in its place in the holder attached to the wall and removes the Ebony Rod from the floor. The stone cube settles into place, and Ayaju walks towards the stone staircase, puts his foot on the first step and stops. He stays there for a moment and turns to the coffin on the stone cube.

Next to the coffin is an extraordinarily handsome young man in his early 20s, dressed in a white hooded robe with a belt around his waist. The young man has very white skin, very dark hair and is barefoot. The young man looks at the lifeless body of Grand Master Okigbo. His voice can be heard everywhere, without moving his lips.

THE YOUNG MAN

Grand Master Ayaju, your obedience as head of the Order is to find the pair of Numbers that will create the Perfect Binomial. The series of Grand Masters ending today with Grand Master Okigbo has prepared for your obedience to find the pair of Numbers.

The young man looked up at Ayaju. The two look at each other. Slowly, the young man disappears.

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END OF EPISODE 1