



QUEENDOMI

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EXT. PALACE

Nubia's envoy approaches. The Queen Mother watches them, flanked by her counselors.

QUEEN MOTHER

Hmm. They sent a young one this time.

The Envoy enters.

ENVOY

Queen Mother.

QUEEN MOTHER

Welcome back to Sheba.

ENVOY

Always a pleasure. Sheba is an otherworldly place. It's remarkable how long you've kept this experiment going.

COUNSEL 1

Our matriarchy is eighty queens deep. Hardly an experiment.

ENVOY

Yes, what I meant was--

QUEEN MOTHER

I believe success is the word you're looking for.

ENVOY

And no wars.

QUEEN MOTHER

Oh there is always a war. Women fight tiny wars every day so we're ready for the big ones. Sharpening our weapons. Poisoning spears. Polishing our cunning. What brings you here?

ENVOY

We come in peace.

QUEEN MOTHER

Not likely. Every time Egypt and Nubia take a break from killing each other, I get a visit. War for you means peace for me. So what brings you here?

ENVOY

Same as always.

QUEEN MOTHER

So is my answer.

ENVOY

You prize your independence. But
nations rise and fall all the time.

QUEEN MOTHER

Rise, fall, disappear. There was a
time when the great desert was
filled with wood and water. But no
more. We take our strength from our
people, the bones under the sand.
We were stronger then but we are
wiser now.

ENVOY

Sheba cannot survive by being
indifferent.

QUEEN MOTHER

We survive by being relentless.

END OF SAMPLE.