

6 EXT. CONGO RIVER - DAY (FLASHBACK)

COURTROOM AMBIENCE DISSOLVES INTO WATER. RIVER FLOW. BIRDS. INSECTS. A SPEAR PLUNGES INTO WATER. A CANOE CREAKS. A FISH FLAPS VIGOROUSLY, THEN LANDS IN A BASKET.

036 YOUNG ISIDORE
Father... what's out there?
Past the village.

Side 1
START >>>

037 IYONZWA
Different people. Different rules.

038 YOUNG ISIDORE
Stronger people?

039 IYONZWA
That's what some believe.

040 YOUNG ISIDORE
Are they?

041 IYONZWA
They have guns. They have paper
laws. But strength is not only
those things.

042 YOUNG ISIDORE
Then what is strength?

043 IYONZWA
Strength is never forgetting who
you are.

044 YOUNG ISIDORE
So, that is why we keep our
traditions.

045 IYONZWA
Yes. Traditions tie us together
like rope. They are ways we show
honor and respect for the
river...for the land...for people.

046 YOUNG ISIDORE
Do they respect those things?

047 IYONZWA
(pauses)
Not the same way.

048 YOUNG ISIDORE
What do you mean?

049 **IYONZWA**

They take more than they need.
They use nature like it is a tool.
They speak to men like they are
less than men.

050 YOUNG ISIDORE

Why?

051 **IYONZWA**

Because they think nature, the
river, the land, men, are things to
be owned...to be conquered and
commanded.

052 YOUNG ISIDORE

What do we believe?

053 **IYONZWA**

That the hands that harvest, first
should plant. A man is more than
his hands, more than his work. He
is not just what he produces.

054 YOUNG ISIDORE

Then what is a man, Father?

055 **IYONZWA**

A man is a part of the nature
around him. If he conquers nature,
he defeats himself.

056 YOUNG ISIDORE

So these men defeat themselves?

057 **IYONZWA**

Some of them. It depends.

058 YOUNG ISIDORE

On what?

059 **IYONZWA**

His heart.

060 YOUNG ISIDORE

My heart determines who I am?

061 **IYONZWA**

Yes.

A BEAT.

062 YOUNG ISIDORE

But people cannot see my heart.

063 **IYONZWA**
But they can hear it.

064 YOUNG ISIDORE
Hear it?

065 **IYONZWA**
The heart speaks louder than the
voice. It is from the heart that
the voice gets its courage.

A BEAT.

066 YOUNG ISIDORE
I think I understand.

RIPPLING WATER SOUNDS CONTINUE. ANOTHER SPEAR
DIVES INTO THE WATER. A FISH FLAPS AND LANDS IN
A BASKET

067 YOUNG ISIDORE (CONT'D)
Look, Father! I Caught One!

068 **IYONZWA**
THAT'S IT, SON! You are becoming
quite the fisherman.

069 YOUNG ISIDORE
Just like you!

070 **IYONZWA**
You make me proud Isidore.

◀◀◀ END

071 YOUNG ISIDORE
I am proud of you too, Father.

THE TWO LAUGH. A BEAT.

072 YOUNG ISIDORE (CONT'D)
Father, what does our way teach us
about worship? How can I make the
heavens proud of me also?

073 **IYONZWA**
Our way teaches us that a man
should live his worship, Isidore.
His code should shine through his
actions as well as his words.

074 YOUNG ISIDORE
So our code... is worship?