

121 INYUKA

Yes.

122 REYNIERS

Did you know him as a man of faith?

123 INYUKA

(smiles through pain)

START >>>

Yes. As he grew in his new beliefs,
He spoke to me often about the
peace he'd found.

124 REYNIERS

Did he ever speak of fear?

125 INYUKA

Every child speaks of fear.
As a man he learned to carry it
quietly.

126 REYNIERS

You've heard testimony that he
forgave Mr. Van Cauter.

A beat.

127 INYUKA

(soft)

My son forgave because he wanted to
leave clean. Not full of hate. Not
full of poison. Like when Jesus...

(Pauses. Steadies)

He told me how Jesus suffered and
still chose mercy.

128 REYNIERS

It must cost a mother something to
hear that.

A long beat.

129 INYUKA

It costs everything. Because part
of me wants to hold my son tight -
keep him small - take him away from
men who do not see him. But he was
not small. He chose his promise
like a man. And if I pull
forgiveness out of his mouth - then
I make his last gift a lie.

A QUIET SOB SOMEWHERE.

130 REYNIERS

If your son were here now, looking at Mr. Van Cauter, what would he say?

131 DELCROIX

Objection! Calls for speculation!

132 JUDGE DE VOS

I'll allow it.

133 INYUKA

(beat; gentle)

He would say, "I do not belong to you." And he would say, "God sees you."

134 REYNIERS

No further questions.

135 JUDGE DE VOS

Cross-examination.

136 DELCROIX

Thank you, Your Honor. Mrs. Bakanja. You loved your son?

137 INYUKA

Yes.

138 DELCROIX

And grief can make a mother... interpret events... emotionally.

139 INYUKA

A mother does not need imagination to recognize cruelty.

140 DELCROIX

You were not in the camp. You did not witness the orders. The disruptions. The risks.

141 INYUKA

I witnessed what it did to his body.

142 DELCROIX

Which you saw after others handled him. After, your son made choices.

143 INYUKA

That man made choices also.

A LOW RUMBLE FROM THOSE IN THE COURTROOM.

144 DELCROIX
You speak of commitment. Of mercy.
Of forgiveness. And yet you sit in
a courtroom demanding punishment.

145 INYUKA
I demand the truth.

146 DELCROIX
Truth. Then answer plainly:
If Isidore had removed the
scapular, would he have lived?

147 INYUKA
Perhaps.

148 DELCROIX
Then, it was his choice to wear the
scapular that killed him.
No?

149 INYUKA
The hand that struck him, killed
him. A promise does not whip a man.
Promises do not lock a shed. A
promise does not starve a body and
call it discipline.

150 DELCROIX
Do you think Isidore knew the
difference between devotion and
defiance?

151 INYUKA
(quiet, strong)
My son understood better than to
dishonor his word...than to become
less than what God made.

<<< END

A beat.

152 DELCROIX
No further questions.

153 JUDGE DE VOS
The witness may step down.

Inyuka rises and returns to her seat in the gallery.

154 JUDGE DE VOS
Closing arguments. Prosecution.