

SPANISH TALE

An original screenplay

By

Dr. Mohsen El-Guindy

Inspired from his novel

Spanish Tale

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On screen the words: one hundred years after the extinction of the Arab sovereignty in Spain.

FADE IN:

EXT. THE GARDENS OF THE ROYAL PALACE OF MADRID – DAY

THE CAMERA moves across the palace gardens – JARDINES de SABATTIN & CAMPO del MORO – to reveal the FOUNTAINS of KINGS of SPAIN.

INT. THE ROYAL PALACE OF MADRID – DAY

THE CAMERA swoops towards the entrance, climbing the stairs, then dives inside the PORCELAIN ROOM to show the Spanish marble, gilded stucco, mahogany in doors and windows, and exquisite frescoes.

THE CAMERA runs forward toward the THRONE ROOM. The door opens and we see the ceiling fresco, the carved gilt furniture, the embroidery of the velvet wall-hangings, the rock-crystal chandeliers, and the enormous mirrors decorating both sides of the spacious room.

THE CAMERA moves slowly forward until it settles on the king of Spain sitting on his throne with a bored expression on his face. His bard, GONZALEZ sits submissively at his feet.

KING

(stretching and yawning)

It's such a bore spending long hours every day managing the affairs of the state.

GONZALEZ

(Smiling)

I understand my lord, it's like trying to manage an unruly child.

KING

Gonzalez, cherish my heart with one of your amusing tales.

GONZALEZ

(drawing a long bow)

Yes, my lord, God bless your soul.

GONZALEZ (CONT'D)

Once upon a time...

GONZALEZ image fades into a montage of subsequent shots supporting his narration. From now on Gonzalez voice is heard as voice over.

GONZALEZ (V.O.)

There was a beautiful princess called Helena. She was the only daughter of the king of Leon, a small Spanish dominion situated in the northern part of Spain. Helena had been the beauty of the family.

SHOT 1:

Helena dancing in the palace grand hall with male companions of the royal family. Her father the king watches her admiringly.

GONZALEZ (V.O.)

About the year 711, the Arabs conquered Spain and defeated the Christian kings. The kings were repelled to the Northern provinces at the south of France. They awaited a favorable opportunity to restore their land.

SHOT 2:

Battle between the Arabs and the Spaniards. The Spaniards are defeated and flee to the south of France.

GONZALEZ (V.O.)

During the first 300 years of the Arab reign, one caliph ruled the whole of Spain; but upon the decline of the Arab's power, Spain became divided

among numerous Arab princes into small dominions. In several occasions the Christian kings even united their forces and started small wars against the northern Arab dominions.

SHOT 3:

Christian raids against Arab dominions.

GONZALEZ (V.O.)

Realizing the danger coming from the north, The Arabs decided to unite under one flag and elect one ruler to govern the whole of Spain. Though 25 years old, Omar the son of Abdel Rahman, the late king of Cordoba, was elected king of Spain at a general meeting of the princes.

SHOT 4:

Coronation of Omar surrounded with Arab princes paying homage to their new king.

GONZALEZ (V.O.)

Omar didn't waste time, as soon as he became the king of all Arabs in Spain, he prepared a great army and dashed into a body of twenty thousand Spaniards commanded by the overthrown kings. Omar defeated them after a short battle.

SHOT 5:

Short battle between Omar and the Spaniards. The Spaniards are defeated. Corps are spread over the battle field.

GONZALEZ

Here repeated battles were fought and the Arabs under Omar's leadership had the advantage. The cities of Navarre, Sanguesa, Aragon, Catalogne, Badalona, Castille and Austries surrendered to king Omar.

SHOT 6:

The CAMERA moves with the Arab troops invading one city after another. The names of the ruined cities appear on the screen: Navarre, Sanguesa, Aragon etc.

GONZALEZ (V.O.)

The defeated kings came to Omar voluntarily and made their submission by paying tribute.

SHOT 7:

Omar sits on his throne receiving the envoys of the defeated kings. The usher at the door announces: "Tribute from the king of Navarre". The envoy of the king of Navarre enters the throne room, bow in submission and present Omar with gifts and precious stones. The usher then announces: "Tribute from the king of Castille" ...and so forth.

GONZALEZ

The king of Leon however refused to pay homage to king Omar. Foreseeing that Omar might attack him soon on all sides; he reinforced his army and sided with the kings of the French provinces across the Pyrenees. Omar sent an army to punish him. The king of Leon fought a great battle with his soldiers, but the soldiers were routed and the king slain.

SHOT 8:

The king of Leon comes out of the castle with his soldiers to fight Omar's troops. Helena is on the roof watching in worry. She shouts in grief when she sees her father killed in the battle.

GONZALEZ (V.O.)

The king of Leon was succeeded by his daughter Helena. Helena was compelled to submit and pay tribute to Omar.

SHOT 9:

Sad burial of the king of Leon, followed by the coronation of Helena. The moment she sits on the throne she shouts: "I swear by God I'm not going to rest without taking vengeance for the death of my father."

As Helena swears vengeance, Gonzalez ends his narration.

EXT. OMAR'S PALACE COURTYARD – CORDOBA – DAY

THE CAMERA focuses on three Arab noble knights on horseback gathering in the palace courtyard waiting for Omar to appear. Two valets are trying hard to curb Omar's horse.

INT. PALACE GRAND HALL (CONT'D)

THE CAMERA then glides inside the palace to reveal Omar walking briskly in the grand hall heading to the palace doorway. Omar appears at the doorway and mounts his horse with apparent skill. Omar and his noble knights set off for deer hunting.

EXT. WILDERNESS – DAY

On horseback, Omar and his knights follow their prey persistently for long distances across the valleys, the mountains and the mounds. With spears and arrows they hunt an abundance of deer. The chase takes them a great distance until the Leon borders come into sight.

While Omar and his knights are chatting while eating their hunt, forty knights of Helena's routine patrols surveying the borders of Leon assail them. Omar companions are taken by surprise before they even have the chance to draw their swords. Arrows and spears come from every direction to penetrate their bodies. Omar seeing his companions slain quickly sets his hand to his sword and smites on the right hand and on the left, and at every strike he strikes down a knight. He deals with them so vigorously that ten of them are slain. However, he is soon surrounded, overmatched and made prisoner.

INT. DARK DUNGEON – NIGHT

THE CAMERA focuses on Omar in a dark dungeon. He is loaded down with chains.

INT. HELENA'S COURT – DAY

Helena clad in white with a crown of gold upon her head, sits on her throne.

HELENA

Bring the prisoner in.

Omar loaded down with chains is taken to Helena's court. He stands before her as tall and strong as a tree.

HELENA
(anger sharpens her voice)
Who are you?

OMAR
Arabian.

HELENA
Arabian! You are nothing but an uncivil lout talking to me roughly. We see nothing from you Arabs but perfidy and hostility. What were you doing here?

OMAR
Hunting brought us into the vicinity of your province.

HELENA
I am not to be palmed off with that story; you're an awful liar. You have murdered my finest knights; they have been treacherously slain.

OMAR
You started all this. You killed all my companions without any reason. I'm no murderer; I was only defending myself.

HELENA
Your arrogance is unbelievable. You will not only beg for mercy, you will curse the day you were born. Reveal your identity.
Omar doesn't answer her. The fire in his eyes seems to sizzle through the length of her.

HELENA
Answer me, am I talking to a wall?

HELENA (CONT'D)
I'll drive you to the basins of death! I swear by God that you are closer to the Hereafter than the shoes you see on my feet

OMAR
If my day has come, and my blood would be shed at your hand, I'll therefore surrender to Allah, who possesses this life and the Hereafter.

HELENA

(to her guards)

Load down his chains with more weight and throw him in the
dungeon.

The guards put more chains to his feet. While they were taking him back to
the dungeon, Omar suddenly stumbles and falls heavily to the ground.

HELENA

(shouting after him)

That puts you in your place, ruffian Arab.

INT. DUNGEON – HELENA’S COURT - NIGHT

We see Omar plunged into a dungeon for many days, loaded with heavy
chains and scantily supplied with the coarsest food. After weakening
Omar’s strength by imprisonment and long abstinence, the guards take him
again to Helena’s court. He stands before her laden with heavy chains.

HELENA

Today you will face smallness and shame.

HELENA (CONT’D)

(pointing at a black muscled slave)

This gladiator has brought to the ground every mighty man. You will wrestle
with him until one of you kills the other.

The guards unchain Omar, and the slave circles Omar, looking for a chance
to seize him. The slave approaches Omar and punches him ferociously in
the face. Blood oozes profusely from Omar’s nose. Helena smiles
victoriously. Boiling with anger, Omar jumps onto the slave’s chest and
grasps his thick neck with one hand, and with the fingers of the other
pierces his eye with one powerful stroke. Omar then pulls him down to the
ground and falls upon him, thus completely mobilizing him.

Omar stands up to give the slave another chance to fight, but the heavy
strokes Omar launches at him in the second round makes the slave staggers
and falls to his knees. A power kick in the face throws the slave flat on his
back.

Omar stands at a distance waiting for the slave to come to his feet for a third round.

When he is on his feet again, Omar lifts him up with a formidable strength and makes several quick turns before throwing him heavily to the ground. The slave falls on his back, feeling a painful fracture in his spine. At a glimpse Omar throws himself upon him. With his knees pressing hard into his chest, Omar squeezes the slave's larynx with a painful grasp. Through interrupted breathing, the defeated pleads:

SLAVE

Kill me, for death is easier than the shame you have caused me.

HELLENA

(disappointedly)

Let him be.

Omar rises to his feet, looking at Helena in anger. The slave is unable to rise again. Helena signals to her guards, who come quickly and carry the slave away. Helena furious at what happened to her gladiator, ushers to her guards:

HELLENA

Take the prisoner back to the dungeon makes him suffer famine and fatigue.

On screen the words: ten days later.

EXT. ROUGH MOUNTAINOUS TERRAINS – DEEP LION PIT – DAY

In a rough mountainous terrain we see Helena surrounded by her nobles and dukes. They chat laughing waiting for the prisoner to appear. Not far away, we see a deep pit in which a starving lion is roaring, awaiting eagerly its prey.

In a carriage drawn by two horses the guards bring Omar with heavy chains around his hands and feet.

HELENA

(smiling in derision)

You are destined to be thrown to a lion.

OMAR

Be it so, death is my only remedy. I merit not dying in a dungeon.

HELENA

(to her guards)

Unbind the prisoner and give him a sword.

Omar looks at the lion in the pit. Waiting for his chance, he leaps down upon the lion's back and tries to seize him round the neck, but he falls, and the lion's paw raises over him. With the rapidity of lightning, Omar plunges his sword into the lion's neck. The lion rolls over in the agony of death.

The spectators applaud cheerfully, and Helena looks stricken. The guards help Omar out of the pit.

HELENA

(to her guards)

Throw him down and bind him with chains.

Omar struggles to his feet and gives Helena a sharp look.

OMAR

Enough humiliation; like a bite of a mad dog is the stroke of this chain.

HELENA

Who are you? Where do you come from? I repeat.

OMAR

A passerby who seeks your kindness and forgiveness.

HELENA

The excess of your stubbornness has entrapped you into your destruction. Your life is spared for the time. After you feel all the torment of hunger and despair, I'll find you a more painful death.

INT. PALACE GRAND HALL – DAY

Helena convenes with council of her chancellors in the grand hall.

HELENA

I know not from what city this man has come. I am perplexed respecting his case; for if I give orders to kill him, it will not be right; and if I leave him, he will increase in his boldness.

CHANCELLOR (1)

The man is an Arab ruffian who slew ten of our best knights and deserves to be killed.

CHANCELLOR (2)

Since he is a good warrior, he should have to encounter three strong knights, one by one.

CHANCELLOR (1)

If he survives he would fight your uncle Salazar. His sword is of such strength that no armor could stand against it.

HELENA

(smiling)

His fame as a splendid swordsman has spread all over the Christian kingdoms.

CHANCELLOR (3)

If he survives Salazar's sword, he could get your pardon by kneeling down at your feet and begs forgiveness.

EXT. BATTLED FIELD – COLORED PAVILLION – DAY

Helena sits in a colored pavilion overlooking the battle field. She is surrounded by dukes and a band of gorgeous ladies to watch the fight. Three knights on horseback salute Helena then quickly set off to take their positions. Omar is brought from the dungeon with heavy chains around his wrists and feet.

HELENA

Set him free. Provide him with horse and armor.

Helena raises her hand signaling the first knight to start the fight. The knight comes swiftly towards Omar and encounters him violently. Both knights, having broken their lances, draw their swords and fight blade to blade. Omar strikes the knight a blow through his helmet, headpiece, and visor, and through the skin, into the flesh and the bone, until it wounds the very brain. The knight receives a mortal wound and falls dead to the earth.

Omar is provided with a second lance. The second knight couches his lance and rushes at Omar, who receives him and let the thrust go by him, while he strikes the horseman upon the center of his shield in such a manner that his shield is split and his armor broken, so that the cubit's length of the shaft of Omar's lance passes through his body, and sends him down to the earth.

The third horseman puts spurs to his horse and charges full against Omar, but Omar smites off at a single blow not only his head, but also his shoulder and right arm.

Helena stands amazed. Omar approaches the pavilion, and looks at her with angry eyes. Dictated by a disappointed spirit and a thirst for revenge, she roars in Omar's face:

HELENA

Perhaps you deserve a punishment more severe. You have been given only one hour grace to prepare for the next fight.

OMAR

For long days I have endured the miseries of slavery and the cruelty of your injustice. It's my liberty that I require; set me free.

HELENA

The pride of the Arabian is deeply wounded? I will turn your life into a burning fire

HELENA
(ordering her guards)
Cast him into the dungeon until the time of his fight with his highness
Salazar is due.

EXT. BATTLE FIELD – SAME DAY – AFTER NOON

After an hour Omar is brought to the same battle field to encounter Salazar, Helena's maternal uncle. Salazar is in high spirits. He advances upon his horse in arrogance towards the royal pavilion. His horse is draped in flowing cloth, patterned with Salazar heraldic sign. He stops before Helena and raises his hand saluting her.

SALAZAR
My dear niece, Helena queen of Leon. I ride for you. I'll rid you of this ruffian infidel, I promise.

Helena smiles and gives Salazar her hair ribbon as a favor. Salazar takes the ribbon and ties it to his arm. He then quickly set off to encounter Omar.

The combatants ride apart to come together in full speed. The lances of the two combatants shiver at the shock, and Salazar is astonished to see almost at the same instant the sword of Omar gleaming above his head. He parries it with his buckler and gives Omar a blow on his helmet. Omar returns it with another better aimed; for it cut away part of Salazar's helmet and with it his ear and part of his cheek. Omar attacks Salazar again with more vigor than ever; both strike terrible blows and make grievous wounds. Omar grasps his sword with both hands and strikes Salazar such a blow that it cleaves his buckler and cut off his arm with it; but Salazar at the same time launches his sword at Omar. Though the blow misses him, it strikes the head of Omar's horse, and the horse falls and draws down Omar in his fall. Omar quickly disengages himself, presses Salazar with so much impetuosity that he drives him to a distance from his horse, and then brings him to his knees, tears off his helmet, and, with a sweep of his sword, strikes his head from his body.

Helena, who expects to see the head of Omar rolling at her feet, utters a cry of horror when she sees Salazar's head separated from his body.

For a while she stands silent with a steadfast gaze like a statue.
Accompanied by two guards she approaches Omar.

HELENA
(in contempt)
Kneel down at my feet and beg forgiveness.

OMAR
(with eyes piercing into her bones)
Bowling and kneeling in humility is only for Allah, the Creator of the
universe.

HELENA
(roaring at him)
That was my last condition to grant you forgiveness. Your arrogance is
unbelievable. You will be put in a cell till I devise a death sufficiently painful
to satiate my revenge.

INT. CELL – NIGHT

Omar badly wounded lays helpless for many days in the cell. One night he is
awakened by the glare of a torch. He opens his eyes with fatigue to see
Helena in his cell with two guards and her wise man who is also a physician.

The guards bring her a wooden chair. She sits at a short distance
contemplating the prisoner fettered with chains. She makes a sign to the
wise man to tend Omar's wounds. After his wounds are cared for, she
dismisses the guards with a sign of her hand. The wise man stands in
reverence beside her.

Helena leaves her seat and approaches the prisoner. She kneels before him
and looks intently in his eyes.

HELENA
Is there anything you need?

OMAR
a drought of water

She looks at the wise man that quickly brings water in a pottery vessel and helps Omar to drink. Omar drinks only a few drops, then glances at Helena.

OMAR

I passed all your mortal tests. I deserve my freedom, set me free.

HELENA

You know what your problem is? You have sprung from soil in which you are a stranger.

OMAR

I am far away from home and in exile.

OMAR (CONT'D)

Be forgiving of your friend when he offends you, for perfection is seldom ever found. In everything there is some flaw; even when the lamp, despite its brilliance, smokes.

OMAR (CONT'D)

Tyrannize not, if you've the power to do so; for the tyrannical is in danger of revenge.

HELENA

Is that a threat?

OMAR

I've been cruelly treated. Your heart is hard as a rock, or even yet harder; yet there are rocks from which rivers come gushing, and others split, so that water issues from them.

Helena manages to smile at him. She admires the eloquence of his tongue.

HELENA

(giving orders to the wise man)

Release the prisoner, dress him in decent clothes, and bring him tomorrow to my wing at dinner time.

INT. HELENA'S PALACE – DINING ROOM – NIGHT

We see Helena sitting in an arm chair in a corner of a cozy dining room waiting for Omar to appear. Nearby a dining table with two chairs awaits the diners to commence their meal.

The usher at the door announces:

USHER
The Arabian.

Helena rises from her arm chair and takes a seat at the dining table. When Omar enters the dining room Helena is stunned by his magnificent appearance. He looks tall and strong and graceful. She smiles and points to a seat beside her. He sits, and she examines him with a woman's eye. His eyes are wide and black as night; his lashes are thick and long. His luxuriant jet-black hair relaxes on his massive shoulders.

Appetizing and delicious food comes in various vessels of gold and silver, in saucers of crystal, in cups set with brilliant pearls, and in cups of carnelian.

HELENA
I ordered my chef to cook special food for you.

OMAR
Thank you for your kindness

They eat while chatting.

HELENA
I know you are angry after all the humiliation I exposed you too. But it seems you don't know the law around here.

OMAR
What law?

HELENA
Only nobles are permitted by law to hunt in the forests. Commoners are forbidden that right. By hunting in the forest you broke the law. You deserve the punishment you received.

OMAR

Our king Omar subdued most of the Spanish provinces. All the forests belong to him now. It is the right of all his subjects to hunt in these forests.

HELENA

How dare you talk to me like that? Have you forgotten your position? You are talking to a queen!

OMAR

I didn't mean to offend you. I was just stating facts on the ground.

HELENA

(in a milder tone)

I have never seen before a man so valiant. Are you hard to get along with?

OMAR

My nature is mild and humane, but you have forced me to suffer agitation of mind and torture of soul.

HELENA

I was seeking revenge. The excessive force and tyranny of your king Omar killed my father and destroyed my country.

HELENA (CONT'D)

(while rising)

I can see that we are at each other's throats, but I don't want to fight with you. Not today, at any rate. Let's go to the drawing room.

INT. DRAWING ROOM – NIGHT (CONT'D)

Helena leads Omar to the drawing room. It is decorated with tapestries, candle holders, weapons, statues, deer/elk racks and hunting horns. They sit on two chairs confronting each other.

HELENA

Say something nice. You must have some good qualities hidden away under that exterior of yours.

OMAR

Well, you could say I am also a poet.

HELENA

Really! Then recite to me some verses, perhaps my chest may thereby be dilated

OMAR

Allah guards your face that is veiled with loveliness. The full moon is its slave, and the stars are its servants.

HELENA

(laughing)

It seems that you are aware of women's nature. What women are to you?

OMAR

(smiling)

Never trust in women, for perfidy lurks within their hearts. By the tale of Joseph, be admonished, and guard against their stratagems.

HELENA

(laughing)

It's a very narrow-minded statement.

HELENA (CONT'D)

Your courage has forced me to set you at liberty. God has decreed a new life for you.

OMAR

Praise be to Allah for my safety.

HELENA

At dawn you start your journey back to where you came from. If I see you here again, I will have your head on a platter.

OMAR

I will take your good advice to heart.

HELENA

A constellation of my knights will escort you to the borders.

OMAR

May Allah preserves you. Can I leave now?

HELENA
If you wish.

Omar rises from his seat, makes a small bow of respect and depart.

On screen the words: A year later.

INT. OMAR'S PALACE – THRONE ROOM - CORDOBA - DAY

Omar sits on his throne. The usher announces at the door:

USHER
King of Navarre

The king of Navarre enters the court followed by two attendants carrying boxes containing precious stones. Omar meets him halfway and greets him cordially.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. OMAR'S PALACE – DINING ROOM – NIGHT

We see a long rectangular trestle dining table. The invited guests sit on chairs arranged along the long sides, while Omar and the king of Navarre sit at the head of the table on a raised dais. They chat while eating.

OMAR
How things are in the north?

KING OF NAVARRE
Your wars in the north restored order and settled peace.

OMAR
I heard that your wife had recently delivered a boy, congratulations.

KING OF NAVARRE
Thank you. A religious ceremony is to be held at the basilica de san Isadora to baptize my son.

OMAR

The famous Cathedral in Leon?

KING OF NAVARRE

Exactly. Queen Helena of Leon will meet me with a small garrison at the borders before accompanying me to the church.

OMAR

O! Queen Helena! I haven't met her before.

KING OF NAVARRE

Her father was killed during your wars in the north. She succeeded her father to the throne.

OMAR

Tell me about her.

KING OF NAVARRE

Helena's beauty shines as the sun outshines the stars. The sunshine in her is enough to light up the whole of existence. Her outstanding beauty spread throughout the surrounding Christian kingdoms. The kings asked her hand in marriage but she refused all offers saying that she is a queen ruling over the people, and she desired not a man to rule over her.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. BORDERS OF LEON – BUSHY AREA – SMALL RIVER – BLUE PAVILLION – DAY

THE CAMERA chases Omar and twenty men of arms on horseback racing toward the borders of Leon. Omar and his knights keep themselves concealed behind the thick bushes. They behold a blue pavilion and colored tents pitched near a small river. Few yards away, Helena walks with her attendants by the river. She had with her only ten men of arms.

With his chosen band of knights, Omar rushes into the camp. The sword wields by his powerful hand cut down men. In such confusion, his knights fall upon the rest and totally rout them. The water of the river turns red with their blood. Helena is taken aback and turns pale with fear.

At last she finds herself face to face with Omar. He looks at her from above his horse.

OMAR

It is I, remember? This is for killing my people and for wounding my feelings, perhaps without repair.

OMAR (CONT'D)

(addressing his knights)

Women, pages and servants are taken as slaves.

HELENA

(frozen by fear)

My first cousin Marcos is on his way now with his troops, he will make you pay for what you have done to my people.

OMAR

I can get pretty heavy-handed when my people are treacherously murdered.

HELENA

Even if you are seeking revenge, now we are even.

Omar doesn't answer her, but takes her on his horse and pursues his way. The horses go like the wind and disappear behind the summits of the mountains.

EXT. CORDOBA – PALACE – NIGHT

When Omar and his knights approach Cordoba, he dismisses his knights.

OMAR

(smiling)

Well, Happy hunting. You are gifted the spoils of war.

Omar then rides with Helena until he stops before one of his lustrous palaces. Omar dismounts, helps Helena down, and then leads her inside the palace.

INT. CORDOBA – PALACE – NIGHT (CONT'D)

OMAR
(shouting)
Honyda

An agreeable old woman comes quickly.

HONYDA
(bowing respectfully)
At your service my lord.

OMAR
I designated this palace to the lady here; see that you serve her well.

HONYDA
(bowing)
Yes my lord.

Omar then leaves Helena under Honyda's care.

Honyda leads Helena to a pleasant apartment. Honyda prepares her a warm bath and provides her with clean, elegant clothes. Honyda then places before her a silver table inlaid with gold, upon which lay delicious food.

Helena wonders about the palace for days. She is amazed to see that the palace is extremely magnificent and full of exquisite delights.

INT. HELENA'S BEDROOM – NIGHT

We see Honyda changing the covers of Helena's bed, while Helena in night gown brushes her hair before the mirror. Helena enquires about the identity of Omar.

HELENA
what your master do as a living? He gifted my pages and servants to his companions. Is he trading in slavery? Would he sell me to one of his clients? The Arabs are slaveholders after all.

HONYDA

(smiling)

My master is of noble birth and beneficent disposition.

HELENA

I find him rough and ruthless.

HONYDA

(still smiling)

how can that be, and he is rescuing the oppressed, redressing wrongs and suppressing injustice.

HELENA

You glorify him, as though he were a living legend. I see him evil and inhuman.

HONYDA

He is as seemly and demure as a dove, with all manner of good features, so that all men might not find his match.

INT. HELENA'S BEDROOM – NIGHT

The affairs of the kingdom take Omar away from Helena for several days. Then one night she is surprised to see him standing at her open door contemplating her. Her heart leaps with fear. She steps back in panic.

HELENA

Heavens, you startled me. What do you want?

Omar closes the door and leans back against it for a moment before straightening and walking towards her.

OMAR

I want you for myself.

HELENA

Don't touch me.

He wraps her slender figure in his strong arms. Her breath vanishes in a kiss that devours her.

HELENA (CONT'D)

Let go of me. Keep your hands off me.

OMAR

Charms like yours were meant to be enjoyed. After I am done with you, I'll give your limbs as prey to my hungry lions.

HELENA

(struggling in his arms)

You are the most aggravating tyrant of a man I've ever come across.

OMAR

What a barbarian soul you had when you loaded me down with those chains. It has been hell remembering the torture you caused me.

HELENA

My heart is bleeding hatred for you. You are causing me shame and ruin.

OMAR

I have every right over you; you belong to me by capture. I am your master now, and you are my slave. After I tire of you, you will join my harem.

HELENA

I despise you. One of these days you will be roasting in Hell.

OMAR

I'll see that you pay in the worst way. You will surrender to the man you hate most.

He sweeps her off her feet and carries her to the bed. His weight crushed her into the mattress. She is stiff and unyielding. She hits his massive chest with weak trembling hands, but his body is rock hard as it presses against her. He is a forest ablaze erupting in anger. His smoldering touches are driving her mad. In his arms she moans aloud, trying to stop the ecstasy she feels. When he explodes rushing forward, she grips him fiercely by his muscular shoulder. Hiding her face in his chest, she screams at him as she sinks into the raging sea of her orgasm:

HELENA

I hate you, I hate you.

When he is satiated, he strides to the door without a single backward glance. Fortunately, he is out of sight when the tears starting rolling down her cheeks.

Omar comes to Helena every night and makes love to her. Repetition could not weary nor dull the appetite he has for her. Each time he comes to her, she screams at him, throws him with everything she can lay her hand on, but he takes her without mercy, enjoying her charm and beauty.

MONTAGE

A series of shots revealing how Omar comes to Helena repeatedly and makes love to her:

- 1- Helena sleeps in bed at night. Omar stands by her bed contemplating her. She feels his presence. She awakes frightened. He gathers her in his arms, but she fights him desperately. He tears her night gown revealing her breast; he then takes her without mercy.
- 2- Helena sits under a pergola in the garden's palace. Omar shows up from an adjacent nursery. Helena rises up frightened. She runs towards the palace, but he overtakes her. He carries her back to the nursery and makes love to her on the grass with flowery plants overlooking them.
- 3- Helena takes off her transparent chemise and wades into the water of a private lake penetrating the palace garden. She swims for a while then stops enjoying the cool water. Omar's head suddenly appears from under the water. Helena screams frightened, but he gathers her in his arms. They sink and float repeatedly expressing waves of physical arousal.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. LEON – HELENA'S PALACE – MAIN HALL – DAY

We see Marcos, Helena's cousin and the head of her army, sitting at

the head of a long table in the main palace hall. Loyal dukes and dignitaries of Helena's council sit in rows at both sides of the table.

MARCOS

It has been months since the queen was abducted by some ruffian Arabs. Her abduction had torn my heart apart.

DIGINITARY 1

You are unmatched in pretending what you didn't really feel. You could have rescued queen Helena if you wished to, but your greed for the throne kept you from even trying.

MARCOS

(furious)

I have nothing to do with this. This could be an act of vengeance for what she did to the Arabian she tortured months ago.

MARCOS (CONT'D)

(smiling)

I'm not entirely without good qualities. I'm inflexible when force is needed; and docile when softness is required.

DIGINITARY 2

Maybe you are brave and sagacious, but also false and treacherous.

MARCOS

Under the present circumstances Leon must have a king to rule and put things in order. I claim my right to the throne. Can I rely on your support?

DIGINITARY 3

Never.

MARCOS

I asked the support of the adjacent Christian kingdoms. They all agreed to my claim to the throne.

DIGINITARY 3

This we know already, their ambassadors in Leon exerted pressure on us to accept you as a king, but we refused.

MARCOS

I am the head of the army and man of resources. My great officers are loyal to me. Don't stand against me. It's better for you to submit to my wish.

MARCOS (CONT'D)

(rising to his feet and leaving the meeting)

Now that I know your opinion, you are dismissed.

INT. LEON COURT – MARCOS CORONATION CEREMONY – DAY

We see Marcos coronation ceremony attended by the Christian kings of adjacent kingdoms, their ambassadors in Leon, and Leon's grandees. The crown is put on Marcos' head. Marcos is now the crowned king of Leon.

INT. HOUSES OF HELENA'S LOYAL DIGNITARIES – PRISON – NIGHT

MONTAGE

- 1- Marcos soldiers break into the houses of Helena's loyal dignitaries and arrest them.
- 2- They are put in a dark prison where they are severely tortured.
- 3- With chains around their hands and feet, and signs of treason attached to their backs, they march between two rows of soldiers to their final destination where they are executed by sword.
- 4- Marcos watches the execution from the palace window and smiles victoriously.

INT. CORDOBA - PALACE HALL – DAY

Helena is frequently seen weeping while walking the spacious hall of the palace. Honyda watches her from afar.

INT. HELENA'S BEDROOM – DAY

Helena sits on a chaise longue in her bedroom. Tears are rolling down her face. Honyda comes in with a tea tray and places it on the table. Honyda approaches Helena quietly.

HONYDA

Why all these tears my child?

HELENA

Your master is humiliating my body and smashing my pride.

HONYDA

I am like his mother. I raised him since he was a child. He told me about the danger you exposed him to.

HONYDA (CONT'D)

you humiliated him by torturing his soul in prison, and by weakening his body before exposing it to danger.

HELENA

I see nothing in him but impudence and perfidy.

HONYDA

My master is known for his horsemanship and his beauty. Women call him the enchanter because his beauty and charm have so easily captured their hearts.

HELENA

He is rough, overbearing and evil.

HONYDA

His beautiful concubines are dying to win a few moments with him.

HONYDA (CONT'D)

Your incessant tears are not showing hatred as you proclaim, but

a desperate struggle to keep your heart untouched by his love. His strong captivated manhood has already possessed your longing body, and your love for him had taken you to the point of enthrallment.

HELENA

(shouting in Honyda's face)

Get out of my sight, you crazy old woman.

Honyda smiles at her and walks off.

INT. PALACE DRAWING ROOM – DAY

Helena sits in the drawing room. Honyda comes in smilingly.

HONYDA

Good morning madam, is there anything you wish?

HELENA

(hesitatingly)

I want you to do me a favor.

HONYDA

Of course, madam.

HELENA

Please listen carefully. I am Helena the queen of Leon. Your master kidnapped me and brought me here against my will. I want to see king Omar to tell him about my complaint. There is a peace treaty between king Omar and the Christian kingdoms. If he knew that I had been abducted by your ruthless master he would certainly pour his anger on him.

HONYDA

My master gave aggravating orders to keep you from leaving the palace.

HELENA
(pleading)
I beg you to look carefully into the matter.

Honyda
(Hesitatingly)
I'll see what I can do.

INT. PALACE GRAND HALL – DAY

Helena walks slowly in the grand hall of the palace contemplating the architectural grandeur surpassing all she has ever beheld.
Helena beholds Honyda coming her way with quick steps.

HONYDA
King Omar agreed to see you now.

Honyda hurries her along the grand hall. Honyda stops at the palace entrance, while Helena rides a royal carriage with attendants and pages to the palace of the king.

INT. OMAR'S PALACE – DAY (CONT'D)

The carriage reaches an extensive plain. A splendid palace arises in the middle of the plain. The palace and its surroundings are like a terrestrial paradise. The bars of the gates, hinges and locks are all of pure gold; all columns are made of rock crystal.

The officers of the guard make a respectful obeisance and allow Helena free entrance. Helena walks down several long corridors guided by a high rank officer. Her eyes roams the place; the walls are decorated with precious stones of all kinds – rubies, emeralds, sapphires, and topaz – are set in ornamental designs, the ceilings are adorned with pearls.

Helena passes numerous guards standing in attention before tall doors, until finally she is brought to the court where the king awaits her.

INT. OMAR'S COURT – DAY (CONT'D)

The court is constructed of polished marble adorned with jewels. Helena thinks that upon its floor is running water, and if anyone walks upon it he would slip. Reaching the throne seems to take forever. She walks a long way before she reaches the king.

She beholds noblemen and great princes. The king is sitting upon the throne, managing the affairs of the state, deciding equitably between the strong and the weak.

The king is dressed in a rich tunic of silk and gold; a collar of precious stones about his neck, and on his forehead is a rich turban surmounted with a crescent of precious stones.

Helena bows respectfully, then straightens herself up to face the king. Seeing him on the throne catches her by surprise. The king whose power is established over all the sovereigns of Spain is the one she has humiliated. Helena confused and abashed, casts her eyes upon the ground feeling a bitter taste in her mouth.

Her eyes quickly blur with tears and she dares not encounter his look. Seeing her confusion, he dismisses all the attendants with a signal of his hand.

OMAR

What can I do for you?

HELENA

(weeping)

I came asking for your help against a tyrant who turned out to be you!

HELENA (CONT'D)

Release me and send me back to Leon.

OMAR

I have every right over you. You are a captive woman and I am your master.
You hear me? I own you now.

HELENA

I want my freedom back.

OMAR

You can buy your way out of bondage in return for money paid.

HELENA

If you send to my cousin Marcos, he would definitely send you the money you need.

OMAR

Marcos - that treacherous vagabond! He is negotiating with the kings of the north against me, exactly as your father did before him. I have eyes everywhere.

HELENA

First you killed my father while defending his land, and now you accuse Marcos of treachery?

OMAR

Your father breached the covenant by siding with my enemies. As for your cousin Marcos, he didn't even bother to come to your rescue after all these months.

Helena stiffens as if she had just been slapped.

HELENA

What is that supposed to mean?

OMAR

Marcos, your dear cousin, took over Leon and succeeded you to the throne. I fear he will not be pleased to see the return of the former queen. If I send you to Leon Marcos would certainly restrain you by force or put you to death. He has already killed all your supporters and loyalists.

HELENA

All this has happened because of you. By kidnapping me you gave Marcos the opportunity to steal my throne.

HELENA (CONT'D)

(weeping)

Your attitude to turn me into an obedient slave is utterly demeaning. You are enjoying every minute of my torture; you are arrogant and overbearing. Who you think you are? The Lord of creation, perhaps!

OMAR

(shouting angrily at her)

Don't you ever forget that you humiliated a great king of the noblest origin and purest descent. I was raised in glory and honor, but you disgraced me before your people.

HELENA

I hate you. You disgraced me to nothingness.

With a sign of his hand Omar signals to the officer.

OMAR

Escort the lady back to her quarters.

With tears in her eyes Helena leaves with the officer.

INT. HELENA'S BEDROOM – DARK PASSAGE - LION'S DEN – NIGHT

Helena spends restless nights trying to figure out how to escape from Omar's strong grip. She paces her room back and forth then sits on the couch looking at a marble statue of a fine Arabian horse placed on a fireplace confronting her bed. The statue is so beautifully carved that she walks to it and touches its curves.

She murmurs to the statue in a sad voice:

HELENA

Could you take me to Leon to restore my kingdom from Marcos the traitor?

There is something strange about the statue! She discovers that it can move forward, so she pushes it forward. The fireplace moves aside to reveal a dark hidden passage.

The secret passage must signify a concealed route to travel sneakily. Secret passages in castles serve as a runaway route to people under siege.

The passage way is lit with torches on both sides. She walks along the long passage expecting to see the outlet that would take her to freedom. She walks fast until she finds herself in the middle of a rocky area.

She is in the open now and freedom is within her reach. She runs right and left searching for a passage that might take her to freedom, but the whole area is surrounded with rocky mountains closing it from all directions.

She walks ahead, but her feet nail to the ground when she sees a naked man with massive shoulders and strong masculine body kneeling before a huge male lion. The man's lower part is covered with a short undergarment revealing his strong thighs. She knows well that body; it is king Omar's body. King Omar is patting the main and coat of his lion tenderly.

The lion lies on his four limbs, submitting peacefully to his master as if appreciating his affectionate touches.

Suddenly, the lion stands on his four limbs to roar out his disapproval. He sees Helena approaching; now he is ready for the kill.

Omar looks behind him and see Helena utterly frightened. Omar shouts at his lion:

OMAR

Sakhr, stay put, don't move.

But Sakhr doesn't obey his master and begins launching his attack against the intruder. Omar cracks his whip and frightens the lion off Helena. Seeking protection, Helena grasps Omar's shoulder and hides behind him.

A lioness appears from nowhere and roars at Helena's face. She begins a forceful attack against Helena, but Omar keeps cracking his whip while retreating back with Helena until they reached the den's entrance. Omar pulls a handle and the iron gate falls down to close the den completely. The lions jump into the gate roaring forcefully.

Along the secret passage way Omar pulls Helena back to her bedroom. Anger glitters from his eyes.

INT. HELENA'S BEDROOM – NIGHT (CONT'D)

OMAR

(angrily)

What brought you to the lion's den woman? You were trying to escape stealthily of course.

HELENA

I thought I found a way to freedom.

OMAR

My secret passages are designed to kill. Encroachers find behind them
agony and horror.

OMAR (CONT'D)

(raising his hand with the whip)

I should have torn your flesh apart with my whip.

HELENA

(shouting at him)

I was trying to free myself from the bondage of slavery.

OMAR

I am the only one who grants you freedom. I own you, don't you
understand?

OMAR (CONT'D)

Don't you ever try to escape again. I'll release my lions just behind your
walls. My lions devour everything they could lay their claws on.

HELENA

You kill lions, you play with them! Cruel, Violent and savage, that's what
you are.

HELENA (CONT'D)

You raped me, you turned me into a whore.

OMAR

I don't sleep with whores madam. I sleep with the women I like.

HELENA

I'll never forget what you have done to me. May God's curse descend upon
you.

OMAR

My bedroom is just down the corridor. I'll keep a close watch on you.

Omar leaves the room. Helena sinks to the ground lamenting her fate.

INT. HELENA'S BRDROOM – NIGHT

The discovery of a hidden passage leading to a lion's den is the beginning of a nightmare. Helena hears lion's roar just behind her walls. She lays awake all nights lest lions appear suddenly in her room and snap her with their sharp teeth. Her sleepless nights drive her crazy and leave her drained.

INT. OMAR'S BEDROOM – NIGHT

There is no safer place but to sleep with Omar in his bedroom. His bedroom is just a few steps down the corridor. Asking to sleep in his bed is a real blow to her pride. She swallows her pride and hurries to his room. She pushes the door open and sees Omar sitting in bed reading a petition.

OMAR

Madam! You are in a big mess. Honey told me that you cry out in your sleep.

HELENA

I haven't slept for days. I need to get some sleep. I can't sleep in a room surrounded by beasts roaring all night.

OMAR

SO!

HELENA

I want to sleep in your bed.

OMAR

Here, with me!

HELENA

(almost crying)

Please.

OMAR

(smiling)

My bed is also dangerous you know.

OMAR
(beat)

All right, come along.

Helena throws herself onto the bed and holds him in order to be sure that she is safe. She puts her head on his chest and clings to his body. After a very short while he hears her gentle snoring.

He holds her tenderly and kisses her hair. He doesn't like himself very much for the way his heart hammers in his chest.

EXT. FOREST – DAWN

We see Omar galloping his horse across the fields towards the forest. There he dismounts and paces up and down nervously. His heart beats racing in his chest. He says words expressing his inner feelings.

SFX:

The words are accompanied with music matching his words. The music rises with words expressing Omar's might, greatness and anger. The music lowers and becomes dreamy and gentle upon expressing words of love and kindness.

OMAR (SFX)

I am a mighty king

The kings bow in my presence

My fame had flown over the face of the earth

I love hard encounter, I love the hunt

Hunting took me to a land whose queen is a joy to look at

The shine in her eyes is as bright as the moon

I didn't know that she had claws that tear apart

She plunged her claws into my flesh

She tortured my soul, she caused me shame

Now I am her master

Now she is my slave

Like a raging sea I conquered her body in waves

I thought after I am done with her
I will throw her to my lions
Or even join her to my women slaves

But what I have tasted was a sort of magic
She racked my body with shudders
She brought dampness to the desert of my heart

O perplexed heart, is that love?
Have you submitted to her spell?
How a man like me fails to push her love away?

EXT. PALACE ENTRANCE – NIGHT

We see Omar galloping his horse towards the palace. He dismounts to find Honyda waiting for him at the palace front stairs.

HONYDA

During your absence her highness became agitated and spent long hours weeping. She stopped eating for days until she fell sick with a fever inflaming her body.

OMAR

(while hurrying up to Helena's room)
Call the physician

INT. HELENA'S BEDROOM – NIGHT

Helena is tossing in bed from fever. Her tears are flowing, and yet she is silent. Omar watches her in grief. The physician arrives, bows respectfully before Omar, then examines Helena carefully. He brings out of his leather bag a liquid medicine.

PHYSICIAN

She can drink a small proportion from this medicine three times a day. She will be fine after a few days.

The physician leaves the room. Omar holds Helena dearly until she rests calmly in his arms.

OMAR

Don't worry, it's just a small fever, you'll recover after a few days.

HELENA

My kingdom. The news that Marcos succeeded me to the throne is a torture that digs its claws into me.

HELENA (CONT'D)

You are the cause behind all this.

OMAR

I am grieved for that which has happened to you, but everything is in accordance with fate and destiny.

OMAR (CONT'D)

(offering her the medicine in a small pot)
Now drink this and try to get some sleep.

HELENA

Don't touch me. I don't want to see you here.

OMAR

(laughing)

It's my bed, remember.

She sleeps in his arms solidly until morning. In the morning she is deeply touched to see him giving her the medicine and feeding her with his own hands.

INT. RICH SALOON – NIGHT

Helena sits in the rich saloon on an armchair, resting her feet on a footstool. Honyda comes in with a tea tray and places it on a table situated beside the armchair.

HELENA

(pointing at a chair before her)
Honyda, please be seated.

HELENA (CONT'D)

Tell me about king Omar.

HONYDA

What do you want to know?

HELENA

Everything about him.

HONYDA

Why all that interest about him? I see caring in your eyes.

HELENA

I am afraid you are wrong. I am not attracted to him in the least. We don't get together and suffer each other's company.

Honyda

Love is too rare to ignore

HELENA

(trying to avoid Honeyda's eyes)
No man is worthy of my love.

HONYDA

Surely you think he is of the greatest handsomeness. It should take quite a woman to tie up that elegant devil. Omar has seen many beauties at his mother's court, but his heart has never been touched by love.

HELENA

I don't care about his intimate life; just tell me about him.

HONYDA

Well, Omar is a king and the son of a king. His great grandfather established the Arab kingdom in Spain. When he was old enough to be separated from his mother, his education was taken over by learned professors. They taught him to read the Koran. Under their guidance he studied astrology and the composition of the poets. His boyhood was passed in horsemanship, hunting and learning to fight. He is a chevalier, endowed with irresistible force and unmatched beauty. Omar fulfilled the duty of a true knight and defended his country with lance and sword.

HELENA

Is there other sides of his personality beside horsemanship and fighting?

HONYDA

He learned music and became skillful lute player and an adorable singer of Andalusian poetry

HELENA

A lute player, and a singer?

HONYDA

Maybe one day you'll hear his songs and merry tones.

HONYDA

(beat)

However, for a magnificent king who has never been involved in love would be like a man without a heart in his breast, don't you think?

HONYDA (CONT'D)

Don't you feel a sense of guilt for disgracing all these qualities and exposing them to danger?

Helena says nothing but her eyes quickly blur with tears. Omar comes in. Honyda bows respectfully and leaves the room. Omar regards Helena and sees the tears flowing from her eyes.

OMAR

Are you alright?

Feeling a strong sense of guilt Helena begins weeping. Omar cups her face in his hands. He wipes her tears away with his fingers. He keeps silent for a moment, then takes from his pocket a necklace of jewels in the middle of which are refulgent gems. He puts it gently round her neck.

HELENA

(wiping away her tears)

Don't be nice to me. What you did to me is a crime against my religion. I have sinned against God.

OMAR

Aren't you satisfied that I preferred you to my other women and enjoyed

being alone with you?

HELENA

How dare you talk to me like that! You think I am one of your female slaves? I am not the next in the string of your harem. Take your necklace back; I don't need it.

Omar

(smiling)

I like to watch your eyes flash when you get mad.

HELENA

You have shattered my world into a thousand pieces. It was all music for me until there were you.

OMAR

You say music? Come, I will show you something that will soothe your heart.

INT. SPACIOUS RADIANT HALL – MARBLE FOUNTAIN - NIGHT

Omar walks Helena to a spacious hall, its floor is furnished with large pieces of marble; each is separated by a bar of gold. In the middle stands a green marble fountain that pumps up twinkling water perfumed with rose, musk and saffron. On its brink sit beautiful female singers like sprinkled purls, each of them carrying a lute or lyre.

Omar and Helena sit on a huge ornamented sofa adorned with pearls, jewels and jacinth. Around them stand all the maidens to wait on them. The damsels serve them fresh fruits on silver plates, and almond juice in golden cups adorned with precious stones.

Omar signals with his hand and the singers sing verses in merry tones. The female dancers are dancing round the fountain with the lightness of leaves.

HELENA

(glancing at Omar)

Are these women your concubines?

OMAR

yes, they are well trained as could be expected of the elite of the harem
Omar claps his hands and all the dancers and singers are dismissed.

OMAR

(pointing to a beautiful female singer)
Qamar, please stay.

OMAR (CONT'D)

Qamar, cherish my heart with your songs. Sail in the sea of eloquence and
select for me the best pearls.

Qamar things the following Andalusian verses:

QAMAR (SFX)

O zephyr, you bringest me a gentle gale from the place in which my beloved
is dwelling!

O wind, you bearest a token of my beloved!
Knowest you when he will arrive?

If it were said, O beauty have you seen such an amorous one like my
beloved?

Beauty would answer, the equal of him I have not.

Joy has overwhelmed Omar to such a degree that he asks for his lute. After
adjusting its strings he sings the following verses:

OMAR (SFX)

O eye, how has weeping become your habit? You weep in joy as well as in
sorrow

My tears flowed on the day of separation
And I made of them, as it were a necklace,
Since you parted you also took with you the delight of life

Omar dismisses Qamar, then turns to glance at Helena.

HELENA

There wasn't a woman around who wasn't aware of you. Each one of them
seemed to want you for herself. And this woman Qamar, she is your
favorite of course!

OMAR

O! Don't say, are you jealous?

HELENA

(rising suddenly)

Take me back to my quarters, please.

Omar holds out a hand to Helena and walks her to a private exit behind which she finds Honyda waiting to escort her to her headquarters.

EXT. PALACE GARDEN – DAY

Helena walks across the meadows of the palace garden. She says words expressing her inner feelings.

SFX:

Helena's words are accompanied with music matching the tone of her words. The music rises with words expressing her anger, and lowers with words expressing her love.

HELENA (SFX)

Hell, what on earth do I see in him?

A skillful lover, a mighty king dwarfing everything around him?

He invaded my body like a stormy wind

He makes my knights wild and furious

I want to punish him; I want to make him suffer

But in his arms I feel whole, I feel cherished

I feel beautiful than I have ever felt before

deep down I had known it all along

He is the man I had always been waiting for

I love him, yes I love him

But never, never, would he know

that I love him so

EXT. HELENA'S BEDROOM – PALACE COURTYARD – EVENING

Helena is in her bedroom sitting on an arm chair. She hears neighing and shouting coming from the courtyard. She rises from her chair and looks from the window to see Omar and some grooms trying to tame a wild Arabian horse. The horse is saddled and tied by the bridle to a tree. The horse is trying hard to disengage himself. When Omar approaches him, he has to avoid a volley of kicks launched at him by the wild horse.

In an instant Omar is on the horse's back and takes hold of the bridle that is quickly untied by one of the grooms. The horse refuses to surrender to Omar's power, dropping his head and arching his back, throwing out with his legs to take Omar out of saddle. After one hour of fighting with the horse, Omar brings him under control. He makes the horse amble gently, that before has been trotting, then let him go bounding playfully.

Omar leaps lightly from his back and lets him run freely in the spacious courtyard.

The horse now approaches Omar with an air as gentle and loving as a faithful dog could be with his master after long separation.

Omar takes his bridle in his left hand while with his right he pats the horse's neck. The beautiful animal seems to submit entirely.

Helena watches all this from her window. Omar's mighty strength with the horse fascinated her and makes her melt with desire. Her entire femininity wants to be crushed against every male inch of him.

Omar glances at her window just then and catches her expression before she could hide it. Flames leap into his eyes as he feels his own rising need.

He runs up to her, taking the steps two at a time. Tears crowd in her eyes as she finds him in the middle of her bedroom. She turns away from him, crying out when his hand catches her by the shoulder and wrenches her around to face him.

She trembles in his arms as she recognizes the strength of her love for him.

HELENA

You are rash and reckless and impossibly arrogant.

OMAR

Lord, I've missed you.

HELENA

Leave me alone, please. I need some uninterrupted solitude.

His arms tighten around her as he pulls her into his hard body.

HELENA

Do you get everything you want?

OMAR

What I want, I take.

HELENA

Go to your harem; choose one of your women.

OMAR

(kissing her hair and eyes)

It's you that I want.

HELENA

(returning his kisses)

You are rudely arrogant. Who you think you are one of God's gifts to women?

He loosens her hair into a silky cloud.

OMAR

I have a glimpse of paradise before me now. Where in God's creation can the likes of you be found?

For hours their desire rushes and roars in blinding madness until the waves of sensation subside.

After a few hours she awakes looking at his strong arms and wide masculine chest. With a tender smile of a woman in love, she studies his face wondering at how beautiful he looks in sleep. She pats his luxuriant dark hair tenderly and passes her fingers admiringly over the muscles of his shoulders.

Her tender touches awake Omar. He looks at her beautiful face and smiles.

OMAR

Madam, you are invited along with the noble ladies of the family to attend
a wedding

HELENA

(surprised)

What wedding?

Omar

My brother's wedding.

HELENA

I didn't know that you have a brother!

OMAR

My brother Elwaleed is ten years younger than I am. After my father died I
put him under my care. I made him the governor of Valladolid.

HELENA

who is the bride?

OMAR

His cousin Fajr. She is like him in beauty and rank.

OMAR (CONT'D)

It will be a day of great public rejoicing.

HELENA

(frowning)

Are you sure my presence is welcomed?

OMAR

Don't fear anything, Honyda will keep you company.

EXT. CITY STREETS –ROYAL CARRIAGE – CITY PRISON - MORNING

We see a royal carriage roaming the city of Cordoba. The carriage stops at
the main market of the city. A high officer steps down followed by a page
carrying a big leather bag. The high officer reads a paper to the crowd.

OFFICER

On the happy occasion of prince Elwaleed's marriage to his cousin princess Fajr, king Omar bestows upon you a hundred thousand pieces of gold.

The high officer then signals to the page. The page takes a handful of pieces of gold and disperses them over the people. The throngs dash for gold.

THE CAMERA glides through the streets of the city until it stops at an officer standing in the courtyard of the city prison announcing that Omar has granted all prisoners forgiveness.

OFFICER

On the occasion of prince Elwaleed's marriage to his cousin princess Fajr, king Omar has set all the prisoners free.

INT. PALACE GRAND HALL – WEDDING CEREMONY – DAY

The grand hall is divided into two parts; one for men and the other for women. A huge transparent curtain ornamented with precious stones separates men from women. We see sumptuous banquets in men and women parts. In the men part we see judges of the state, the chief officers of the kingdom and the grandees sitting in rows waiting for the king to appear.

In the women part we see ladies of the royal family and their noble relatives and closest friends sitting in rows and looking at men through the transparent curtain. In the middle sits the bride looking happily at Alwaleed, her groom, throughout the curtain. Al-Waleed wears his finest apparel. It is studded with gems and stitched with fine embroidery.

Helena appears with Honyda at the doorway of the woman's part. She looks exquisitely beautiful. She is wrapped in a robe of silk embroidered with gold. She sits with Honyda in two seats overlooking the men's part.

The women look at Helena enviously. A beautiful lady sitting among them gazes at Helena intently. Honyda leans on Helena and whispers in her ear:

HONYDA

The lady looking at you is Alia, the bride's sister. According to the wish of Omar's mother she is supposed to be his future wife.

Helena gazes at her then turns her head quickly towards the entrance Omar is supposed to appear from.

Omar enters the great hall. All people rise to salute him with all honor and respect. Helena fills her eyes of him as he with the supreme judge and two witnesses conclude the marriage contract of Alwaleed and Fajr.

The women keep looking at Helena and exchanging winks until Alia rises and heads directly to Helena.

Alia glances at Helena in arrogance and say:

ALIA

He will spend some time with you; then he will get bored and join you to his other women.

Alia doesn't add anything else, she just strides away.

Helena endures the insult bravely and doesn't answer back.

BACK TO:

INT. PALACE GARDEN OF THE KING OF SPAIN – SUNSET

The king of Spain sits on the border of a fountain decorating the center of the palace garden. Gonzalez his bard sits at his feet. The king gives orders to a page standing nearby.

KING

Bring me my drink

The page brings almond juice in a silver cup.

Gonzalez is happy to see the king looking so pleased and relaxed. The king glances at Gonzalez and asks him to resume his narration.

KING

Well, Gonzalez, continue your story.

GONZALEZ

Yes, my lord. Tribal partisanship is common among the Arab troops that

opened Spain. The origin of the Arabs can be traced to two races, the first descended from a father called Kahtan, and the second from a father called Kais, one of Ishmail's grandsons. Sons of Kahtan dwelt in Yemen, while sons of Kais dwelt in Makkah and Madina.

GONZALEZ (CONT'D)

Because Arabia was composed of these two races, hatred broke out between them along the centuries due to tribal partisanship

KING

Was king Omar a Kaisis?

GONZALEZ

Yes my lord. As soon as king Omar was appointed king of the Arabs in Spain, the Yemenis and Berber governors rebelled against him, but he subdued them and replaced them with men of trust from among his relatives. Since the Yemenis and Berber formed the majority of the Arab population in Spain, they reluctantly accepted the dominion of the Kaisis. They also remembered the punishment Omar gave to their rebellious governors after he ascended the throne.

GONZALEZ (CONT'D)

Because the Yemenis and the Berber were great warriors, their revolts were only suppressed by abundant bloodshed.

The image of Gonzalez gradually disappears from the screen.

BACK TO:

INT. OMAR'S COURT – DAY

Omar sits on his throne. The usher at the door announces:

USHER

The governor of Salamanca province asks permission to enter my lord.

Omar nods in agreement.

The governor of Salamanca enters in haste, bows respectfully before Omar, then stands erect.

GOVERNOR

King of the Arabs, your safekeeping was ruptured, your allegiance was renounced, your money was stolen, and your people were killed.

OMAR

How did that happen?

GOVERNOR

Hozeifa, master of the Yemenis tribe in Salamanca agitated his people against you and bribed many of the Berber to stand by him.

OMAR

How did he get the money?

GOVERNOR

He took me by surprise and threw me in jail, then plundered the house of treasury.

OMAR

What exactly is the situation now?

GOVERNOR

I managed to escape, but you have to move fast my lord. If Hozeifa gets angry, twenty thousand of his people get angry without even asking him why.

Omar

There are more than three thousand Kaisis in Salamanca. Couldn't they have fought bravely for just a few hours until I send you support?

GOVERNOR

We were outnumbered and overmatched.

OMAR

Before I cut Hozeifa's head off, I will make him bewail his death as women do, and he will find no respondent except the owls and the rooks of the wilderness.

GOVERNOR

Their number exceeds twenty thousands, my lord.

OMAR

Their abundance is meager, and their power is weak.

Omar dismisses the governor with his hand, and then command the usher:

OMAR

Call prince Hamza, the head of the army

USHER

Yes my lord.

Omar walks the court back and forth with both hands entangled behind his back. Signs of concern show evidently on his face.

In a short while, prince Hamza enters the court in haste. Omar stops and looks at him with angry eyes.

OMAR

Have you heard what Hozeifa of Salamanca did against my crown?

HAMZA

Yes, my lord.

OMAR

Prepare the army for war.

EXT. BATTLE FIELD SURROUNDED WITH ROCKY MOUNTAINS – NOON

Dressed in red and raising red flags, we see Omar and his troops riding fast towards Salamanca. Their red iron arm coats, their spears and bright swords twinkle in the sunlight.

Dressed in white, and with white flags fluttering over their heads, Hozeifa's army is shown in the distance.

The two armies come together; there is much slaughter of knights on both sides. The battle is long and obstinate, but Omar is so courageous, and his knights fiercely follow him so that Hozeifa and his troops are put aback. Hozeifa seeing his men repulsed, dashes with his horse into the midst of Omar's troops, and gives such blows with his sword all around him that no

one could withstand them. Thus he advances thinking to conquer the field relying on his own courage until he is met by Omar, who points his spear at him.

Omar strikes him in the stomach and Hozeifa falls to the ground. Seeing Hozeifa suffering the agony of death, the Yemenis and the Berber flee in all directions.

Omar dismounts and approaches Hozeifa who is now on his knees suffering the agony of death.

OMAR

You bribed your people with alms money to revolt against me! Aren't you ashamed to see many of our bravest warriors killed without reason? These useless disputes are weakening our strength against our common enemy.

HOZEIFA

After you ascended the throne you deposed the Yemenis governors and replaced them with men from among your relatives.

OMAR

Since I came to the throne, I received nothing from you but the blackest jealousy and hate. Your people rebelled against me. I had to put down the riot.

HOZEIFA

You killed my father and son, you killed our people. I took revenge for all the Yemenis you killed. Now I can die in peace.

OMAR

Blood for blood! Is that all you care for? The king must be obeyed, and iron is only cut by iron. By slaying you, I restore the honor of our brave knights you caused to kill in this disgraceful war.

Omar plunges his sword into Huzeifa's heart.

INT. RED PAVILLION – BATTLE FIELD – NIGHT

After the war we see Omar sleeping in a red pavilion erected for him in the battle field. He turns in his bed restlessly as if he were trying to push away a bad dream. He is having a nightmare in which he sees his body set on fire.

With the heat of the fire eating into his body, he runs searching for water. There is no water anywhere and he doesn't know where to go. Then he sees Helena, clad in white stretching her hands out to him. He runs to her and takes her in his arms. In her arms the fire is extinguished and his life is restored.

EXT. CORDOBA -DAY

Omar and his troops are going back home. They reach Cordoba and enter through its gate.

INT. PALACE BATHROOM – DAY (CONT'D)

Omar soothes his tired body in a tessellated tub carved into the ground and filled with perfumed water. The perfumed water cascades from a fountain situated in a remote corner of the bathroom and flows through a marble course leading to the tub.

Through an arabesque window in her bedroom, Helena could see Omar bathing. God, how she loves just looking at his massively muscled chest and shoulders, at those mighty arms and strong legs.

Seeing him coming out of water naked makes her heart races with anticipation.

A black slave dries Omar off with a towel; another covers him with a light silky robe.

INT. HELENA'S BEDROOM –NIGHT (CONT'D)

From her arabesque widow Helena could see Omar ascending the steps leading to her room. She runs to the middle of the room not knowing what to do. There is a fire in her that only he could create and only he could satisfy.

She hears a tap on the door. She opens the door for him. And he sees her face as if a golden sunshine were flooding the room.

She is wearing a white transparent nightgown on her naked body. Her feet were bare and her hair is tousled.

OMAR

You are so beautiful. Such a beautiful face you have, Helena.

He puts his arms around her and draws her close to his chest. She raises her head and stares at him. What was there in his eyes that worry him?

HELENA

Your eyes look deeply concerned!

OMAR

I have been fighting my own people for days. It was a hard war that consumed the finest of my men. Partisanship was the only cause of the war. Warring with my own people is weakening my kingdom and exposing it to the enemy.

HELENA

It grieves me that I was not there for you.

OMAR

You were there for me. I saw you in a dream trying to save me from the power of evil.

HELENA

O! Tell me about your dream.

OMAR

I saw my body set on fire, I ran searching for water, but there was no water anywhere, and I didn't know where to go. Then I saw you clad in white, stretching your hands out to me. I ran to you and took you in my arms. Here the fire was extinguished and my life was restored. I woke up feeling a tremendous longing for you.

OMAR (CONT'D)

(kissing her eyes)

I missed you terribly, it's tearing my heart apart. Let me rest in your arms tonight. Let me feel whole again.

He quietly holds her; she curbs her arms about his neck. He carries her to the bed. She feeds him the nourishment of her body, and he feels as if he

were drinking pure nectar. They lay entangled for hours feeling an endless delight of passion.

Helena lays cradled against the security of Omar's chest. She awakes a few hours later. She moves her head back on the pillow so she could study his sleeping face. A smile plays across her lips. His thick hair parts in the middle and falls in waves to his shoulder. She touches his hair tenderly then kisses his forehead.

A slight breeze coming from the window whispers through her hair. She goes to the window to get a breath of fresh air.

Omar awakes and watches her from the bed. Omar comes behind her to wrap his arms around her. She stays still for a long moment enjoying the warmth of his body.

OMAR

You move as soft as silence.

She turns around and glances up at his eyes.

HELENA

What is it you wish of me? What is the end of all this?

He kisses her lips softly. She tears her lips from his and looks earnestly into his face waiting for an answer.

OMAR

I want to keep you in my life. I wish not to lose you.

She smiles at him, and his heart melts. Her lips are trembling against his as he lifts her and carries her to the bed.

INT. BATHROOM – NIGHT

Helena is bathing in a tub carved into the ground. Honyda stands nearby carrying a bath gown. Helena comes out of water naked. Honyda looks

intently at her breast and the curves of her body. Honyda covers her with the bath gown.

HONYDA

(smiling in concern)

You put on weight madam

INT. HELENA'S BEDROOM – MORNING

Honyda enters Helena's bedroom with a breakfast tray, and puts it on a small table. Helena leaves the bed and sits at the table eating breakfast.

HELENA

(while eating)

O dear, I'm starving.

Suddenly, however, her stomach churns; she runs to the bathroom and throws up. Signs of deep concern show on Honyda's face.

INT. PALACE OF MOTHER QUEEN – DRAWING ROOM – DAY

Omar's mother sits in the drawing room sipping her tea. Honyda enters the room and bows down before her.

HONYDA

Your highness, I have something important to tell you.

MOTHER QUEEN

Well Honyda, I am all ears.

HONYDA

I think king Omar's favorite is pregnant.

MOTHER QUEEN

The foreign woman! Are you crazy? How did you know that?

HONYDA

Her face has lost its girlish roundness. Her breast is swollen. Her thighs and buttocks are larger now. She vomited her breakfast this morning.

INT. HELENA'S BEDROOM –DAY

Honyda enters Helena's bedroom. Helena is at the window looking at the lake penetrating the spacious garden below.

HONYDA

The mother queen is willing to see you. She is waiting in the drawing room.

INT. DRAWING ROOM – DAY (CONT'D)

Helena enters the drawing room to see the queen mother sitting in an armchair. Helena stops in the middle of the room with her heart severely pounding in her chest.

MOTHER QUEEN

I think we had better find you another place to live. In the old days this palace served as a wedding place for the family princes. Omar and his cousin Alia may celebrate their wedding here in the near future.

MOTHER QUEEN (CONT'D)

It has been my wish since they were kids that they would become man and wife.

MOTHER QUEEN (CONT'D)

Do you love him?

When she receives no answer she continues saying:

MOTHER QUEEN

I see love in your eyes, but I assure you it's without future. My son belongs to another world and to another woman. Try to understand that.

Helena couldn't stand it any longer. She turns to the door to leave the room, but the words of the mother queen stop her.

MOTHER QUEEN

by the way, the child you carry in your womb will not give you any advantage over Alia. The heir of the throne must come from pure Arabian parents.

HELENA

(tears in her eyes)

I am not pregnant. Who said so?

MOTHER QUEEN

How naïve you are. Honyda has noticed and you haven't!

Helena flees to her room with tears pouring from her eyes.

INT. RICH SALOON – DAY

We see Omar entering the rich saloon to see his mother who summoned him. The mother seems nervous, she paces the saloon back and forth.

OMAR

Mother, you want to see me?

MOTHER QUEEN

(pointing to a chair)

Sit and listen carefully.

Omar sits and glances at his mother in concern.

MOTHER QUEEN (CONT'D)

It's the mother duty to see her children married. I am concerned about your marriage. Your younger brother Elwaleed is now enjoying his marriage and his wife is already pregnant.

MOTHER QUEEN (CONT'D)

You and your cousin Alia were lovers before you brought that foreign woman to Cordoba. Alia is eagerly waiting for you to propose.

OMAR

It's Helena whom I love mother. No other woman can fill her place.

MOTHER QUEEN

What's got into you? She is different in religion and descent. She came from people showing enmity to the Arabs.

MOTHER QUEEN (CONT'D)

Forget all about this woman or you will slip out of your own orbit to hers. Helena is not just a woman, but a queen with people behind her willing to take revenge because of what you have done to her. This woman is leading you to a slaughter like a newborn lamb.

Omar rises to his feet and goes to the window looking at the vast meadows below. Helena was there sitting on a bench. She looks sad.

OMAR

Alia is a parentage relationship which I honor, but Helena is love and affection.

MOTHER QUEEN

You know what hindered the progress of the Arabs in Spain after 300 years of glory? It was not only tribal partisanship, but also the mixing of Arabian and Spanish bloods together.

OMAR

Differences in religion didn't stand as a barrier to marriage between the Arabs and the Spaniards. During the 300 years of glory you were talking about, the widow of Rodriguez, the last king of the Aquitanians in Spain, had married the son of the Arab leader Moussa ibn Nosseir. The daughter of the duke of Aquitaine married the Muslim governor of the province of the Pyrenees Mountains. The grand wazir Elmansour ibn aby Amer married

the daughter of the king of Navarre. As for the great caliph Abdel Rahman Elnasser, he was the grandson of a Christian princess who came from the basque region.

MOTHER QUEEN

Omar, you are not listening. How can we fight the Spaniards who are waiting for the opportunity to attack us at any moment while their blood runs through our veins? You must marry a woman of pure Arabian blood.

Alia is of the noblest and purest Arabian descent.

OMAR

(still looking at Helena from the window)

Life is not worth the effort without her. She brought dampness to my lonely heart. She warms my body as surely as the sun.

MOTHER QUEEN

(while leaving the room angrily)

You know best what is good for you, but don't forget that the consequence of this love is to be feared.

EXT. PALACE GARDEN – DAY

In the succeeding days Omar is utterly surprised to see his mother and Alia visiting him frequently in Helena's palace.

From her window Helena could see Omar entertaining his guests. When Alia strolls in the garden with Omar, it is as if a fine blade knife slid between her ribs and pierces her with pain.

INT. THRONE ROOM – DAY

Omar sits on his throne. The usher announces:

USHER

A messenger from Tarragona

The messenger enters the court and bows before Omar. He gives Omar a letter. Omar reads the letter and frowns angrily.

INT. PALACE DRAWING ROOM – NIGHT

Omar is in the drawing room convening with his younger brother, Alwaleed, the governor of Valladolid, and his cousin Hamza, the head of his army.

OMAR

The war that had been quelled for a time now burst out anew. Obeid the Yemenis governor of Tarragona along with his two sons had rebelled against me.

ALWALEED

We join our forces at the borders of Tarragona, and from there we launch our attack.

OMAR

You better hastens back to Valladolid to prepare your forces

Alwaleed rises to his feet and leaves the room in haste.

OMAR

(addressing Hamza)

Prepare your troops for war.

Hamza

(rising)

Yes, my lord.

INT. HELENA'S BEDROOM – NIGHT

The night before the day appointed for the departure of the troops, Omar relaxes in bed in Helena's arms.

HELENA
(looking intently in Omar's eyes)
Do you love me Omar?

OMAR
Do you?

HELENA
You are the only man I knew.

OMAR
I want to hear the words of love. Say I love you.

HELENA
I fear I would become one of your women slaves waiting for you to fill her
lonely nights.

Omar
Since I brought you here, I have not seen any of my other women.

HELENA
I am pregnant with your child Omar.

OMAR
Pregnant! You will bring me an heir! What a pleasant surprise. O God, I am
the happiest man on earth.

Omar closes his arms around Helena and kisses her dearly.

HELENA
I am really scared. That child would change my life completely. It would link
my life to you forever. But with all the hostility I encounter from your
mother and Alia I feel insecure.

OMAR

Don't fear anything Helena. I am the king, your child is mine, you live under my care.

HELENA

Please try to understand darling. What would become of me if you don't return safe from your frequent wars with your people? Aren't you going to one of these wars tomorrow?

HELENA (CONT'D)

And what about my kingdom, my people and my religion? Am I going to leave all this behind and live with my son without roots in a world that considers me an enemy?

OMAR

(wrapping his arms around her)

Dear darling. There is a part of you that is still flying over Leon, your beloved kingdom.

INT. HELENA'S BEDROOM – NIGHT (CONT'D)

Omar sleeps entangled in Helena's arms. At midnight Helena awakes glancing at Omar. A strange feeling of foreboding makes her sad and restless. Quietly, she leaves the bed, put on her robe, and walks to the window. She beholds Omar's horse tied to a tree.

Fear suddenly knifes through her. Yes, this is the time to escape. She walks back to bed and watches Omar sleeping in peace. She touches his hair tenderly, then cuts a lock of hair and puts it in a piece of emerald that hangs about her neck. Now she has a part of him that would accompany her wherever she may go.

She dips a feather in ink and writes a few words on a piece of buckskin.

HELENA (V.O.)

(while writing the letter)

My child must live in peace in his mother's homeland away from all these wars and riots.

She then puts the letter on a small table beside the bed.

Not waiting another moment, she steps out of the room and hurries downstairs to the first floor, and from there she flees to the garden.

EXT. WILDERNESS – MOUNTAINS – DAY

Helena mounts Omar's horse and urges him to flee with the utmost speed. She journeys on during the remainder of the night and the next day, until the heat of the sun becomes fierce. Thirst oppresses her violently. The sun is brutal; the mountains are hotter than the fringes of hell.

Believing herself far from Omar and overcome by fatigue and the terrible heat, she gets off the horse. The minute she does that, the beast flees away, searching for water to satiate his thirst.

Helena being parched with thirst, sore and faint, falls senseless to the ground.

After two hours she awakes as birds of prey screeching horridly, flapping their wings in her face. She throws stones at them until they fly away to a nearby spot, awaiting her death.

Exhausted by fatigue she falls on her knees on the burning rocks. As she rises to her feet, she hears the sound of hoof beats. Helena looks out and sees Omar riding up the mountain. The blood drains from her face and withdraws from her arms and legs.

Omar dismounts. He stands tall and straight, he is mad as hell.

OMAR

(draws a whip from his saddlebag)

I have no time for this, I have a war to fight. I will beat your brains out.

HELENA

Omar, please, I have suffered enough. I am going to faint.

OMAR

You have brought it on yourself. No woman walks out of me.

He walks with determined steps toward her. When only yards lay between them, he begins striking vigorously the earth at her feet and the rocks around her, taking care not to touch her.

Helena tries hard to keep her balance before she finally collapses onto the burning stones. The moment she falls to the ground his heart swells, his anger melts, and there is nothing but grief on his face. He falls to his knees and gathers her to him, holding her tightly as though she is his soul.

Omar lifts Helena into his arms and carries her to his horse. He rides to a spring whose sweet water bubbles from the cleft of a rock. He takes her robe off and carries her to the water.

He bends forward and kisses her lips. His voice comes comforting her tortured soul.

OMAR

The cold water will soothe your body; my arms will appease your terror.

OMAR (CONT'D)

I felt as though I had died when you walked down on me.

HELENA

I have been hurting too.

His head comes down again and his lips cover hers for a long moment.

OMAR

Your love penetrated into my bones, you mean the world to me. I have never loved, nor will I ever love again the way I love you. Now I forgive you for the injustice I suffered at your hand.

Helena pulls his head tenderly and kisses his lips lovingly.

Omar rides back with Helena to the palace. He dismounts and reaches up to her. She slips down into his arms. He holds her dearly and carries her to her bedroom.

INT. HELENA'S BEDROOM – NIGHT (CONT'D)

Omar puts Helena in bed. He sits beside her, and pushes her hair back from her forehead.

OMAR

Do you love me as much as I love you?

OMAR (CONT'D)

I am going to war. I am not certain when I will be back. War between the Arabs is more severe than it is with your people; utter the words of love I long to hear from you.

HELENA

An aching misery spreads through me. I am tired and utterly exhausted.

OMAR

I have rushed you; forgive me. You are excessively fatigued. Go to sleep now. Everything will look better in the morning.

Omar leaves the room. Helena cries in bed silently when she hears the thunder of his horse's hooves as he rides out of the palace. She feels insecure, she whispers in despair:

HELENA

Return safe my love

EXT. BATTLE FIELD – BORDERS OF TARRAGONA – DAWN

We see Omar and his forces dressed in red marching to the borders of Tarragona. Because of his involvement in Helena's rescue he arrived two days late.

Alwaleed and his troops are already engaged in the heat of the battle. Omar, breaking through the ranks, charges the rebellions with his men. He destroys multitude of them with his sword.

Alwaleed, however, is severely wounded in his body, head and face, but he maintains the fight and advances forward with his troops. He continues to fight until his whole body is covered with blood.

Alwaleed, very weak and mortally wounded, is led by his soldiers out of the engagement toward a hedge, so that he may cool off and take a breath. His cousin Hamza, the head of Omar's army disarms him as gently as he could. But the wounds are fatal, and Alwaleed never rises again.

Omar comes quickly to see Alwaleed covered in blood and dead. He holds him dearly and cries in anguish.

Seeing Alwaleed killed drives Omar out of his senses. He singles out one of Obeid's sons, and splits him from the crown of the head to his breast.

Hamaza, encounters the other son, and cuts his head off.

Obeid seeing his two sons killed, takes an arrow, fits it to his bow, discharges it, and hits Omar's back.

OMAR

(kneeling down)

Hamza, remove the arrow.

Hamza removes it.

HAMZA

My lord, you need urgent medical treatment.

OMAR

No, we will continue to fight until the traitors perish from the surface of the earth.

Omar and his troops continue to fight with all their might until Obeid and his soldiers are routed. Obeid and the remainder of his soldiers flee the battle field after their defeat.

OMAR

(glancing at his knights)

Go after Obeid, and bring him to me.

Ext. BATTLE FIELD – DAY – (CONT'D)

Two knights on horseback coming from a distance heading to Omar's camp. Tied with a rope, Obeid is dragged mercilessly behind the horses.

On a small hill Omar waits for Obeid. The two knights take Obeid to Omar.

KNIGHT 1

Sire; we caught him near the borders trying to escape into another province.

OMAR

Untie him.

The second knight unties him.

OMAR

(regarding Obeid in contempt)

On your knee.

The second knight pushes Obeid down to his knees.

OMAR

Treacherous traitor, hope not for deliverance. You don't even deserve to be crucified upon a piece of wood worth a couple of pieces of silver.

OBEID

You fear me not. If you should take my life, I know not what better boom than death I can ask.

OMAR

You have prolonged a conversation that will not save your neck.

With all the rage in the world, Omar with his sword cuts off Obeid's head.

EXT. OMAR'S TROOPS DEPARTING TO CORDOBA – BEFORE SUNSET

We see Omar and his troops departing to Cordoba.

ANGLE ON:

- 1- Great sadness and tears are shown on Omar's face.
- 2- Alwaleed's corpse carried off on a stretcher to be buried back home.
- 3- A knight holding Obeid's head plunged into a spear.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. FUNERAL CEREMONY – DAY

A royal funeral ceremony is set up for Alwaleed. The white coffin is carried between two rows of soldiers dressed in red. Hundreds of people attend the funeral. Alwaleed is buried in a royal tomb.

EXT. THE GATE OF THE CITY – DAY

THE CAMERA moves across the streets toward the gate of the city to reveal Obeid's head stuck upon the gate. The people gather around it, looking at it in fear and wonder.

INT. OMAR'S COURT – DAY

Omar sits on his throne receiving the condolences of the princes and the grandees of the kingdom. He looks sad, and exhausted by high fever. Beads of sweat cover his face.

Now the court is void of people. Omar descends from the throne and goes down on his knees; he bends forward weeping over his kid brother.

The queen mother enters the court with the chief physician and rushes toward her son.

MOTHER QUEEN

(pointing at the physician)

I brought the chief physician to treat your purulent wound.

CHIEF PHYSICIAN

Sire, please allow me to..

Omar

(roars at him)

Get out of my sight.

MOTHER QUEEN

Your wound grew more desperate each day, and your strength had almost left you, please submit to medical treatment.

OMAR

(on his knees weeping)

He was such a beautiful boy. I raised him, I watched him growing, I taught him everything I knew.

MOTHER QUEEN

(weeping)

Omar, my son, I have already lost Alwaleed, I don't want to lose you too.

OMAR

He was gone, the savages killed him!

OMAR (CONT'D)

Had all this grace and chivalry had gone because of nothing more than
black hatred and blind partisanship?

Fajr, Alwaleed's widow, rushes into the court, and walks swiftly towards Omar. She bows briefly to the mother queen, then roars at Omar.

FAJR

(weeping)

You left your brother fighting alone for two days until he was killed. All
that happened because of the foreign woman you went after.

FAJR (CONT'D)

You killed my husband and orphaned my child. You destroyed my life
and darkened my future.

FAJR (CONT'D)

I hate you, I hate you.

Fajr runs to the door, then stops and turns back. She screams at Omar.

FAJR

May Allah curses you in this life and the world to come.

Fajr runs weeping out of the court.

OMAR

(murmurs in agony)

Yes, I'm the cause of his death. Death is better than living in sorrow
decrying our separation.

MOTHER QUEEN

Omar, please listen to me. The chief physician says that the urgent
treatment to be applied now is to burn the wound with a blazing bar.

At a far corner of the court we see a man standing with a blazing bar.

The queen mother ushers two strong men standing beside her to
immobilize Omar. When the two men approach Omar he rises to his feet
and gives them severe blows that put them to flight.

Omar goes down on his knees again bathed in sweat and exhausted by
high fever.

The mother queen leaves the room with desperate tears in her eyes.

INT. RICH SALOON - DAY

The queen mother sits in the saloon immersed in deep thinking. Hamza,
the head of the army and Omar's first cousin enters the saloon, bows
respectfully before the queen mother and kisses her hand. He sits
looking at her attentively.

MOTHER QUEEN

Omar is punishing himself for the death of his brother. He refuses to
submit to medical treatment. The physician made it clear that the
purulent wound at this stage must be cured by burning. Someone must
persuade him to accept such harsh treatment. I summoned you to seek
your advice.

HAMZA

(after long silence)

How about Helena, Omar's favorite? I am sure she can convince him to submit to such hard treatment.

MOTHER QUEEN

Hamza, are you out of your mind? How dare you...

HAMZA

Love does wonders. Helena is the only one that could rescue Omar's life.

INT. OMAR'S COURT – NIGHT

Helena rushes to the court to see Omar. The queen mother and Hamza are there watching. Omar is still kneeling on the ground crying in anguish.

Helena kneels down before Omar and looks into his eyes through misty tears of adoration. She cups his cheeks with her palms and kisses his eyes and his hot lips.

A look of pain sweeps over his face, and he holds her hard against his feverish body.

HELENA

You must not despair my love, all things will turn out for the best.

OMAR

my own people have killed my beloved brother, and I spread hatred among them by killing the bravest of their sons and the heads of their families.

Helena releases herself gently from his arms, and kisses his forehead.

HELENA

It is no use dragging the bitterness back. The sun will still come up in the morning.

OMAR

I was so miserable, so beaten before you came. I was dying; then there were you.

HELENA

I can't leave you like that, you need my shoulder to lean on.

OMAR

(tears in his eyes)

Do you really care for me, Helena?

HELENA

You crept into my blood since I first saw you. You are the joy and light of my life. I love you, I love you so much.

Her words touch him deeply. His large frame shakes with silent sobs. Helena draws him close to squeeze the pain.

HELENA

Only strong men feel deeply enough to cry.

HELENA (CONT'D)

Omar, listen to me. The loss of blood has drained the strength of your body, and many sleepless nights have sapped your energy.

HELENA (CONT'D)

I want to see you well again. But the matter is not simple; the purulent wound must be burnt with a blazing bar. Two strong men must seize you so that you can bear the burn.

OMAR

(with tears overflowing)

It's simple love, just hold me.

She puts her arms around him and pulls his face to her shoulder. She signals to the page, who hastily draws near and removed Omar's shirt. The blazing bar comes like hell to burn the wound. Omar gives a great cry then collapses unconscious in her arms.

HELENA

(weeping)

O God, enough torture. My beloved is sacrificing himself for the sake of his own people, yet they don't know how much pain he endures; his agony squeezes my heart. Please God, save him for me, and banish anxiety from his heart.

Helena holds Omar tightly in her arms. She looks like a lioness fighting to protect her cup from danger.

Mother queen and Hamza are watching all that happened from a near distance. They draw near but Helena shouts at them.

HELENA

(weeping hard)

Don't come near him. He is my man and I am his woman. I will cure his wound and wipe out his sorrows until he becomes whole again.

Mother queen kneels to her knees and holds Helena and Omar in her arms. She kisses Helena tenderly.

MOTHER QUEEN

Forgive me my daughter, for all the hurt I caused you. My son loves you and you love him. You are the most suitable for him.

HELENA
(usher to the pages)
Take him to my room.

MONTAGE

- 1- On horseback Helena and two pages run to the adjoining meadows to collect plants of virtue to heal Omar's wound.
- 2- In the palace kitchen Helena and the two pages prepare the plants by bruising them between two stones.
- 3- In Helena bedroom, the two pages remove Omar's shirt and turn him around for Helena to dress his purulent back wound.
- 4- Days and nights follow one another and Helena is stubbornly attending Omar's wound. His body shakes from fever.
- 5- Helena kneeling beside Omar's bed praying to God to cure him and regain his conscious.

INT. HELENA'S BEDROOM – NIGHT (CONT'D)

Helena stands before the window looking at the meadows shining in the moonlight. She hears Omar whispering:

OMAR

Helena, don't move, please. Your surprising loveliness surpasses the beauty of the shining moon.

Helena runs to him in joy, holds him tenderly in her arms and showers his face with kisses.

HELENA

O Omar, it has been too long. I missed the tenderness of your words.

OMAR

I love you beyond reason

HELENA

I love you too.

OMAR

Helena, will you marry me?

HELENA

(smiling)

Does that mean I am your slave and you are my master?

OMAR

I want you as my wife. I am proposing to you, can't you see?

HELENA

(laughing in happiness)

Well, I have become addicted to your special brand of domination. I don't mind being your wife, master.

HELLENA (CONT'D)

And now get some sleep or you'll be a wreck in the morning.

INT. GRAND HALL – WEDDING CEREMONY – DAY

MONTAGE:

- 1- Helena is having a bath preparing for wedding.
- 2- The maids decorate her hands and feet with Henna
- 3- The maids help Helena cloth a white wedding dress.
- 4- Honyda places over Helena's head a floral crown.
- 5- In the grand hall we see sumptuous banquets, grandees, dignitaries, minstrels and jugglers.
- 6- Helena appears at the door entrance. Omar waits for her in the middle of the grand hall. She walks towards him. He takes her hand and walk together towards the head of a long table over which splendid food is placed. They sit smiling at their guests.

7- In their bedroom Omar and Helena stand by the window looking at the bright moon. He then holds her tenderly, and they are lost in a long kiss.

THESE WORDS APPEAR ON THE SCREEN:

Five years later; which fade out and the word: ' LEON' appears on the screen.

INT. LEON – CASTLE GRAND HALL – DAY

In the grand hall of Leon castle we see Marcos convening with the defeated kings of the north. They sit at a long table facing each other while drinking wine and eating grapes.

MARCOS

I invited you today to talk about the future of our occupied land.

KING 1

What's in your mind?

MARCOS

I got some news that more Arab provinces are about to rebel against Omar. These conflicts weaken their power in Spain.

KING 2

So!

MARCOS

We must benefit from such conflicts. It's about time to think of a military strategy to restore our land.

KING 3

We fear Omar's overwhelming power. Don't forget that he savagely subdued the Arab provinces that rebelled against him. Besides, there is a peace treaty between him and our kingdoms.

MARCOS

The spirit of defeat is the enemy of progress. I wish to undo the peace settlement with Omar, and to conclude a confederation that would enable our kingdoms to unite forces to attack the adjacent Arab provinces and joining them to our kingdoms.

KING 1

We have gone through a bloody war with king Omar. He defeated us all and our people suffered a lot. Within the peace treaty he allowed us to stay as kings as long as we pay tribute to him. We would never do anything to jeopardize our kingdoms.

KING 2

Fearing Omar's power is certainly a matter to be considered.

MARCOS

(angrily)

If all the blood of the Arabs were gathered for me in a cup, I will drink it until I got drunk.

MARCOS (CONT'D)

My ideas however, will always be turning in your heads upon seeing the conflicts the Arabs are raising upon themselves.

THESE WORDS APPEAR ON THE SCREEN:

Burgos province under the rule of the Arabs

NT. MAIN HALL OF BURGOS CASTLE – DAY

We see two Arab knights on horseback riding hastily toward Burgos castle. They dismount to be led by a page to the main hall of the castle. Hicham, the governor of Burgo, welcomes them with open arms. They sit at a round table to discuss their plans.

HICHAM

(stretching his hands to his guests)

Burgos province is honored to receive the Yemenis governors of Andorra and Gerona.

The governors smile at him appreciatively.

HICHAM (CONT'D)

Power in Spain should be ours. We, the Yemenis Arabs in Spain outnumber the Qaisis Arabs.

GOVERNOR OF ANDORRA

The Qaisis usually seize the power and leave us the crumbs.

GOVERNOR OF GERONA

My son was killed in the last war with him. He kills without mercy.

GOVERNOR OF ANDORRA

He orphaned our children and widowed our women. He killed our grandees and notables.

HICHAM

This time we are ready for him. We will gather our forces here first, then we will divide our troops into three divisions, the first will attack Valladolid, the second Salamanka and the third Cordoba.

EXT. PLANES OF BURGOS PROVINCE – DAY

As the two governors of Andorra and Gerona galloping their horses across the planes toward their provinces, we see Marcos of Leon in a small procession marching toward Burgos castle.

THE CAMERA closely examines the procession. It includes maids and golden vessels as gifts to Hicham, the governor of Burgos.

INT. MAIN HALL OF BURGOS CASTLE – DAY

The usher at the door of the main hall of Burgos announces:

USHER

Gifts from king Marcos of Leon

Marcos enters the hall followed by two beautiful maids and pages carrying golden vessels. Hicham smiling rises from his seat and receives Marcos kindly. He glances admiringly to the golden vessels, then examines the maids greedily, touching their heads, necks and buttocks. He gives a loud laugh, then ushers Marcos to take a seat at the round table.

HICHAM

(smiling)

Marcos, king of Leon, your precious gifts never cease coming to Burgos.

MARCOS

(smiling)

Hicham, you are close to my heart. We have many things in common.

HICHAM
(laughing)
Speak your mind, Marcos.

MARCOS
Warring with Omar is devastating. Are you capable of winning the war?

HICHAM
The unseen is in the hand of Allah, but we are ready for him this time.

MARCOS
How about military support?

HICHAM
Of course, what can you offer?

MARCOS
Ten thousand soldiers.

HICHAM
Oh! How generous of you.

MARCOS
But the support is conditional.

HICHAM
How so?

MARCOS
You surrender the forts located in your province.

HICHAM

(angrily)

Are you out of your mind? These are Arab properties now.

MARCOS

This would enable me to unite the Christian kings under one flag.

HICHAM

What do you mean by one flag?

MARCOS

General war against Omar.

HICHAM

We do really share something in common – ha, ha.

MARCOS

(smiling while rising to his feet)

I wonder what would Omar say when he sees his own people fighting with the Spaniards against their own Arabian king.

EXT. PLANES OF BURGOS PROVINCE DAY

The rebel forces gather in the planes of Burgos. The rebels divide themselves into three regiments headed by the governors of Burgos, Andorra and Gerona. Before they even move to their directions, they are surprised to see the three hills surrounding the planes of Burgos are fully covered with a powerful army. Omar's overwhelming forces descends the hills slowly heading to the rebels.

HICHAM

(talking angrily to himself)

The devil came like a stormy wind before we even move.

GOVERNOR OF ANDORRA

He surprised us near our own borders.

HICHAM

(shouting at his troops)

Take heed, we are trapped in the valley. The devil intends to attack from three sides at the same time.

As the two armies approach each other, Hicham shouts angrily at Omar.

HICHAM

I swear that when I get my hands on you, I'll kill you.

OMAR

Traitor. You agitated your people against me. You surrendered the forts to Marcos. I'll send you to hell, for you deserve no mercy.

HICHAM

(smiling in derision)

Marcos of Leon provided me with ten thousand soldiers in return. How do you like that?

OMAR

(enraged)

Attack.

Omar's knights clap spurs to their horses and fly to the charge. Omar's troops fight courageously with their king, and their severe blows make Hicham and his troops retreat defeated before them. Hicham seeing his army defeated, flies away leaving his soldiers to Omar, but he finds himself encircled by Omar's knights.

With a rope fastened around his neck, they bring him to Omar. He throws himself at Omar's feet.

HICHAM

Don't kill me, I beg of you.

OMAR

Traitor, you deserve no mercy.

Omar hesitates not at cutting his head off with his sword.

THE CAMERA concentrates on the prisoners of war fettered in chains. THE CAMERA focuses on Marcos' soldiers distinguished by red crosses imprinted on their battle apparels.

OMAR

(on horseback addressing Hamza)

This is the first precedent in history of the Arab reign in Spain that the Arabs fight with the Spaniards against their own king.

HAMZA

(on horseback)

We should be worried about the movements of the kings in the north. Marcos military support to Hicham is a mere violation of the peace settlement.

OMAR

A dark war with the kings in the north looms up ahead of us.

INT. GRAND HALL OF LEON CASTLE – DAY

Marcos takes advantage by the riot rose by Hicham and invites the Christian kings for an important meeting.

Marcos sits at the head of a long table and the kings sit at both sides of the table.

MARCOS

I invited you here today to propose a confederation. We must unite to restore the occupied land.

MARCOS (CONT'D)

A confederation would certainly consolidate our position for greater efficiency against Omar.

KING 1

I agree. With the Arabs busy fighting each other, the opportunity to organize ourselves is now available.

KING 2

Marcos success in restoring the fortresses is highly appreciated.

KING 3

I suggest to assign Marcos as the commander general of all the Christian forces.

MARCOS

(smiling)

I accept such a divine task.

EXT. CORDOBA - PALACE GARDEN - DAY

In the palace garden, Omar and Helena sit on a wooden bench enjoying the seen before them. Their five years old son, Ahmad, plays around them.

HELENA

Ahmad, don't cut flowers. Just breathe their fragrance.

Helena glances at Omar and senses that beneath that cheerful exterior is a deep concern about something that is bothering him.

HELENA

(patting Omar's hand)

You don't have to look so stricken about the riots of the north.

OMAR

(smiling)

Don't worry darling. I have learned to live with such things.

Trying to change the subject he points to a flower basin.

OMAR

Those are flowers that in Arabia grow.

HELENA

O, come now, my love, we must have some talk together.

OMAR

(laughing)

What is going on in your little head?

HELENA

Let's pluck up this dangerous plant before it has grown to its full height.

OMAR

What do you exactly mean?

HELENA

Instead of fighting all the kings together, you fight only one king, the one who is moving them against you - the one who gathered them into a confederation.

OMAR

You mean Marcos of Leon?

HELENA

Yes, by doing so you could undo the confederation, defeats the commander general of their forces, and adds to your northern provinces another one that will be loyal to you.

OMAR

And who is going to ascend the throne after Marcos?

HELENA
the legal heir of the throne.

OMAR
(shouts unbelievably)
You mean you!

HELENA
Don't be rash; think it over.

OMAR
Helena, what has got into you? You're my wife and I won't permit this
madness

HELENA
We must look forward and sheathe our claws for Marcos. The man is a
menace. He is not a man to be denied once he has set his mind on a goal.
Letting him increase in power would be dangerous.

HELENA (CONT'D)
If you win the war with Marcos, I could easily convince the kings that
Marcos was taking them to their doom.

HELENA (CONT'D)
I will keep the peace treaty with you so that the other kings follow suit. The
defeat of Marcos would force them to accept peace. This is the method we
have to hit upon. You can take it from here.

OMAR
(grieved)
You are not talking as my wife, but as the queen of Leon!

HELENA
Omar, please, it's serious. You had better get started. You must surprise
Marcos now. Your victory must be quick and decisive. You are good at
things like that.

OMAR

Helena, you are talking about your departure from me. How can I live without you?

HELENA

(tears in her eyes)

Our souls shall not be parted. I will always be faithful to your memory as long as life should last. My departure will be only temporary, and when peace is settled, we can restore our normal life again.

Ahmad, their son, comes running to his mother with a bundle of flowers in his hand.

AHMAD

Mother, see what I picked from the flower basin?

OMAR

How could you leave your son behind?

Helena takes her son in her arms and weeps violently.

HELENA

(after pulling herself together)

I am forced to do so because we are getting into something that is falling too fast and too hard. I have the feeling that something terrible is about to happen if we don't move fast.

OMAR

I forewarn you of the perils you will encounter.

HELENA

This is the sacrifice I can offer for our happiness and peace of mind.

OMAR

(after a moment silence)

I will think it over, but I don't promise you anything.

INT. PALACE STABLES – DAY

We see Omar in the stable tending his horse. He wears a black trouser with a broad leather belt. The upper part of his body is bare. His cousin Hamza, the leader of the army appears at the stable entrance and walks straight to Omar.

HAMZA

(bowing slightly)

Yes, my lord.

OMAR

(busy combing his horse)

The treachery I see from Marcos of Leon every day must come to an end.
He is turning the kings of the north against me.

HAMZA

Marcos has already breached the peace treaty when he provided Hicham with ten thousand soldiers in return of surrendering the forts we seized.

OMAR

Marcos took advantage of the Arab riots and formed a confederation with the kings against me. They even formed a general council of war and convened several times consulting about when to attack.

OMAR (CONT'D)

Defeating Marcos would give a severe blow to the confederation, and would be a reminder to the kings of my power.

HAMZA

War with Marcos is thus settled.

OMAR

I'm afraid so.

EXT. CORDOBA - PALACE ENTRANCE – DAY

We see Helena at the entrance of the palace kneeling down on the ground holding her son Ahmad tightly with tears in her eyes. Nearby, Omar waits for her on horseback. She mounts her horse, then both drive their horses swiftly to join the army. The army moves swiftly forward.

EXT. OUTSKIRTS OF THE CITY OF LEON – DAY

Omar's army reaches the outskirts of the city of Leon. Omar scatters his army in small groups so that they look small in the eyes of Marcos. When the city gate is opened and Marcos troops come out, the scattered forces quickly reunite in military formation and attack Marcos troops from several directions. Marcos is therefore unable to determine which direction he should forward his troops for attack. Surrounded by Omar's abundant troops, Marcos is entrapped and his troops are shut in. Omar and his knights are furious in the assault and defeated Marcos army. Marcos on seeing the defeat of his troops flies rapidly on his horse heading to the province of Navarre to seek protection.

EXT. THE CENTER OF THE CITY OF LEON – DAY

The people of Leon receive the return of Helena with joy. On horseback, and a constellation of knights riding behind, Omar and Helena enter Leon victoriously amid clapping and cheering.

INT. HELENA'S PALACE – DRAWING ROOM – NIGHT

In the drawing room Omar holds Helena dearly in his arms. He kisses her lips, her eyes, her forehead, then gathers her again in his arms.

HELENA

Stay with me for a few more days.

OMAR

I will set off tonight, but I'll be back because my heart is here in Leon.

OMAR (CONT'D)

I feel a spurt of fear because Marcos and the kings will not leave you alone.

HELENA

I am willing to bear the consequences.

OMAR

Our love could bring danger upon you, but I will always be around to pick you up from any calamity you might suffer on my account.

HELENA

Our souls are united and nothing can split us apart.

OMAR

It is hard for me to depart, but this is our fate that we have to bear.

OMAR (CONT'D)

Always send me your latest news.

Omar holds Helena in his arms for a long time, then strides away without looking back.

INT. LEON - GARDEN OF HELLENA'S PALACE – DAY

Helena takes a walk in the garden of the palace with an old man who is her devout counselor.

HELENA

Although Marcos was defeated I am sure he would tirelessly seek ways to restore himself to my throne.

COUNSELOR

Marcos is not entirely powerless. He is still the commander general of the confederation forces. In his contemporary exile in Navarre, he is

surrounded by the great military officers of the kingdom and by a group of Leon grandees who fled with him.

COUNSELOR (CONT'D)

He is spreading rumors among the kings that your reign would weaken the strength of the confederation. He is accusing you of high treason and infidelity because of your marriage to a Muslim king.

HELENA

He had no doubt agitated the kings' grudges against me.

COUNSELOR

Yes, but the kings prefer to wait and deliberate instead of slipping into an irrational act that might take them into a losing war.

COUNSELOR (CONT'D)

As a political strategy the kings had decided to visit you to congratulate you for ascending the throne and to discuss some strategic issues

Helena frowns and looks at the counselor in dismay.

EXT. LEON STREETS – DAY

On horseback the kings ride swiftly towards Helena's palace followed by a constellation of their knights. They dismount at the palace's entrance and the pages guide them to Helena's court.

INT. HELENA'S COURT – DAY (CONT'D)

The kings sit at both sides of a long table waiting for Helena to arrive. She enters the court and greets them with a large smile on her face. They all rise and greet her with a slight bow. She stretches out her hands inviting them to sit, then sits at the head of the table.

KING 1

We are here today to congratulate you for ascending the throne.

Helena smiles and nods her head thankfully.

KING 1

As you know we have formed a confederation to unite our forces against any threat that may come from the Arabs. We have also chosen Marcos as the commander general of our forces. Would you abide by the confederation or you have other plans.

HELENA

I want peace and not war. We have already a peace treaty with the Arabs.

KING 2

The Arabs are harsh, their greed is endless. We fear they might invade our kingdoms and march beyond the Pyrenees Mountains. They have done that before.

HELENA

As I see, they haven't breached the peace treaty, we have.

KING 3

You defend them as if you were one of them!

HELENA

They were good to me and received me with kindness.

KING 3

They captured you although they knew you were the queen of Leon. This detestable act is a violation of the peace treaty, don't you think?

HELENA

It was a revengeful act from king Omar whom I captured by mistake and made him suffer without knowing who he was.

KING 1

There are wide spread rumors about you and king Omar. The fact that he helped you in restoring the throne supports such rumors.

HELENA

I know that Marcos is spreading rumors about me and Omar. I have nothing to hide. I am Omar's wife before God and all people. I am also the mother of his only son. As for Marcos ,he didn't even raise a finger after my kidnapping. It was a good opportunity for him to seize the throne without effort.

KING 4

Marcos is not to blame. He succeeded you to the throne after you have been kidnapped and not before. Leon had to have a king to manage its affairs.

HELENA

O no. I know the hatred he carries for me. He didn't send forces after the kidnappers. He didn't even send a messenger to Omar asking my safe return to Leon. Didn't he kill all those who held him responsible for my kidnapping?

KING 1

Would you abide by the confederation or you will stand against us?

HELENA

What happened to your reason? The frequent riots among the Arabs should not make you aspire to war against king Omar. When they feel any danger threatening their rule in Spain they quickly reunite under one flag and strike back severely.

KING 1

Our confederation was formed to stay, and Marcos is still our commander general.

HELENA

I will not join any confederation that would jeopardize the safety of my kingdom. I also do not accept Marcos as a commander general. He is greedy, treacherous and cowardly.

HELENA (CONT'D)

Your confederation has already revoked the peace treaty with Omar. Abiding by the peace treaty is our only safeguard against any attack from the south.

KING 1

We will consider your views. I would suggest that we hold several meetings in the future to discuss further our matters of interest.

HELENA

Deliberation is what we have to adopt now. There is no point of fighting king Omar since we have joined him in a peace league.

THESE WORDS APPEAR ON THE SCREEN:

Three years later.

BACK TO:

We hear the voice of Gonzalez, the narrator as V.O. The voice of Gonzalez is accompanied by series of shots – MONTAGE.

GONZALEZ (V.O.)

Warning signs between Omar and the Christian kingdoms began when again the two Arab provinces Andorra and Gerona rebelled against Omar. Their first move is to take Zaragoza, the strong hold of Omar in the north. The rebels found it wiser to seek support from the Christian kings.

MONTAGE:

- 1- The rebels gather on horseback in an open field. Their uproar is heard.
- 2- The two chiefs of the rebels convene with Marcos and the kings in Navarre court.

The voice of Gonzalez fades out until it disappears.

INT. COURT OF NAVARRE – DAY (CONT'D)

REBEL 1

We will start by attacking Zaragoza, the strong –hold of Omar in the north.

MARCOS

Are you up to it? Omar empowered Zaragoza lately with ten thousand knights.

REBEL 2

That is why we seek your support. We need twenty thousand soldiers.

MARCOS

(hastily)

You will have them by tomorrow.

MARCOS (CONT'D)

Well, gentlemen, I think you have a lot of work to do. You may leave us if you wish.

The rebel leaves their seats, bow respectfully, and leave the court. The kings look at Marcos in bewilderment; they are amazed to see such hasty decision.

KING 1

Perhaps you were too hasty in accepting their offer

MARCOS

(smiling)

Gentlemen, now we must grasp the golden opportunity.

KING 2

What golden opportunity?

MARCOS

We will provide the rebels with what they need. During their fight against Zaragoza our forces will attack their own provinces Andorra and Gerona, which will be left without sufficient protection.

KING 3

What about our forces that would join the rebels?

MARCOS

The moment Zaragoza falls into their hands, our troops will disengage from the Arab troops upon hearing the sound of a trumpet and join our main forces that would also attack Zaragoza.

KING 1

The fall of the three Arab provinces in one blow would detach the northern part of Spain from king Omar.

MARCOS

Exactly.

KING 1

What a devilish plan Marcos! It was a good idea to put our forces under your command.

MARCOS

It is an honor to offer my services to my dear kings.

MARCOS (CONT'D)

(beat)

Can I ask you a favor?

KING 1

We are all ears.

MARCOS

Promise me that after winning this war you help me transfer my headquarters to Leon.

KING 1

You are not willing to seize Leon's throne, commander?

MARCOS

Helena is weakening our strength by siding with Omar. Leon needs a strong king my lord.

EXT. PROVINCES OF GERONA, ANDORRA AND ZARAGOZA – BATTLE FIELD – DAY

MONTAGE – SERIES OF SHOTS

- 1- The Christian troops move quickly to Andorra and Gerona which are already devoid of Arab troops and cease them easily without trouble.
- 2- Zaragoza castle is surrounded by the Arab rebels as well as the Christian forces that joined them. The troops break into the castle, and Zaragoza is captured by the rebels and the Christian forces.
- 3- On a high hill Marcos and the kings on horseback watch the battle, and behind them large Christian troops hiding and ready to attack.
- 4- The moment Zaragoza falls into the hands of the rebels and the Christian troops, a trumpet is blown and the Christian troops disengage from the Arab forces and keep themselves at a near distant from the Arab troops.
- 5- Marcos gives the signal for major attack. The major forces quickly join the disengaged troops and launch a strong attack on the exhausted Arab troops and rout them.
- 6- The two Arab rebels are brought hands tied behind their backs to Marcos and the kings around are watching.
- 7- The two Arab rebels are brought down to their knees before Marcos.

REBEL 1
(looking up at Marcos)
We trusted you.

REBEL 2
You betrayed us.

MARCOS
But how can I trust you and you betrayed your own king?

Marcos makes a sign to a swordsman standing behind them. The swordsman cuts their heads off.

EXT. LEON STREETS – DAY

We see Marcos on horseback followed by a constellation of his knights entering Leon victoriously. A great cheer goes up of the crowd congratulating Marcos for his victory. From the palace balcony we see Helena watching disappointedly Marcos and the cheering of the people.

INT. HELENA'S COURT – DAY

Helena convenes with her consultative council. She sits at the head of a long table; her advisors sit at both sides of the table.

HELENA
Marcos is back in town. I tried to convince the kings to abide by peace but Marcos moved them to war. Marcos is causing trouble again.

ADVISOR 1

I must remind you your highness that the confederation is fighting for a good cause. There is no reason for your concern.

ADVISOR 2

You must be aware your highness that most of the members of your council support the joining of the confederation. They consider Marcos as their savior.

HELENA

You say 'most'! How about the others?

Advisor 3

The other incline to silence, unwilling not to embarrass the queen.

HELENA

I want you to listen to the voice of reason. We have a peace settlement with king Omar and...

Suddenly Marcos enters the court. All the attendees rise and bow respectfully. Marcos arrogantly signals them to sit down. Marcos entangles his hands behind his back and walks the large room back and forth without looking at Helena.

MARCOS

I heard your last words Helena, "We have a peace settlement with king Omar", there is no peace settlement anymore after the fall of Zaragoza, Andorra and Gerona in our hands.

HELENA

the hostility you have shown to the Arabs so far will provoke Omar to attack. I have seen Omar's overwhelming power. You are taking Leon and the Christian kingdoms to a dark fate.

MARCOS

(stops and looks at Helena angrily)

I don't have time for such fictitious talk about Omar's power. I am here to prepare a strong army to liberate our occupied territories. Leon must join the confederation without further delay.

HELENA

Don't play hero Marcos. I know your bad intentions; you want to seize my throne.

MARCOS

Of course darling, but this will be after defeating Omar in the coming battle.

HELENA

Omar's war with you was nothing but a picnic. You should have seen yourself in the field running like a coward to Navarre, leaving your troops to their fate.

MARCOS

Your words supporting Omar is an act of treason to your country and religion. Under the present circumstances you must delegate your authority to me. You will be a queen without authority. You will not leave your residence save by my orders.

Marcos signals to two soldiers guarding the entrance. They come hurriedly.

MARCOS

Take the queen to her chambers.

INT. HELENA'S BEDROOM – DAY

MONTAGE:

- 1- Helena sits at a small table in her chamber writing a letter. She then gives the letter to a page she trusts.
- 2- The page rushes hurriedly on horseback to Cordoba.
- 3- Omar receives the letter and reads it in concern. He gives in return a letter to the page.
- 4- The page gives Helena Omar's letter. She reads it longingly. It reads:

OMAR (V.O.)

Do you think I could live without you? I would rather fall by the arms of my enemies than die of grief for the loss of you.

INT. LEON'S COURT – DAY

Marcos convenes with the kings in the court's room.

MARCOS

Week ago I received a message from Omar saying that we evacuate Zaragoza, Andorra and Gerona, and to respect the peace settlement.

KING 1

How come and we are about to take decision to go to war? We certainly refuse all his demands.

KING 2

Now we are in a far better position than we had been before.

MARCOS

We have possession of three Arab cities now.

The usher at the door announces:

USHER

An envoy from king Omar.

Marcos and the kings look at the envoy with concern. The envoy gives Marcos a letter. Marcos reads it aloud.

MARCOS

From Omar the king of the Arabs in Spain to Marcos of Leon. I will bring against you forces with which you have no power to contend against. I swear by Allah to force upon you the humiliation of war. I will reduce your cities to ruins, so that the owl and the raven should cry in them.

MARCOS (CONT'D)

(after a pause)

Well, gentlemen, as it seems, the decision to go to war has already been taken.

INT. HELENA'S LIVING ROOM – DAY

Helena sits in her drawing room. Marcos surprises her by paying her a sudden visit.

HELENA

Marcos! What brought you this hour?

MARCOS

This time I am ready for Omar. After his defeat I will appoint myself the king of Leon. I don't mind marrying you so you can share the throne with me. I think it's a generous offer after the dishonor Omar brought upon you.

HELENA

(angrily)

You are of little sense and judgment. Omar is my husband and the father of my son. I am already the queen and I desire not a man to rule over me.

MARCOS

(shouting in her face)

You are going to regret this. Omar is never going to have any more of you. I can promise you that, you hear?

HELENA

Omar is a victorious lion and he will punish you for all that you have done to me.

MARCOS

You damned tramp. You have been whoring with that infidel for ten years, and when I throw my heart at your feet you treat me like a dog!

HELENA

Every dog barks at his own door. I can see terror in your eyes. I wonder if you will remain as impudent as you are now when you meet Omar. I am sure that cowardliness will overtake you as happened before. You are nothing and you will stay like that because you are treacherous and greedy. Don't ever speak to me again, and stay out of my life. I despise you.

Helena turns her back with a gesture of utter disdain and stalks from the room.

INT. OMAR'S PALACE – RICH SALOON – NIGHT

Omar stands at the entrance of the rich saloon. His mother sits in a comfortable armchair weeping.

OMAR

mother, you want to see me?

OMAR (CONT'D)

(as he approaches her)

Are you crying! What's the matter?

MOTHER QUEEN

I cry for fear that you might be eaten by the dust of earth.

OMAR

(holding her)

Help me endure what faith has decreed and don't let sorrow affect you.

MOTHER QUEEN

I have seen a terrible dream.

OMAR

Calm down mother, and tell me about your dream

MOTHER QUEEN

I saw you and Helena leaving the earth and rising up to heaven.
Abundant blood was pouring down from both of you.

OMAR

Take it easy mother, it's nothing but a nightmare.

MOTHER QUEEN

(holding him tight while still weeping)

Nothing remains now after a comfortable life but bitterness.

OMAR

Don't cry, mother, this is not our farewell should be.

MOTHER QUEEN

You say farewell! I fear I may not see you again.

OMAR

Don't fear anything mother; we are much stronger and more numerous.

MOTHER QUEEN

This time something is going wrong and looks black. Something treacherous and bloody.

OMAR

When adversities are multiplied upon man, where shall he find refuge from fate and from destiny? He whose death is decreed to take place in one land, will not die in any but that land.

MOTHER QUEEN

May Allah prolong your life, and may you not cease to subdue those who oppose you, and to be the refuge of those who have recourse to you, and the advocate of those who put their confidence in you.

INT. OMAR'S THRONE - DAY

Omar sits on his throne waiting for Hamza to enter. Hamza enters the court and walks swiftly towards Omar. He stops at Omar and bows respectfully.

OMAR

Order your knights to clothe themselves in the long coats of mail, and to hang on the keen swords, and to place in rest the terrible lances, and mount the high blood horses. We are going to war.

Hamza bows and leaves the room with a broad smile on his face.

EXT. OMAR'S ARMY – CITY GATES OF CORDOBA – BATTLE FIELD – DAY

We see Omar at the head of his army marching forth from the city of Cordoba. The army is composed of four regiments each consisting of twenty five thousand soldiers. Omar commands the first regiment, Hamza the second, Marawan, the government of Tortoza the third, and Nasser government of Valladolid the fourth. The whole army is dressed in red. As the army advances north, the troops and garrisons of the Arab provinces join the main army. By the time the army reaches the vicinity of Zaragoza, it numbers two hundred and fifty thousand warriors.

Here Omar signals the army to come to a halt. He gallops his horse several yards away then stops. He then calls for the commanders of his regiments:

OMAR

Hamza, Marawan, Nasser.

The three commanders gallop their horses toward him.

OMAR (CONT'D)

You know what to do. After you finish your missions meet me at the valley.

The three commanders gallop their horses back to their regiments.

The three regiments separate from the main army and each marches swiftly to a different direction.

Omar begins the war by first restoring the Arab provinces Marcos subdued.

These words appear on the screen: Zaragoza.

MONTAGE

1- Words on the screen: Zaragoza

We see engines casting stones batter the walls of Zaragoza with frequent volleys. The soldiers plant ladders and seek an entrance over the ramparts. Other soldiers make holes in the wall from which hundreds of soldiers penetrate into the city. In a short pace of time Zaragoza falls into Omar's hands.

2- Words on the screen: JERONA

The CAMERA focuses on Omar's troops surrounding Gerona. The gate of Gerona flies open and the garrison reaches out to engage with Omar's troops. The garrison is quickly surrounded and routed.

3- Words on the screen: ANDORRA

The CAMERA focuses on Omar's troops surrounding Andorra. The archers shoot fire arrows into the castle. The fire spreads through the castle. The battering ram with weight of several men put behind it destroys the huge wooden gate of the castle. The soldiers rush in and subdue the castle.

4- After Omar's victorious battles in Zaragoza, Andorra and Gerona, the CAMERA focuses on Omar's troops gathering quickly in battle formation heading west to fight Marcos.

EXT. MARCOS' ARMY – BATTLE FIELD

We see Marcos' forces pouring down from the cities of Pamplona, Bilbao, San Sebastian and Leon. The army gathers in a valley

surrounded by distant hills. Marcos and the kings wait on horseback for the army to assemble in the valley. Once the army is assembled, Marcos signals it to march forward. The army has not marched more than half an hour before they hear the sound of drums behind the hills.

Marcos rides up the nearest height, and from the top of it he beholds the first army of Omar already forming in the passes. Marcos put spurs to his horse and gallops back down the hill to the kings.

KING 1

Well?

MARCOS

Omar is here in arms and all the world is with him!

KING 2

Marcos, you look obviously disturbed. Isn't that what we expected?

A horseman gallops from afar until he stops at Marcos.

HORSEMAN

King Omar restored Zaragoza, Andorra and Gerona.

MARCOS

How come? His army has just arrived. All his troops are encamped on the valley behind those hills.

HORSEMAN

He conquered Zaragoza, Gerona and Andorra yesterday.

MARCOS

The devil, he took us by surprise.

HORSEMAN

It is not just that my lord. What you see behind those hills is not the whole of his army; it is only one regiment under his command.

MARCOS

What! And where is the rest of his army?

HORSEMAN

The rest of his army has already subdued Pamplona and Bilbao, and had burnt San Sebastian to the ground. These troops are now in their way to join Omar's forces behind those hills.

KING 1

We are watching the fall of our cities due to the small garrisons we left in them.

MARCOS

We are now surrounded by Omar's forces from the north, east and south.

MARCOS (CONT'D)

We are entrapped from all directions. We must stop him. We need time.

KING 1

He came for Helena Marcos. Helena can stop him.

MARCOS

Helena! What do you mean?

KING 1

Helena can persuade him to accept peace and cease war.

MARCOS

Yes, and in the meantime we seek the assistance of the dukes of Oviedo and La Couruna in the west seeking their assistance.

KING 1

Right you are, then we surprise Omar with a quick attack.

EXT. BATTLE FIELD – MARCOS PAVILLION – DAWN

MONTAGE – SERIES OF SHOTS

- 1- Marcos comes out from his pavilion and gives a dispatch-rider a message to be delivered to the dukes of Oviedo and La Coruna.
- 2- The dispatch-rider gallops his horse heading to the west.
- 3- Omar's patrol guards emerge suddenly from behind the bushes and arrest the dispatch rider.
- 4- Omar reads the message with concern.

INT. BATTLE FIELD – OMAR PAVILLION – DAY

We see Omar leaning on a table in his pavilion looking at a map. A guard at the entrance announces:

GUARD

A messenger from Leon.

Helena enters the pavilion. Omar stands gazing at her not believing his eyes. She stands there smiling up at him. Helena flies to his arms. Omar rains her face with kisses.

OMAR

O God. How much I love you. Don't ever leave me again.

HELENA

(tears in her eyes)

My soul has died out since you left me. Living away from you is like wandering about with perdition.

OMAR

You are the sun of my life, the soul of my body.

HELENA

I know my love how separation has made you suffer.

OMAR

With sword and lance I will erect a bridge above all these necks to carry you to a brighter world.

OMAR (CONT'D)

(whispering in her ears)

Shall I show you how much I love you?

HELENA

O, yes, love, please do.

They make love, abandoning themselves to emotions too long submerged. Naked in his arms she whispers in his ear:

HELENA

No more sadness, no more agony. Cease wounds, silence grief, for my beloved is here with me.

EXT. BATTLEFIELD – NIGHT.

The night has come, and they go out looking at the beauty of the moonlight spreading over the hills.

HELENA

Marcos and the kings want to make peace with you.

OMAR

I am smarter than that. I sent my eyes and spread my soldiers; surprise and war are what they want.

HELENA

They might be right about peace this time.

OMAR

Sending you here is a snare. I am here for war.

HELENA

I felt perfidy in their talk, but I was hoping for peace.

OMAR

The sword will decide the winner.

OMAR (CONT'D)

Don't fear anything my love; nothing is there to separate us anymore. I have come to win you in glory. After I am finished with Marcos I'll live with you in Leon, the city of love, the city of my beloved.

EXT. BATTLEFIELD – EARLY MORNING

Omar and Helena ride with a small constellation of knights. Three leagues distant from his army they behold Marcos troops gathering in military forms.

OMAR

(addressing Helena)

It's war, that's what they want.

HELENA

Until I see you again.

OMAR

Yes.

Helena sets off, and Omar keeps looking at her until she disappears. He then turns his eyes towards Marcos army. He keeps drawing the hilt of his sword then returning it to its sheath several times. The sound of the sword agitated his stallion and causes him to rear up on his hind quarters, desiring to attack.

OMAR

(shouts at the enemy below)

I am Omar, the son of Abdel Rahman. I hold dominions over the whole of Spain and over each tract of it. All the stubborn armies submitted themselves to me. In glory I reigned, abasing kings, and the people of the earth tremble before my majesty.

We had a peace treaty; you broke it, so don't blame but yourselves.

EXT. BATTLE FIELD – WAR – DAY

Omar's regiment advances to meet Marcos' battalions; many hard blows are given with swords, battle axes and other warlike weapons. Great is the pushing of lances. The Arabs being more numerous keep in a contact body and forces the Spaniard to draw back. Omar's knights attack with irresistible charge. They break through the enemy and press with such boldness that they crush the front. One could see the Spaniard's horses with their saddles displaced. Marawan and Nasser attack violently the right and left flanks of the Spaniards. The kings of Navarre and Castille are killed in the battle.

At length Marcos decided to retreat, but Hamza comes with his regiment from behind and harasses the rear. By this manner Omar closes up the way of escape to Marcos, compelling him to fight until the end. Marcos' army, beaten at all points, flees in all directions.

Marcos seeing his army defeated turns his back and flees with horror towards the west. The kings of Austria and Aragon also flee to the Pyrenees Mountains seeking the protection of the kings of the French provinces.

EXT. BATTLEFIELD – DAY (CONT'D)

While Marcos is riding swiftly towards the west, he beholds Helena on horseback standing on a hill watching in sorrow the corpses of her own people. At the same time Omar beholds Helena watching the dead. He hurries up to her and Helena dismounts to receive him. But Marcos is nearer to her. Helena seeing the signs of evil on his face realizes that he wants to cause her harm. She runs from him, trying to hide behind the thick trees. Marcos dismounts and runs after her until he

overtakes her. Omar dismounts and springs forward with drawn sword and cries aloud:

OMAR

Hold, marcos.

MARCOS

(a stiff smile on his face)

Ah, yes. The knight in shining armor is coming to your rescue. I promised you before that he is never going to have any more of you.

MARCOS (CONT'D)

(while stabbing Helena with a dagger)

Take this.

Helena pouring abundant blood falls to the ground beneath a tree. Seeing this from a near distance, Omar cries aloud:

OMAR

Traitor, now is your death-day come.

Fearing the vengeance of Omar, Marcos runs to escape, but Omar overtakes him and throws him to the ground. With both hands Omar raises his sword to drop it down on Marcos' head. Marcos seizes the opportunity and thrusts his dagger through Omar's belly, but at the same time Omar's sword comes down to cleave Marcos' head in two.

Omar summons all of his strength and crawls over to Helena who leans her back against a tree. He finds her wound is deep; there is no hope that she would live.

HELENA
(grieved)

O, Omar my love, I ask your pardon. I cost you your life.

OMAR

I came to join you preceded by my happiness.

HELENA

You don't know how much I love you.

OMAR

We are one soul in two bodies.

HELENA

The reign has gone; nothing remains but the two of us.

OMAR

Such is the world – a landing followed by departure.

HELENA

I long to hold you before I go.

He holds her and kisses her tenderly, then relaxes his body next to her, leaning his head on her hair.
Side by side Omar and Helena sit with their backs against the tree. The sky is bright, the birds come and settle upon the tree and sing.
The sun now becomes brutal, and they become parched with thirst.

HELENA

Are you still here?

OMAR

Yes my love.

HELENA

I didn't know before that death could be so beautiful.

OMAR

it's because we will go together.

HELENA

(a soft smile covering her face)

Fields of flowers and grass I see.

OMAR

I see golden flowers dancing in the breeze.

A soft cold breeze ripples through her hair.

HELENA

There could be no happiness like this. A scented fragrance has spread over my meadow.

OMAR

Our paradise has been found at last. Rise to the whispering of the roses.

Radiance gleams on the horizon and steals away the glow of life from their eyes. When they cease to breathe, their souls rise up to the heavens. The earth seems to them an insignificant spot in the distance. Their wandering souls have found at last the land of peace and eternal love.

Hamza, and the great officers come at last. There under the tree, they see Helena clinging to Omar, merging with him as life and death merge.

Hamza puts his arms around them and weeps uncontrollably.

HAMZA

When they died, a light in the soul of Spain went out.

BACK TO:

INT. KING OF SPAIN'S COURT –NIGHT

Gonzalez the bard finishes his tale. The king sits on his throne and smiles to Gonzalez who sits at his feet.

KING

You've been delightful company.

GONZALEZ

Thank you my lord.

KING

You've shown many a glimpses, yet never revealed the whole.

GONZALEZ

The Arabs hadn't left behind one single mark that influenced our lives. They don't carry in their souls the seeds of progress.

KING

You have no sense of history; nay, not one. I call you blind for missing blatant truth. You have crossed the line.

GONZALEZ

I just wanted to sheer you up my lord.

KING

I am tired I cannot sit anymore, I should really go, but you cannot leave, you stay.

The king leaves the court yawning, but Gonzalez stays in his place.

EXT. KING'S COURT – NEXT MORNING

The king sits on his throne, Gonzalez sits at his feet.

KING

Well, here I am again to tell you about the Arab's epoch in Spain. Now Gonzalez prepare for adventures you have never conceived.

GONZALEZ

Yes, my lord.

KING

The Arabs ruled eight hundred years during which they so blended with the natives that their blood runs in our veins.

GONZALEZ

I can see their faces in our faces.

KING

What demolished their reign in Spain is the mixing of their blood with ours and warring with one another after dividing Spain among themselves into small dominions.

KING (CONT'D)

When the Arabs first came to Spain, Europe was sunk in darkness. At that time the world had only two civilizations; one in Baghdad under the reign of

the Abbasites who succeeded the Omniades to the throne, and the other in Spain under the reign of the Omniades who fled from the Abbasites after the decline of their reign in Syria.

Here the king continues talking as V.O. His narration about the achievements of the Arabs in Spain is accompanied by a MONTAGE – a series of shots or scenes illustrating his narration.

KING (V.O.)

When the Arabs first settled in Cordoba, they found Andalusia a remote harbor devoid of any reign's ornament, so they imposed on its inhabitants obedience and etiquette. They also recruited troops and granted flags until they became feared by the greatest kings of Europe.

SHOT 1

Arab knights on horseback carrying flags and followed by rows of troops marching in military formation.

KING (V.O.)

Abel Rahman the first constructed his splendid palace, the big mosque and a huge wall surrounding his capital Cordoba.

SHOT 2

Splendid Arabian palace, big mosque, huge wall surrounding the city.

KING (V.O.)

During his reign the kingdom of the Arabs was established, cities and fortresses were built and roads and rivers were cut.

SHOT 3

THE CAMERA penetrates roads, rivers, and fortresses of a neatly built city.

KING (V.O.)

He had several battles with the Christian kings and won them all. After he died, his son Hicham followed him to the throne. Hicham opened the cities of Arbona and Valencia. His troops penetrated up to small Bretagne in the north west of France. The succeeding kings enlarged the kingdom by opening the cities of Valencia, Pamplona and Leon.

SHOT 4

Arab troops entangling with Christian troops and pushing them back.

KING (V.O.)

Then came Abdel Rahman the second. His reign was mostly peaceful and characterized by abundant wealth. He was fond of music. When Zeriab, the famous singer, came to Cordoba from Baghdad, Abdel Rahman rode in person to meet him, thus allowing the profession of singing to flourish in Andalusia.

SHOT 5

We see Abdel Rahman the second riding with his dignitaries to meet Zariab. Zeriab dismounts and bows respectfully to the Caliph.

KING (V.O.)

Zeriab established a conservatoire. He was the first to invent an oriental lute with five strings and used it to compose beautiful Arabian songs.

SHOT 6

We see Zariab playing on his lute and singing while surrounded by beautiful concubines dancing around a water fountain.

KING (V.O.)

In the tenth century Abdel Raman Elnasser ascended the throne. He was not only the mightiest of the Omniades kings in Spain but also in all of Europe. He ruled for fifty years during which the Arab civilization reached its peak. Elnasser constructed the city of Azahraa as a district to Cordoba

which was the capital during his reign in Spain. In his shining city he built formidable palaces, buildings, flowering parks and a huge natural zoological garden. He brought water to his palaces from remote areas. He also built factories for arms, jewelry and other crafts.

SHOT 7

THE CAMERA TRAVELS through an illustrious city revealing its palaces, buildings, parks, zoological garden etc.

KING (V.O.)

There was in the city of Alzahraa thousand wondrous doors and three hundred obelisks made of precious colored marble. Alzahraa palace surpassed any other palace in splendor and majesty; its doors were made of cedar wood overlaid with gold and silver. Cordoba became the center of philosophy and literature. Justice and peace were spread in his days; urbanization extended; civilization enlarged; agriculture and trade flourished. The cities of Andalusia had reached a total of eighty big cities and three hundred small ones; the farms and villages surpassed twelve thousands, and when Elnasser died, he left in the house of alms five trillion dinars.

SHOT 8

We see golden dinars raining into a silver vessel.

KING (V.O.)

After Elnasser came his son Ehakam. When the Spaniards occupied the harbors, he invaded their cities and seized San Sebastian, Castille, and Barcelona. The fall of Calimeria into his hands was his great victory against the Spaniards. But science was the field of his greatest conquest. He honored philosophers and collected thousands of books that no other king before him had done. He sent his men to buy all the books they could get from all other nations. They brought him four hundred thousand books

written in different languages, then spent years translating and binding them. In this manner Elhakam established in Cordoba a rich library that remains unique in its wealth until the present.

SHOT 9

THE CAMERA ROAMS over books arranged on wooden shelves, richly leather bounded.

KING (V.O.)

The unbiased look of Islam at the other religions allowed knowledge seekers from other religions in all of Europe to attend the lectures of science in mosques and schools.

Shot 10

THE CAMERA ROAMS over a large hall in a mosque revealing the Arabs sit side by side with pontiffs, priests, Jews and Christians listening to a lecture given by an Arab philosopher.

KING (V.O.)

The Koran urged Muslims to contemplate, think, and consider, learn, explore and deduce. Taking these principles into consideration, the Arabs had established their modern method of experimentation only one hundred and eighty five years after the advent of Islam. The jurisprudent Elshafei established his philosophical method of syllogism with which he was able to pass sentence upon cases that had no judgments in the Koran.

He set down twelve conditions to first be followed in order to apply his method for contriving judgments. These conditions were so accurate that they became the basis for the scientific method the Arabs used to acquire science in all fields.

SHOT 11

We see Elshafei sitting on the floor in a mosque with a book in his lap, surrounded by his students.

KING (V.O.)

Three hundred years after Elshafei came the jurist Elghazaly, who referred to Elshafei's work and emphasized four main errors that caused man to deviate from undertaking adequate research. The eight hundred years of the Arabs in Spain – that epoch which preceded the age of enlightenment was full of great discoveries. Their philosopher devoted themselves to a study of life on earth rather than in heaven, hell, and purgatory.

KING (V.O.) (CONT'D)

In their time science reign supreme. To set examples of only some of their greatest philosophers, we begin with Gaber ibn Hayan, the first chemist in history. He was the first to explain the chemical union of metals through the combination of atoms. Elkhawarizmy was the first to establish the science of Algebra and logarithm. Then came Ghiath Elkashy who discovered the decimal fractions. Elkandy discovered compasses to measure geometrical angles, weighed liquids and conducted gravity experiments. He was also a remarkable astronomer and wrote books about the position of the planets and their influence upon the earth. He proved that all celestial bodies were spherical. Further he was a chemist and proved that cheap metals cannot be transformed into precious ones like silver and gold.

SHOT 12

THE CAMERA reveals Arab scientists in their laboratories working in the different scientific fields.

KING (V.O.)

Abo Bakr ELrazy was an outstanding chemist and a remarkable physician. His book "Elmansouty" was considered in Europe the main reference on medicine until the end of the 17th century.

SHOT 13

THE CAMERA focuses on a huge leather book having the title “Elmansoury”.

KING (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Elhassan ibn Elhaysam is the discoverer of light in modern science. Avicenna wrote 107 books on science, astronomy and medicine. His remarkable book in medicine, “The Law” remained the corner stone for teaching medicine in Europe until the 17th century.

SHOT 14

THE CAMERA focuses on a huge leather book having the title “The Law”.

KING (V.O.)

Aborayhan Elbayrouny measured the periphery of the earth and concluded that the bowel of the earth is the attractant force that hold people on its surface - thus the first to discover gravity. He also proved that the earth moves like a millstone turning around on its axis, thus discovering the revolving of the earth. He also invented very accurate scales that adequately weighed the specific gravity of metals.

SHOT 15

THE CAMERA focuses on: 1) the terrestrial globe turning around itself. 2) a laboratory with scales weighing metals.

KING (V.O.)

Ibn Elbeeetar wrote a book on drugs and nourishment. Elteefashy was the first geologist in history who classified metals based on the flame test. Ibn Alnafees was the first to discover blood circulation in the human body.

SHOT 16

THE CAMERA focuses on a heart with arteries and jugular vein, pumping blood.

KING (V.O.)

Ibn Khaldoon was the first to establish social science. He spread the idea of free economy and thought that art, language, belief and tradition are the pillars on which societies are founded. Then came Awaleed ibn Roshd who is known to us as Averros. He glorified free thinking and stated that there was no separation between philosophy and statute.

INT. PALACE BALCONY – JUST BEFORE SUNSET

The king rises from his throne and walks to the spacious balcony where he sits on a comfortable chair. Gonzalez follows him like his shadow and sits at his feet. The sun descends towards the horizon, coloring it red. The king looks at the mounds and mountains before him. His mind seems to be gone away very far, but he is ready to release his words unspoken. The king gazes intently at Gonzalez eyes.

KING

So, as you see, Gonzalez, The Arabs have sown the seeds of progress in a barren land and we were the one who reaped the fruit.

GONZALEZ

Sorry Sire, I was wrong to assume that they do not carry in their souls the seeds of progress.

KING

Europe was living in darkness, the Arabs shattered the darkness, and they smashed the night into a thousand lights of sun. Now you understand just why they were like stars. This is not going to be veiled by the neglect of the cognizant or the disregard of the ignorant.

GONZALEZ

I understand from your words Sire that they remolded the future with their creative hands. They brought to light the laws that all of nature rule.

KING

Men wonder where their secret lies. But I knew. They came to teach us

through their science and religion how to separate the true from the false and knowledge from ignorance. They paved the way to the age of the Renaissance.

KING (CONT'D)

Now do you have a clue?

GONZALEZ

Sire, you are the most cognizant of the Arabs' achievements in Spain.

The late sun burned through the horizon, cutting long shimmering beams across the valley, and one of these falls full on the king. The king rises to his feet and glances at Gonzalez with an unusual sharpness that is enough to send Gonzalez' blood running cold.

KING

(in a serious tone)

During the past few hours Gonzalez you have not been listening to a tale, but to my words. You have been listening to the voice of history, the words of truth, the words of the king.

FADE OUT

THE END

