

TRANSITION OF POWER

Written by

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INT. PALACE/BREAKFAST ROOM - DAY

A long table with two high backed chairs on each end and one midway between the two. Fruit, coffee and danish arrays the table with fresh cut flowers.

KING SAEED, 78 yrs old, sits at table, reads a paper. Looks up at the entryway, looks back down at his paper.

SERVER, stands in the corner of the room adjacent to doorway. Folds his hands behind his back.

KHALID, 29 yr old Prince, stumbles through doorway shirtless with sunglasses on.

Khalid falls into a chair opposite his father.

King Saeed looks up and frowns.

KING SAEED  
(sarcastically)  
How Nice of you to join me. I see  
you have been up to your normal  
routine of reckless spending and  
late-night shenanigans.

Khalid clears his throat, peers over his glasses at King Saeed.

KHALID  
Can I get my coffee before you  
start? I've had a very long night.

KING SAEED  
If that's what you need, by all  
means. You look like a fool in  
those glasses. If you want to hang  
with the owls, you must soar with  
the eagles!

KHALID snickers.

KHALID  
It's too early for this Father.

KHALID turns and raises his hand for Server to pour him a cup coffee.

SERVER walks over to Khalid, pours a cup of coffee, returns to the corner of the room.

KING SAEED looks up at Server and nods his head.

Server bows, turns and walks out of the room.

KING SAEED  
It is time for us to talk.

Khalid loudly slurps from his cup.

King Saeed glares at Khalid.

KING SAEED (CONT'D)  
Must you make such sounds?

Khalid gets up from the table and walks towards the door to leave.

King Saeed slams his hand on the table.

KING SAEED (CONT'D)  
Where do you think you are going?  
We have much to discuss.

Khalid turns back to look at King Saeed.

KHALID  
Can we do this later Father? I'm  
exhausted and I have a headache.

King Saeed stands, leans forward.

KING SAEED  
Sit down now! In three days I name  
my successor and you continue to  
bring disgrace to my legacy with  
your constant late-night whoring.

KHALID  
I am not doing this with you, not  
now Father. My head is pounding.

KING SAEED  
That is not my problem, You shall  
sit down and listen to what I have  
to say.

Khalid sighs, walks to the table and sits down.

KING SAEED (CONT'D)  
As of today you are financially cut  
off. You must begin preparation for  
your coronation and your wedding.

Khalid begins to snore.

King Saeed BANGS on the table.

Khalid jumps in his seat.

KING SAEED (CONT'D)

Now that I have your attention,  
take off those glasses or I'll do  
it for you!

Khalid takes the glasses off and places them on the table.  
He looks for the Server.

He stands and walks over to the patio entryway.

King Saeed sits down.

KING SAEED (CONT'D)

No young prince, it is just you and  
I now. They'll be no more coffee  
for now. I am doing this to secure  
your future. When you become king,  
your sister shall marry.

Khalid turns and looks at his father.

KHALID

Have you asked her what she wants  
Father?

KING SAEED

What she wants does not matter. It  
has been pre-arranged.

King Saeed coughs violently. He grabs a cloth napkin and  
blood trickles as he coughs onto it. He balls it up and hides  
the blood stained napkin from his son.

KING SAEED (CONT'D)

You've been groomed your entire  
life for this Khalid. I am not  
well and must see this through  
before I die.

KHALID

It's just like you to try emotional  
manipulation. How many times will  
you play the sick card? You're  
still here.

Khalid walks over to the table and grabs a Pacay, opens it  
and eats it. He walks towards the patio.

King Saeed rises from the table and walks to stand by Khalid.

Birds chirp softly.

KING SAEED

There is much I have kept hidden.  
We must never appear weak or  
vulnerable to anyone.

King Saeed puts his hand on Khalid's shoulder.

KHALID

It's not going to work, not even if  
you die right in front of me. I  
will still renounce the throne!

Khalid brushes King Saeed's hand away and walks over to the table. He grabs another pacay and sits in a chair.

King Saeed walks over to the table. He stands over Khalid.

KING SAEED

It's time to grow up young prince.  
We cannot always do what we want  
when we have obligations.

Khalid stands, pushes his chair back with force.

KHALID

That's why Mom escaped. She decided  
that a life in poverty was better  
than with you.

King Saeed raises his hand to hit Khalid but stops.

KHALID (CONT'D)

Go ahead, do it!

King Saeed walks to the middle of the table and lowers his head. He places a hand on the table for support.

KHALID (CONT'D)

You see what you want to see  
Father. Taif should rule. My  
precious Sister speaks eight  
languages and has traveled more  
than I. You are blinded by the old  
ways.

KING SAEED

Travel was necessary. It was part  
of her education as was yours.

KHALID

Perhaps, but you have no idea how capable she is. She is beautiful and she's brilliant. You fail to see her just as you failed to see mother. You are set in your ways. I understand why my mother left.

King Saeed walks to the far end of the table and sits. He frowns, inhales and lightly gasp for air. Sweat beads form on his forehead.

KING SAEED

It is a father's job to protect and provide for his children's future. Taif's marriage will bring two kingdoms together.

KHALID

Have you once considered that there is a better way to accomplish this?

KING SAEED

This is tradition. Her husband is not to be a king in his line, however, he will provide and protect her. They will have a promising future.

KHALID

No, they will have what you want. Taif should be your successor and you know it.

KING SAEED

This is tradition. This is how it has always been done! Who am I to change it? She would be vulnerable and open to scrutiny as a woman, she will be unsafe.

King Saeed clears his throat.

Khalid walks over to his father and looks down at him.

Khalid sighs, shakes his head and walks toward the patio.

KHALID

Do you think I would not protect her. I am in charge of our armies. I move strategically. That is my gift Father!

KING SAEED  
You have many gifts.

Khalid turns to look at his father.

KHALID  
Father, as a ruler, Taif would be placed in a powerful and secure position. Her husband would become king, but our armies will always be loyal to our line. She would give him something his own family refused, a chance to rule beside a queen.

KING SAEED  
This is not tradition. We must always follow the old ways. They have kept our dynasty flourishing for centuries. Who am I to change a tradition that has been in place for centuries?

Khalid clinches his fist and teeth.

KHALID  
Times have changed Father and if we don't change with them, the legacy you speak of will die as well as the dynasty you hope to save.

Khalid turns and walks to the doorway. He stops, turns to look at his father and frowns.

KHALID (CONT'D)  
You ask who you are to change tradition Father? I thought you were the king.

KING SAEED  
Khalid, wait. Perhaps I am holding onto the old ways because they are all I know. I just need to know that my children will be secure when I die.

KHALID  
If what you say is true Father, then do as I ask. I assure you, we will thrive and make your name greater than it has ever been.

Khalid leaves.

King Saeed coughs and blood trickles down his lips. He grabs a cloth napkin, stands and falls. He grabs the table cloth and pulls it as he hits the floor with a THUD.

GLASS SHATTERS as cups, glasses and bowls fall to the floor.

The Servant runs into the room and yells for help. He bows beside King Saeed and places a hand under his head.

The Servant wipes blood from King Saeed's mouth with a napkin.

KING SAEED  
(whispers)

Have Khalid and Taif come quickly.

King Saeed takes his last breath before anyone arrives.