

The Spear

by Phillip W. Weiss

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Characters

Kayba/Ken – a Cromag/archaeologist

Maka/Mala – a Cromag/archaeologist

Keelga/Kevin – a Cromag/archaeologist

Eelna/Enid – a Cromag/archaeologist

Dulca – a Cromag

Reegna – a Cromag

Leena – a Cromag

Noog – a brute

Kog – a brute

Seera/Kay-Two – a baby Cromag

Other Cromags

Knowledge can be lethal.

Prologue

NARRATOR

This play is set in the year 44,753 BC. A new species of human beings have recently appeared in Europe. Known today as Cro-Magnon man, named after the location in France where their remains were first discovered, they are the first known primates of the genus and species Homo Sapien. In this story they are called Cromags. Their origins are unknown. Biologically and psychologically they are identical to modern day humans. They differ from us only culturally and technologically. They speak a language, Cromag, that has long since disappeared leaving no written record. They share their habitat with another species of humans, known today as Neanderthal man but known by the Cromags as brutes. The two species are in conflict. It is understood that in this play all the characters speak Cromag, but to facilitate the telling of this story speak English. Also, all characters are clothed in animal hides which provide protection from the elements and conceal their nakedness. The Cromags understand the concept of modesty and believe in a higher spiritual power. The entire play is set in the interior of a cave located in what is today central Greece.

Scene 1

A woman is tending a fire which is being used to roast the leg of a deer. Her name is Maka. She is 18 years old. Nearby is a basket made from twigs. The basket contains an infant. A man enters. His name is Kayba. He is 20 years old. He is carrying a long wooden staff in one hand and a sharp stone with a cord hanging from it in the other.

MAKA

Did you bring back anything?

KAYBA
(discouraged)

No.

Kayba glances at the staff and sharp stone and flings them aside in disgust.

The damn piece of junk. I fasten the head of the spear to the staff, and as soon as it hits an antelope the head falls off.

MAKA

Why can't you make a spear out of piece of wood?

KAYBA

Because, even with a sharp point, a wooden spear cannot penetrate an animal's hide and it wears out quickly and requires constant replacement. And when it rains, a wooden spear is completely useless for hunting. But a sharp rock can be used repeatedly.

MAKA

Where are the others?

KAYBA

Still out there gathering some berries.

MAKA

Why aren't you helping them?

KAYBA
(angry)

I'm sick and tired of eating berries.

MAKA

Look, I'm cooking that antelope leg. You want a piece?

KAYBA

You know what will happen if we eat that.

MAKA

He'll never know.

KAYBA

Like he'll never know who fathered the baby?

MAKA

That's right.

KAYBA

He thinks it's his, doesn't he?

MAKA

Well, so what? It's not his, it's yours.

KAYBA

How do you know that?

MAKA

Because I just know.

KAYBA

You're wrong. Babies come from the great god Deeka.

MAKA

I know, but I was blessed after we did the act.

KAYBA

But I am not Deeka.

MAKA

But I think you are. You just took the form of a human.

KAYBA

Me, a god! Don't talk that way. It will make Deeka angry.

MAKA
(laughs)

You are silly, but I love you.

KAYBA

Why? I can't make a spear that works; I'm not even part of this clan. I'm useless.

MAKA

But you are kind and good, and when we are together you make me happy.

KAYBA

If Dulca ever finds out, he'll kill us.

MAKA

Don't worry about that, he can't kill you because you are Deeka.

(From offstage comes the sound of people talking.)

MAKA

I guess they're back.

Two men and a woman enter. One of the men is large. His name is Dulca. He is 26 years old. The other is his younger brother, Keelga, who is 17. The third is Eelma, Maka's younger sister. She is 16 years old. She is carrying a sack full of berries and roots.

DULCA
(to Kayba)

No wonder you left. You want some of my antelope.

KAYBA

That's not so. I left because the spear broke.

DULCA

But you are the hunter. Your job is to hunt.

KAYBA

But I can't hunt without a spear.

DULCA

Then use a club or rock.

EELMA

But they don't work against antelope.

DULCA

(angry, to Eelma)

Who asked you? *(to Kayba)* You're just lazy. You have things too easy. When I was your age, I killed antelope with my bare hands.

KEELGA

That's right. I once saw him do it.

DULCA

Thank you, little brother, but I can speak for myself.

KAYBA

That's impossible.

DULCA

(threatening)

Are you doubting me? Is anyone here doubting me?

Suddenly Dulca grabs Kayba.

I asked you a question. Now, answer.

MAKA

Please, Dulca, leave him alone. He didn't mean what he said.

DULCA

I think he did mean it. In fact, I think he wants to eat my food.

MAKA

No, that's not true.

DULCA

It better not be. I'm the head of this clan, and don't anyone forget that.

KEELGA

That's right! And if anyone messes with Dulca, you will answer to me. *(Keelga reaches inside his clothes and removes a large rock, which he brandishes in front of Kayba. The rock has razor edges and a sharp point. It is known as The Knife.)* You know what this is, and if anyone has any complaints...

MAKA

No!

DULCA

Well, Kayba, what do you say?

KAYBA

I ... didn't ... mean ... it.

Dulca releases Kayba. Keelga puts down The Knife.

KEELGA

Nobody dares oppose my brother or The Knife.

DULCA

That's better. Now we can all eat. *(to Maka)* Is the antelope leg ready?

MAKA

Yes.

DULCA

Then bring it here.

Maka removes the antelope leg from the spit over the fire and brings it to Dulca who takes it and splits it in half, keeping one half and giving the other half to Keelga.

KEELGA
(laughing)

This is good!

The others are watching Dulca and Keelga eat.

DULCA
What are you all looking at? Eat! You have food too.

Kayba, Maka and Eelma start eating the berries. They eat in silence.

KEELGA
(mocking)

Kayba, what's wrong with you? Don't you know how to use a spear?

EELMA

Leave him alone!

KEELGA

Shut up! Who's talking to you?

EELMA

You're making fun of him.

Keelga stops eating, gets up, walks over to Eelma and slaps her hard on the face.

KEELGA

That will teach you to talk back to me.

Maka rushes over to Eelma.

MAKA
(to Keelga)

You brute. You hurt her.

KEELGA

The same will happen to you if you don't shut up.

EELMA
(to Maka)

It's okay, Maka. He didn't mean anything.

KEELGA

Oh, I meant it. Remember, because of us, you have protection.

MAKA

And because of us you can go out and get food.

KEELGA

Who needs you? We don't need women!

DULCA

I wouldn't say that. (*winks and laughs*)

KEELGA
(*laughs too*)

Of course, Dulca, they are good for ... something.

EELMA
(to Kayba)

Aren't you going to stand up for us?

Kayba is silent.

KEELGA

Well, Kayba? Can't talk?

DULCA

Ah, leave him be. He's useless. Can't do anything right.

KEELGA

Why do we let him stay?

DULCA

There are reasons.

KEELGA
(to Kayba)

You were thrown out of your clan, weren't you?

(silence)

Well, weren't you?

KAYBA

Yes.

KEELGA

And we took you in. Right?

KAYBA

Yes.

KEELGA

And how do you repay us?

KAYBA

I do my job.

KEELGA

You do nothing! You are nothing!

KAYBA

I killed the antelope that you are eating.

KELGA

Big deal. The thing was already half dead when we found it. We could have killed it without you.

(to Dulca)

Why don't we throw him out?

DULCA

Because if we do, he'll just come back, like a stray dog that won't leave. And besides, where could he go? He is our slave.

KEELGA
(to *Kayba*)

I think you're nothing but trouble. My brother is just too nice. I would not be so nice. This cave is just not big enough for all of us.

KAYBA

If you want me to leave, I'll go.

MAKA

No!

DULCA
(to *Maka*)

Why no?

MAKA

Because we need Kayba to ... protect us.

DULCA

Quiet, woman. I provide protection! (to *Keelga*) Maybe we need to go find us two new women. (to *Maka*) Bring the baby here.

Maka gets up, picks up the baby and hands it to Dulca. Dulca starts playing with the baby.

Nice baby. Let's name him Seera. Take the baby back.

Maka takes the baby and starts feeding him.

DULCA

Look at her, so shameless.

MAKA

Leave me be.

EELMA

If you want, I'll feed the baby.

MAKA

You're not ready, yet.

KEELGA

Ha. We'll see about that.

EELMA
(to Keelga)

Don't you touch me!

KEELGA

I'll touch you whenever I want!

Keelga takes out his knife, goes over to Eelma and points the knife directly at her throat.

I'll have you right now! Now strip!

Eelma is silent

MAKA

No!

KEELGA

I'll say this one more time: strip!

Everyone is silent.

Keelga grabs Eelma who screams. Kayba gets up and grabs Keelga. Pandemonium ensues. Dulma stops eating and joins the fracas. Everyone is fighting. Kayba punches Keelga on the stomach. Dulca grabs Kayba, throws him on the ground and starts kicking him viciously.

End of scene 1

Scene 2

Time: Three hours later. It is night. It is pitch black except for a faint light coming from the fire. Dulca, Keelga and Eelma are sleeping. Maka is sitting next to Kayba, whose head is bleeding.

MAKA
You were so brave.

KAYBA
And look what it got me.

MAKA
But you saved my little sister.

KAYBA
Not for long. Keelga will have his way. He has the knife.

MAKA
But you are Deeka, so you will help us.

KAKA
I've told you that I am not Deeka. I am Kayba, a nobody.

MAKA
But you are a god, I know it, I can feel it. Here, feel me.

Maka takes Kayba's hand and places it on her forehead.

Feel how hot I am?

KAYBA
Yes.

MAKA
I only get that way for you. That's why I know you are Deeka.

KAYBA

Maka, please ...

Suddenly Maka kisses Kayba. Kayba kisses her back. Dulca wakes up.

DULCA

What's going on over there?

MAKA

Nothing. I was just making sure Kayba was alright.

DULCA

You belong here with me, not him. He can take care of himself.

MAKA

But he was bleeding.

DULCA

I said for you to leave him.

KAYBA

Go.

DULCA

You see. He doesn't need you.

MAKA

I have to feed the baby.

DULCA

Leave the baby be. I want you here.

MAKA

But ...

DULCA

Come over here ... NOW!

KAYBA

Please leave me be. I'll be alright.

Maka looks at Kayba, then gets up and joins Dulca. Soon, from the darkness comes the sound of two people having sex.

End of scene 2

Scene 3

Time: The next day.

Maka is squatting down; running her fingers through the dirt. Kayba enters. Once again he is carrying a broken spear.

Hello, Maka. **KAYBA**

Maka looks up.

What are you doing? **KAYBA**

Nothing. **MAKA**

Okay. **KAYBA**

Pause

My spear broke. What am I going to do?

Who cares? **MAKA**
(sad)

I care. **KAYBA**

True: only about you and your dumb spear. **MAKA**

Hey! That's not true. **KAYBA**

It is true. You're afraid. **MAKA**

KAYBA

Of what? I go out to hunt every day.

MAKA

Not of what, but of whom.

KAYBA

Look, I can't fight Dulca. He and his brother have the knife. All I have is a broken spear.

MAKA

You know what Dulca made me do last night.

KAYBA

You're his woman.

MAKA

But I don't want him. He is mean.

KAYBA

But also strong.

Eelma enters. She is crying. She runs to Maka.

EELMA

Keelga hurt me again.

Maka hugs Eelma.

MAKA

There, there, little sister.

Eelma continues crying.

MAKA

You see. They're horrible; worse than the wolves. I pray to Deeka that they are killed. Deeka sent you but you do nothing. What have I done to offend you?

KAYBA

I keep telling you that I am not a god.

EELMA
(to Kayba)

Save me, Kayba!

KAYBA

But what can I do? It's two against one and they have the knife.

MAKA

You are a god so you will find the answer.

KAYBA

But how can I find the answer when I don't even know the question?

MAKA

You are a silly god. You make me and my sister wait.

Sounds of Dulca and Keelga approaching from off stage.

EELMA
(terrified)

They're returning.

Dulca and Keelga enter. Keelga is carrying the half-eaten remains of a hog.

DULCA

Look what we found!

Keelga drops the carcass next to the fire.

DULCA
(to Maka)

Cook me a meal.

MAKA

It smells awful.

KEELGA

(laughs)

It smells, she says. Once it's cooked, the smell will go away.

Maka pokes at the rancid carcass.

DULCA

Stop playing with it and cook it. Keelga and I are hungry. *(looks at Kayba)*
So, again, you spear breaks. What's wrong with you? You hit that deer and nothing happened. You're a dohbay.*⁽¹⁾

KAYBA

I am not!

DULCA

I say you are. Because of you, none of us are going to have deer meat.

KAYBA

Since when do you share food?

DULCA

Since, always. You have your berries and roots. *(to Maka)* How's the baby?

MAKA

The baby is fine.

KEELGA

(to Eelma)

Why did you run away from me?

EELMA

Because you were hurting me.

KEELGA

I was just having a little fun. Don't you like to play?

EELMA

I do, but not with you!

KEELGA

Why, you little ...

Suddenly Kayba gets up and hits Keelga hard on the jaw. Keelga staggers and falls down, unconscious.

DULCA

How come you can't do that to a deer?

Kayba does not reply. Dulca gets up, walks slowly to Kayba, smiles at him, and then punches him on the stomach, then on the face. Maka and Eelma are screaming.

End of scene 3

SCENE 4

Time: night

Light is coming from the fire.

Dulca is awake, standing; the others are sleeping.

DULCA

(to the group)

I must watch over all of you. You are all so bad.

KAYBA

(awakes)

Oh, Dulca. Why did you hit me?

DULCA

I had to teach you a lesson, again.

KAYBA

(groggy)

What lesson?

DULCA

To never talk back. You are so dense.

KAYBA

I don't talk back.

DULCA

But you do.

KAYBA

When?

DULCA

Every time you look at Maka.

That's not talking. KAYBA

You talk with your eyes. She is my woman, not yours. DULCA

I never said she wasn't. KAYBA

Well, don't you forget it. Okay? DULCA

Okay. KAYBA
(pause)
You keep bossing me around like I am nothing.

You're asking for another beating. DULCA

The conversation awakes the Maka and Keelga.

I heard what you said to Kayba. MAKA
(to Dulca)

Be quiet. DULCA
(to Maka)

What's going on here? KEELGA

We're just talking. DULCA

KEELGA

Talking? After what that besakay⁽²⁾ Kayba did to me?

DULCA

Don't worry. He won't do that again. Right, Kayba?

Silence.

Well, Kayba?

MAKA

(to Dulca)

You are so mean.

DULCA

And you are so disloyal.

MAKA

We have bigger things to worry about.

DULCA

Like what?

MAKA

That tribe of bedookay⁽³⁾ in the next valley.

DULCA

You mean those ugly brutes?

MAKA

Maybe they're ugly but they forage where we hunt.

DULCA

Then perhaps you should be talking to Kayba about that.

MAKA

Aren't you our protector?

DULCA

Yes, but he does the work, while I do the protecting. Keelga, show them the knife. *(Keelga leaves then returns with the knife. Dulca takes the knife and holds it in front of him.)* This is our protector and I am the one who possesses it.

EELMA
(awakes)

Your talking awoke me.

KEELGA

Hello, girly.

EELMA

Don't call me girly.

KEELGA

You are a girly because you won't let me make you into a woman.

EELMA

You're a beast.

KEELGA

Yes, I am, and you like it.

EELMA

I don't like it. Deeka will punish you.

KEELGA

Where is Deeka?

EELMA

Everywhere. Like maybe even in this cave.

KEELGA
(laughs)

I'm not Deeka, and you're not Deeka, and Maka is not Deeka. That leaves Dulca and Kayba. I'm betting on Dulca.

DULCA
(laughs)

No, no I'm not Deeka. No way. To even think that will bring bad luck.

KEELGA

So, that leaves Kayba, and there's no way that he can be a god.

KAYBA

Yesterday I proved I was god enough to give you a good wacking.

KEELGA

You caught me by surprise.

KAYBA

No I did not. It was fair.

KEELGA

If it were fair you would be dead.

KAYBA

You and your brother ganged up on me.

DULCA

Well, we have to keep you in line.

MAKA

By making fun of him?

DULCA

If it weren't for us, he would be dead. You know he was thrown out of his clan. You want to know why?

KAYBA
Please don't discuss it.

KEELGA
What's wrong, Kayba? Can't handle the truth?

KAYBA
No. It's just that ...

DULCA
Just what?

KAYBA
Why bring this up now?

DULCA
Maybe it's time for Maka to know.

MAKA
Whatever Kayba did won't mean anything to me.

DULCA
You might feel differently after you are told.

MAKA
No, I will not.

DULCA
Okay. Don't tell me later that I did not warn you.

KAYBA
Please, don't tell!

DULCA
I must tell, to clear the air.

Pause

Five moons ago cousin Reegna asked me to do him a favor. He asked me to take in Kayba. I asked why. Reegna said that Kayba did something awful. I asked what he had done. Reegna told me that he had done keelay-jeelay⁽⁴⁾ with his son, Weelga.

KAYBA

No! It's not true! I never touched Weelga!

DULCA

That's not what Reegna said, and Reegna never lies. But there is more. On the hunts you were useless. You hunted with spears that broke, just like with us. Reegna said that he wanted put you into exile, which would mean death. But I said no. Let me take him and make him a useful. When he is fixed I will send him back. Reegna was so grateful that he promised to share the next two antelopes or deer he killed with me. So now he is indebted to me and will hold him to that debt. As for Kayba, he has to shape up so that I can collect.

MAKA

All lies.

DULCA
(laughs)

Look how you come to his defense. And yet you deny that you and Kayba have something going on.

KAYBA

You didn't have to mention that stuff about Weelga.

DULCA

But it's true, isn't it?

KAYBA

You believe it to be true, so my denials would be a waste of time.

KEELGA
(to Kayba)

You are such a liar.

KAYBA

I am not.

KEELGA

Let's send him back to Weelga now.

DULCA

No! He's to stay until he is fixed.

KEELGA

But what about if you can't fix him?

DULCA

We'll talk about that later.

End of scene 4

Scene 5

Time: the next day

Maka is tending to the fire. She is roasting vegetables. She is also running her fingers through the dirt, drawing different patterns. Kayba enters. He tosses the spear and the spear head against the wall of the cave.

MAKA

No luck again?

KAYBA

For me, no. I just don't know what to do about making sure the spear head stays on the end of the shaft.

Maka continues her drawing. Kayba watches her draw.

KAYBA

What are you doing?

MAKA

I call it drawing.

KAYBA

What are you ... drawing?

MAKA

I call them circles.

KAYBA

It's like you're creating something in the dirt.

MAKA

Yes, that's it.

Maka continues to run her fingers through the dirt, in ever smaller concentric circles. Kayba watches, fascinated.

MAKA
(chants)

Keepay deepay yadomay,
dohmay yaygay lagomay,
eckay megay yadomay,
dooray selbay keebaday.⁽⁵⁾

KAYBA

What's that you're saying?

MAKA

Those are magic words that I learned from my mother. She was very wise.
(pause) You want to say them?

KAYBA

Yes.

Maka continues drawing the concentric circles. Kayba continues to watch, fascinated.

MAKA

Now you say the words with me.

(Maka and Kayba slowly chant the words together.)

Keepay deepay yadohmay,
dohmay yaygay lagomay,
eckay megay yadohmay,
dooray selbay keebaday

Kayba continues to intently stare at Maka running her fingers through the dirt.

KAYBA

(elated, excited, screams)

I got it! Thank you, Maka. You are wonderful!

MAKA

(confused)

You got what?

(Kayba grabs Maka by the shoulders, lifts her up and looks directly into her face.)

KAYBA

The answer!

(Kayba is delirious with joy. He cannot contain his excitement.)

You are a savior, my dear lady! You are the most beautiful creature on this planet.

MAKA
(excited)

Oh, Kayba, I have never seen you so happy!

KAYBA

Of course, I'm happy. You made it so.

MAKA

How did I make it so?

KAYBA

By opening up my mind and showing me the way!

MAKA

The way to what?

KAYBA

I'll tell you later. Now it's time for me to go to work.

Kayba grabs the spear shaft and head and exits.

End of scene 5

Scene 6

The next day. Maka is tending the fire. Dulca, Keelga, Eelma and Kayba enter. Kayba and Eelma are dragging the carcass of a large deer. Kayba is holding his spear. The shaft and head are still attached.

DULCA

(elated, to Maka)

Look what we killed. There will be food enough for me and Keelga, and even some for you, your sister and Kayba. *(to Kayba)* Good work, Kayba. You did well.

Kayba and Eelma drag the carcass to the fire.

DULCA

We will eat meat for many days.

KEELGA

(to Dulca)

You made the deer run toward Kayba. For that, we have only you to thank.

DULCA

Today, Kayba's spear did not break. That is excellent. Finally, Kayba will be the man I knew he could be. Now, Kayba, I want to know how it is that this time your spear did not break.

KAYBA

Well, Dulca, I'll be happy to show you.

Suddenly, Kayba hurls the spear at Dulca, impaling him in the chest and killing him instantly. Before anyone can react, Kayba rushes over to Dulca's body and quickly removes the spear, which is now covered with blood.

KEELGA

(shocked)

You killed my brother! I'll kill you!

Keelga grabs his knife and lunges at Kayba. Kayba blocks Keelga's lunge with his spear. Keelga lunges again and Kayba knocks the knife out of his hand with the spear. Kayba points the spear at Keelga's throat.

KAYBA

One more move and you die.

KEELGA

(terrified and distraught)

You killed my brother. Don't kill me too.

KAYBA

I won't if you obey me. Now, get down on your knees.

KEELGA

I'll do whatever you say.

(Keelga kneels)

KAYBA

Well said. But can I believe you?

KEELGA

Of course you can. Aren't we friends?

Maka and Eelma laugh.

MAKA

(mocking)

Now he wants to be friends. Look at him: begging for his life.

EELMA

(to Keelga)

You're not so high and mighty anymore, are you?

Eelma goes over to Keelga and slaps him hard on the face.

Don't you ever touch me again, you hear?

KEELGA

(humiliated, weeping)

I won't, I promise.

KAYBA

It is good that that is settled. Now, Keelga, I am going to withdraw my spear. After I do that, you will join Maka and Eelma. I have something to say to all three of you.

Kayba slowly withdraws the spear. Keelga slowly gets up and joins Maka and Eelma. Eelma gives Keelga a shove.

EELMA
(to Keelga)

You're disgusting.

KAYBA
(to Eelma)

Enough of that. *(addressing the group)* As of this moment, we are all friends. All of you sit down.

They sit.

KAYBA

As of this moment, I declare myself king of the world. I do this with the permission of Deeka who last night came to me in a dream and showed me the way. All I do will be in the service of Deeka. Deeka chose me to be king. You will refer to me as king Kayba.

MAKA
(elated)

King Kayba! I knew you were a god.

KAYBA

No, Maka, not a god, but one who has communed with god. Those who do not believe will suffer Dulca's fate. You, Maka, will be my queen. Eelma, you will be my chief of security, and you, Keelga, will be in my high priest. The little baby, known as Seera, I now declare prince and my lawful heir. He will be known as Kayba the second, or Kay-Two for short. Now you will all swear allegiance to me. Rise, extend your left arm in front of you, raise your left thumb in the air, and repeat this after me.

All rise and do as instructed.

"In the name of Deeka, I hereby swear allegiance to Kayba and freely accept him as my king." Now all of you will repeat it.

MAKA, EELMA and KEELGA
(together)

In the name of Deeka, I hereby swear allegiance to Kayba and freely accept him as my king.

KAYBA

Now relax your arms.

All three relax their arms.

As further proof of your sincerity, each one of you will step forward and bow to me three times.

(Maka, Eelma and Keelga each step forward and bow to Kayba three times.)

Anyone who violates their oath will feel the wrath of Deeka. *(to Eelma)*
As chief of security you will be in charge of the knife. Anyone who refuses to show proper respect to me or to Deeka you will kill. You will do this without hesitation and without warning. Do you understand?

EELMA

Yes, king Kayba.

KAYBA

That is good. *(to Keelga)* Fetch the knife and give it to Eelma.

KEELGA

Yes, king Kayba.

Keelga goes and fetches the knife and gives it to Eelma.

KAYBA

All are forbidden to go near or touch the spear. Only the king may examine and touch the spear. Also, each morning and evening we will give thanks to Deeka for showing me the way and for making me your protector. Keelga, as chief priest, at the appointed times you will say this prayer:

“Oh Deeka, god of wonders, creator of everything, we implore you to bless and protect our king, Kayba, and his heir, Kayba the second.”

Now Keelga will lead us in prayer.

KEELGA

Oh Deeka, god of wonders, creator of everything, we implore you to protect our king, Kayba, and his heir, Kayba the second.

KAYBA

The response to the prayer is adabay.⁽⁶⁾ Please say that.

KEELGA, MAKA and EELMA
(together)

Adabay.

KAYBA

That is good. We will recite that prayer every morning and evening. You may sit.

Keelga, Maka and Eelma sit.

KAYBA

I now order that Dulca's body be removed from this cave and fed to the wolves. As of this moment, his name will never be uttered again. That is my order. Keelga and Eelma, remove the body.

Keelga and Eelma get up, grab Dulca's corpse and drag it off stage. Kayba goes to Kay-Two, lifts him up over his head, laugh and smiles.

KAYBA
(to Kay-Two)

I do this all for you.

End of scene 5

Scene 6

Night.

Maka and Kayba are sleeping together. Maka is awake.

MAKA

King Kayba, please wake up.

She nudges him softly. Kayba awakes.

KAYBA

What is it? I was having a wonderful dream about a world where there is peace.

MAKA

I am sorry, King Kayba, but I have to talk to you.

KAYBA

In bed you don't need to call me king.

Kayba kisses Maka on the cheek.

MAKA

Thank you ... Kayba.

KAYBA

Now, what is it?

MAKA

Today, many things happened and many things were said. Did you mean what you said?

KAYBA

Yes.

MAKA

Even that you communed with Deeka?

KAYBA

Yes.

MAKA

And that Deeka showed you the way?

KAYBA

Yes.

MAKA

But did I not show you the way too?

KAYBA

You opened my mind, so that Deeka could enter.

MAKA

When I was making the marks in the dirt, you discovered something.

KAYBA

Yes, I did.

MAKA

And you told me you would tell me, later.

KAYBA

Yes, I did.

MAKA

Would you tell me ... now?

Kayba stares at Maka for a moment.

KAYBA

My dear Maka, do not trifle with me. You are my queen and my wife. Through you I made a discovery and because of that discovery I have a weapon that no one else in the entire world has. But it was Deeka who opened my eyes. Do you understand?

MAKA

I think so.

KAYBA

You think so? Have I not expressed myself clearly?

MAKA

I understand your words, but I don't understand their meaning.

KAYBA

Deeka is guiding me.

MAKA

So, your spear is, let's say, divinely inspired?

KAYBA

Yes, it is. Because of Deeka I discovered how to fasten the head of the spear to a shaft so that the head does not fall off. No one in the whole world knows how to do that except me, and I don't want anyone else in the world to learn the secret because if they do, then every clan will have the spear and we'll be finished. Deeka meant for me to have that secret and I will guard it with my life.

MAKA

Do you really think you can keep that secret just to yourself?

KAYBA

With Deeka's help I will and if I fail, it will be because I was not worthy of Deeka's trust.

MAKA

I've always known that you have been chosen by Deeka.

KAYBA

Actually, you thought I was a god, but I am not. I am but a servant of one much higher and greater. And the whole world must know that too. That way, they will understand that I am special.

MAKA

Would Deeka permit you to share your secret with me, your queen?

KAYBA

I want to, but Deeka won't allow it.

MAKA

Then if I shared a secret with you, would Deeka then permit it?

KAYBA

I don't know. But it is best if you not keep any secrets from me. So what is your secret?

MAKA

Sometimes I think that it is not baylay⁽⁷⁾ moving across the sky but us moving instead.

KAYBA

That is impossible. Now you are teasing me. Your secret makes no sense.

MAKA

No. I would never tease you. Kayba, I believe in you, and you proved yourself today, but ...

KAYBA
(annoyed)

But what?

MAKA

Maybe you went too far, by killing Dulca.

KAYBA

I did what had to be done. It was the will of Deeka. Dulca had to be killed. It was either him or us.

MAKA

But what about Keelga and my sister?

KAYBA

What about them?

MAKA

Do they have a place in your kingdom?

KAYBA

Of course. You heard me today. Eelma is my security chief and Keelga my priest.

MAKA

And you were really serious?

KAYBA

Yes, I'm serious. Don't worry about your sister. As long as she is loyal to me, her place is here with us. Keelga despises me so I want to keep him close to me, and besides, he wants your sister, so maybe Eelma should become his woman.

MAKA

But she despises him.

KAYBA

Now she does, but soon that will pass. He'll be a good man for her.

Pause.

MAKA

I love you.

KAYBA

And I love you, too.

They embrace, kiss and start making love.

End of scene 6

Scene 7

Two months later

Kayba and Maka are sitting on tree stumps. Those are their thrones. Keelga and Eelma are sitting near the fire. Maka is holding Kay-Two. The cave is crammed with carcasses of deer and antelopes. From offstage comes the sound of people approaching.

KAYBA
(to Eelma)

See who is approaching.

Eelma gets up and exits. Soon she returns.

EELMA
Two brutes are outside. They wish to speak to you.

KAYBA
The brutes are an ugly people, stupid too. They can barely talk. Deeka does not consider them human.

MAKA
Are you not being too harsh, my lord?

KAYBA
No. It is Deeka's will. They're just beggars coming to us for food.
(to Eelma)

They may enter.

Eelma exits and then returns, escorting two ape-like persons. One is male, his name is Noog; the female's name is Kog. Except for animal hides wrapped around their middle, they are naked.

EELMA
(to Noog and Kog)
Bow down to King Kayba.

Both stiffly bow.

KAYBA

Welcome to my humble cave. What are your names?

NOOG

Me Noog.

KOG

Me Kog.

KAYBA

Noog and Kog. What can I do for you?

NOOG

Food. Want food.

KAYBA

You want food?

NOOG

Yes.

KAYBA

How many in your cave?

NOOG

Many.

KOG

Have baby. Like you. (*points to Kay-Two*)

KAYBA

So you have a baby.

KOG

Baby need food.

KAYBA
So why come here?

NOOG
You have food.

KAYBA
That is true. I have food.

KOG
(weeping)
Need for baby. *(to Maka)* You mother. Me mother.

KAYBA
What can you give us in return?
Noog and Kog look at each and then shrug their shoulders.

MAKA
(to Kayba)
Maybe they did not understand.

KAYBA
(to Maka)
I can't speak any simpler. *(speaks slowly, to Noog and Kog)*
I hunt for food ... I have food.... I give you food ... You give something to me.

Kog squats down, lifts up her clothe, exposing herself. Kayba and the rest recoil in revulsion.

EELMA
(to Kog)
Stop that, now, or go!

Kog covers herself.

KAYBA
(to Maka)
They are so low.

MAKA

Why don't you give them some food and send them on their way?

KAYBA

Yes, I will do that. *(to Noog and Koog)* I am going to give you some food.

NOOG

Thank you. You good.

KAYBA

(to Eelma)

Give them one leg of deer and one of antelope.

EELMA

Yes, King Kayba.

Eelma takes out the knife and cuts off a leg from a deer carcass, then does the same with an antelope carcass, and gives both legs to Noog.

KAYBA

(to Eelma)

Now get them out of here.

EELMA

Yes, King Kayba

(to Noog and Kog)

Follow me.

KAYBA

(to Keelga)

You go with them.

KEELGA

Yes, king Kayba.

Eelma and Keelga leave, followed by Noog and Kog. Kayba and Maka are alone, with the Kay-Two.

KAYBA

Tomorrow, we will go to their valley and clear them out, take back the food we gave them and take over their cave. I then will have a place to stay overnight when hunting.

MAKA

Why clear them out? They do us no harm.

KAYBA

(surprised and annoyed)

Why clear them out, you ask? I'll tell you why: They are not human. They are not anything. They can't hunt. They can't talk. They are ugly. They are stupid. Deeka made them that way. In short, they have nothing to trade. So, they must move on. Or should I do them a favor by just killing them and be done with it?

MAKA

But they do have something to trade.

KAYBA

Those brutes? No way.

MAKA

They can work for us. They can cook our food and clean our clothes, in return for food.

KAYBA

Eelma and Keegla do that already.

MAKA

But Eelma and Keegla are family. Why have family doing such low things when the brutes can do it for us? Then we can all go on the hunts together and help you kill even more food.

KAYBA

I'm the only one allowed to kill.

MAKA

Then make more spears!

KAYBA
(*irritated*)

So that others can learn my secret? Never! One day, when Deeka tells me, I'll share that secret with you, but not now.

MAKA

Sometimes you worry me.

KAYBA

Look around you. We have enough food to last us six moons, and that's because I have the spear. It has made me the most successful hunter in the world.

MAKA

I know that. The secret is yours.

KAYBA
(*alarmed*)

And must stay with me, period! If Keelga, Eelma, you, or anyone else, ever finds out the secret, then the word will spread and soon everyone will have the spear and all our food will disappear and we'll be put out. We're not the only clan out there hunting for food. Already there are fewer deer and antelope in the fields.

MAKA
(*admiringly*)

Yes, Kayba. You are king and you know best.

KAYBA

And you are my queen. (*pause*) I'll think about putting the brutes to work, as you call it. Also, when Eelma and Keelga return, we will have supper then say our evening prayers before going to sleep.

MAKA

Yes, my dear king.

End of scene 7

Scene 8

Time: Three months later

The cave is crammed with food. It is strewn on the floor and hanging from the cave walls. There is barely enough space to maneuver.

Noog and Kog are tending the fire. They work slowly but steadily. Otherwise the cave is empty.

Kayba, Maka, Eelma and Keelga enter. Kayba is carrying the spear. Maka is carrying Kay-Two. They return with nothing. Kayba and Maka sit on their thrones; Eelma and Keelga sit on the floor.

KAYBA

The world is changing. Once game was plentiful, now nothing. Deeka told me this would happen.

EELMA

Dear king, what did Deeka say we should do?

KAYBA

I cannot say.

KEELGA

King Kayba, maybe more of us should have spears so we can hunt like you.

KAYBA

(angry)

No! That is forbidden. I'd rather we starve before I let that happen. I am the guardian of the spear. Deeka ordered it. As priest you should know that.

KEELGA

I did not mean to offend, oh great king, but it seems useless for only one of us to hunt while the rest of us retrieve.

KAYBA

That is the will of Deeka. There will be no more talk about it.

Suddenly, from offstage comes the sound of a crowd of people approaching.

KAYBA

Who can that be? *The sound becomes louder. (to Eelma)* See who it is and tell them to wait outside.

EELMA

Yes, king Kayba.

Eelma exits.

MAKA

They sound angry.

KAYBA

Don't worry, my queen.
(Kayba tightens his grip on the spear.)

Eelma returns.

EELMA

King Kayba, Reegna is outside with his woman and the rest of his clan demanding to speak with you. They are very angry.

KAYBA
(to Eelma)

Show Reegna and his woman in. The others must remain outside. Keelga will remain at the entrance to the cave to make sure that no one enters. Keelga, you will take the brutes with you to stand guard.

KEELGA

Yes, King. *(to the brutes)* Let's go, you two. *(Keelga and the brutes exit)*

Moments later, Reegna and his woman enter. They are Cromags too. The woman's name is Leena. Both are in the early 20s.

KAYBA

Welcome to my cave. What may I do for you?

REEGNA

Oh, stop this act, Kayba. You know who I am and why I am here.

EELMA
(to Reegna)

You will address the king with respect.

REEGNA
(laughs)

You a king! *(laughs)* Ridiculous. You couldn't even wash your dingay⁽⁸⁾ without making a mess. Where is Dulca?

EELMA
(to Reegna)

It is forbidden to mention that name.

REEGNA
(perplexed)

What's going on here?

KAYBA

Dear Reegna, I am King Kayba. The person you knew years ago is no more.

REEGNA

You're not one of these prophets, are you?

EELMA
(to Reegna)

I warn you. Speak to the king with respect.

REEGNA
(to Leena)

My dear, we must be in the wrong cave. This is no king.

LEENA

I see no king.

KAYBA

Deeka made me king. That you do not know this shows that you have incurred Deeka's disfavor, otherwise Deeka would have told you.

REEGNA

Deeka told me nothing because there is no Deeka. You were mumbling the same rubbish when you were in my clan.

KAYBA

You are offending Deeka, and that is bad. Why are you here now?

REEGNA

I am here because of your hunting. It is destroying my clan. My boys have seen you hunting with that stick of yours and we demand that you stop because you are killing all the deer and antelope, and soon there be no food for us.

KAYBA

That is sad news. I will think on it.

LEENA and REEGNA

(amazed)

You will think on it?

REEGNA

What's there to think about?

LEENA

I have children to feed.

KAYBA

I cannot give you an answer.

REEGNA

That is unacceptable. We will not leave until we get an answer. And where IS Dulca?

KAYBA

That is no concern of yours.

REEGNA

I beg to differ, “king.” He was my favorite cousin.

KAYBA

He had an accident.

REEGNA

Dulca never had “accidents.”

LEENA

That is true. He was a strong man.

MAKA

How would you know?

LEENA

He was my brother.

REEGNA

(To Leeda)

We’ll deal with that later. *(to Kayba)* So, what is your answer?

KAYBA

I’ll tell you my answer.

Kayba gestures with his hand at Eelma who pounces on Reegna, stabbing him in the chest. Reegna collapses, dead. Leena is shocked.

LEENA

(screams in anguish)

No! You killed my man!

KAYBA

(calm)

Yes, I did. He was being disrespectful.

Leena rushes at Kayba who brandishes the spear in her face. Leena stops.

KAYBA

Back off, now.

Leena is enraged, but complies.

LEENA

(screams, at Kayba)

Murderer!

KAYBA

No, I am king and a king does not commit murder. Your clan is now mine.

LEENA

No! We will never accept you! Never! You might as well kill me now.

KAYBA

No, I will not kill you. You are a brave woman. So you shall live. I did not start this fight. You did. You will tell your clan what happened here and to make no more trouble and that I am king and that you are my regent.

LEENA

(contemptuous)

I will never serve you. You are lower than the brutes.

KAYBA

I understand your anger, so I excuse you this one time. But I have the spear, while you have rocks.

LEENA

You think you can lord over us like a god?

KAYBA

It is the will of Deeka.

LEENA

Deeka, or whoever your god is, has nothing to do with this. You killed my man in cold-blood.

KAYBA

I will not argue with you further. I give you pardon to leave now, and take your man's body with you. He was nasty to me when he was alive, so I will not honor his memory.

LEENA

Now I know what happened to Dulca.

KAYBA

That person is gone and his name will not be mentioned again. Do you understand?

LEENA

(defiantly)

Remember Dulca! Remember Reegna!

MAKA

(to Leena)

Silence! The king has spoken. One more outburst and you will deal with me, and I will not be so forgiving as my man.

LEENA

Ha! Listen to the she-dog! She is so brave with her man next to her.

MAKA

Don't make me angry.

LEENA

All talk, my dear Maka. I declare vendetta.

KAYBA
(calmly)

Then vendetta it is. You have invited your own death.

LEENA

(turns and screams to the group offstage)

Clansmen, prepare for war!

End of scene 8

Scene 9

Night time. Kayba and Maka are talking.

MAKA

You should have killed her.

KAYBA

Why? She was only trying to defend her memory of her man. You would have done the same for me.

MAKA

But she is trouble. She will only stir hatred against you.

KAYBA

That will pass. She will find another man. Also, I alone cannot rule two tribes at once, so I need her. And as long as I have the spear, no harm will come to us.

MAKA

But, Kayba ...

KAYBA

You worry too much.

MAKA

No. This is different. Her clan is many; we are only four, plus the baby.

KAYBA

Deeka will provide for us.

MAKA

Are you certain?

KAYBA

After all that has happened, you still doubt me?

MAKA

No, Kayba.

KAYBA

Then don't lose faith. Without faith we are lost.

MAKA

Faith in whom? You or Deeka?

KAYBA

Both.

MAKA

Why is all this happening now?

KAYBA

Deeka is testing us to determine if we are worthy of his blessings.

MAKA

But what if we fail the test?

KAYBA

Already you are losing faith.

MAKA

But can you stop an entire clan with one spear?

KAYBA

It is not just one spear. It is the only spear in the world.

MAKA

But there are other weapons, and other defenses.

KAYBA

Nothing can defend against the spear. Not the mighty deer, not the swift antelope, not the ugly brutes, not anybody or anything. Deeka wills it. Remember when Eelma and Keelga were enemies? Now they sleep together and will have a baby. Deeka willed that too. Neither one will desert me, nor will you, my dear queen.

MAKA

You are truly the blessed one.

Kayba smiles.

End of scene 9

Scene 10

Two weeks later.

Kayba enters, carrying the spear which is dripping with blood. He is followed by Keelga and Eelma. Both are injured and bleeding. Maka is tending the fire; Kay-Two is in his basket located next to Maka's throne. The cave contains far less food than in the previous scenes. Keelga and Eelma collapse on the floor, exhausted. Kayba seems refreshed. He sits on his throne.

KAYBA

Today, you both did well! My congratulations.

KEELGA

(incredulous)

Did well, my king? We almost got killed. Look at us! We're bleeding!

MAKA

(to Kayba)

Is that true?

EELMA

It is true, sister. Our situation is hopeless.

KAYBA

You are wrong.

KEELGA

But, king, sir, your spear is no good against them.

KAYBA

Did I not today kill five of them? Every time the spear struck one of them, the others ran away, terrified. They are afraid of even touching the spear. And did you not yourself kill three with your bare hands?

KEELGA

Yes, that is true, but there are so many of them and so few of us, and they know how to stop the spear.

KAYBA
(loudly)

NOTHING CAN STOP THE SPEAR! It has the power of Deeka.

EELMA

But, king, we saw for ourselves that they have a way of stopping the spear.

KAYBA

A trick, that is all.

EELMA

But it isn't a trick. They take animals skins, stretch them and use them as screens. Some are so thick that the spear cannot penetrate.

KAYBA

But those hides are heavy and hard to move around, so they cannot always block the spear.

KEELGA

That is true, king Kayba. But sometimes they do block the spear, and while we are retrieving the spear they hide behind their screens and hurl rocks at us.

EELMA

And I cannot get close enough to them to use my knife.

KEELGA

King, we need more spear handlers.

KAYBA

That is forbidden! I am the only spear handler! No one else may touch the spear!

KEELGA

Then, king Kayba, we will lose and die.

KAYBA

(becoming more agitated)

You are trying my patience, you whelp. You want us to lose, don't you? Admit it.

KEELGA

I never said any such thing, king, but I don't want to die, at least not yet, if I can avoid it.

EELMA

King Kayba, Keelga is right. We need another spear handler.

KAYBA

(angry)

Of course, you support your man. It's because of me that the two of you are together, under my protection, and look how you repay me. Now you want to steal my weapon.

KEELGA

(surprised)

Your weapon! I thought it was a gift from Deeka.

MAKA

It is a gift from Deeka.

KEELGA

(to Maka)

But the king just said it was HIS weapon, not Deeka's. What is going on here?

EELMA

(to Maka)

Dear sister, how did the king acquire his secret?

KAYBA

You will stop discussing the spear, now! *(Kayba picks up the spear)*

MAKA
(to Kayba)

My king, please be careful with the spear.

KAYBA
(to Maka)

We have enemies outside of the cave and inside too.

MAKA
Eelma and Keelga are not enemies. They are family.

KAYBA
They are YOUR family, not mine. I don't need family, I don't need anyone.
I am the chosen one.

From offstage comes Leena's voice.

LEENA
Kayba, come out now and I will let you live. You cannot win. Come out now!

KAYBA
(yells, to Leena)
You are talking to your king! I order you to go away, now, or you will invite
the wrath of Deeka to destroy you.

LEENA
Your god has abandoned you. If you do not come out, we will come in.
The choice is yours.

MAKA
(to Kayba)
Maybe we should give up.

KAYBA
(to Maka)
YOU TOO! (to the others) You are all against me. All of you always hated
me. Where are the brutes? I want my brutes! They will help me.

EELMA

King, all the brutes are dead. Leena killed them.

KAYBA
(despair)

The brutes loved me. I gave them food and they gave me loyalty, which is more than I can say for any of you.

KEELGA

I am not willing to die for nothing.

EELMA

Nor am I. Also, I must protect the new life Deeka put inside me.

Keelga and Eelma get up and embrace.

KEELGA
(to Leena)

We are coming out!

Eelma pauses.

EELMA
(to Keelga)

But I can't leave my sister.

KEELGA

We must leave. Kayba is a madman.

EELMA
(to Keelga)

Do not call our king a madman. You swore allegiance to him.

KEELGA

At the point of a spear.

MAKA
(to Eelma)

Do not leave, little sister. They will kill you.

EELMA

They want to kill him (*points to Kayba*). I am not Leena's enemy.

KAYBA

(*to Keelga*)

Keelga, You are the cause of all the trouble. I should have killed you.

KEELGA

Then do what you must, because I am leaving.

KAYBA

Do not disobey me. This is your last warning.

Keelga stares at Kayba. Then he turns around and starts exiting.

KAYBA

(*to Eelma*)

As chief of security, I order you to kill Keelga.

EELMA

(*shocked*)

Kill my own man?

KAYBA

I order you! So do it ... now!

Eelma grabs her knife. She is weeping.

KAYBA

You won't do it? Then I'll do it myself.

As Kayba prepares to hurl the spear, Eelma hurls her knife at Kayba striking him on the chest. Kayba collapses to the ground, blood gushing from the wound. Keelga exits.

MAKA

No!

(*to Eelma*)

What did you do?

EELMA

I could not let him kill Keelga.

MAKA

(anguish and despair)

Help me, Deeka!

KAYBA

(dying, to Eelma)

You fool!

(Kayba starts coughing up blood. Maka and Eelma rush over to Kayba and kneel beside him.)

MAKA

(to Eelma)

Get away from him!

(Eelma stands up and backs away)

KAYBA

(to Maka)

It is over. Soon I'll be dead. Don't forget me and take care of Kay-Two. And destroy the spear. No one is to ever learn my secret.

MAKA

(weeping)

You can't die.

KAYBA

Maka

(Kayba dies.)

MAKA

NO!

Leena enters, accompanied by a troop of Cromags. All are crouching behind animal skins stretched over sticks. They are holding rocks and wooden clubs.

MAKA
(looks up, at Leena, screams)

Don't touch him!

LEENA
(To Maka)

Is he dead?

MAKA
(weeping)

Yes. The king is now with Deeka.

LEENA
(to her troops)

Put down your weapons.

(The troops comply)

Maka grabs the spear, momentarily points it at Leena, and then tries to break it.

LEENA
(alarmed)

Stop that!

Leena grabs the spear out of Maka's hand.

LEENA
I want to examine this magical spear.

MAKA
Kayba ordered the spear be destroyed. It is a gift from Deeka.

Ignoring Maka's warning Leena carefully examines the entire length of the spear, including the part where the head is fastened to the shaft, and then places the spear next to Kayba's body.

LEENA
(to Maka)

There, he can have his spear back. I now know the secret. And besides, it is cursed.

MAKA
So, what is the secret?

LEENA
(surprised)
You don't know?

MAKA
Kayba never told me.

LEENA
Never mind that. It's my secret now.

MAKA
From now on, anything that happens will be on you and you alone.

LEENA
Whatever happens will happen. *(turns and faces her companions)* I declare this place evil and order that the entrance to this cave be completely and permanently sealed forever. *(to Maka and Eelma)* We will leave at once. You are now my slaves.

Maka picks up the basket containing Kay-Two. Leena, Maka, Eelma and the others start exiting.

End of scene 10.

Scene 11

Time: The present

The cave is part of an archeological site. Four people enter: two men and two women. They are a team of young archeologists. Their names are Ken, Kevin, Mala and Enid, and, except for their modern attire, each one bears an uncanny resemblance to Kayba, Keelga, Maka and Eelma respectively. They are the first persons to enter the cave in 46,767 years. Sunlight from outside provides some illumination, but inside the lighting is dim. All four are carrying flashlights and cameras.

MALA
(to Ken)

You were right. There was an entrance to a cave behind those rocks.

KEN

Everybody be careful. We don't want to disturb anything.

All four slowly move forward.

KEVIN

(pointing at some objects on the ground, obscured in shadows.)
What is that?

KEN

I don't know. Let's check it out. On the count of three, everybody point their flashlights in that direction. Ready? One ... two ... three.

All four turn on their flashlights, bathing the objects in light.

| | | | |
|--------------|-----------------------|-------|----------|
| Oh, my! | Enid----- (amazed) | ----- | ----- |
| What the ... | Kevin----- | ----- | together |
| Interesting! | Mala----- | ----- | ----- |

KEN

What we have here is a well-preserved skeleton of a male and next to it an object that looks like a spear.

KEVIN

I wonder who he was.

KEN

It's too early to say.

MALA

I wonder what he did.

ENID

How do we know it's a he?

KEN

You can tell by the shape of the pelvis and thigh bones. The body wasn't buried. It was just left there. Let's move a little closer and try not to disturb anything.

All four slowly move closer to the pile.

KEN

Stop.

They all stop.

ENID

I wonder what happened in here.

KEN

Let's take a closer look.

Ken moves even closer and then kneels over the remains.

KEN

There is a large cutting stone lodged in between the ribs. That might be the weapon that was used to kill him.

MALA

So he was murdered.

KEVIN

Murdered? They didn't have any laws back then. He was killed, period.

MALA

I say he was murdered.

ENID

Maybe he deserved it.

MALA

And maybe he didn't.

KEN

That's all speculation.

ENID

Maybe he did something bad.

MALA
(irritated)

What makes you say that?

ENID
(annoyed)

I was only talking. *(Pause)* *(to Mala)* Hey, what's gotten over you?

MALA

This is a special place. I can feel it.

KEVIN
(to Ken)

How old, do you think, are the remains?

KEN

Judging by the condition of the bones, I would guess roughly forty to fifty thousand years old. Now, I want to take a look at that spear. *(Ken carefully picks up the spear and examines it closely.)* Interesting way the head is fastened to the shaft. It's proof that by the time this gentleman died, humans had acquired the ability to construct sophisticated weapons.

MALA

Maybe he was the one who discovered how to make that spear.

KEN

That could be. And maybe he died because he refused to give up the secret.

MALA

(to Ken)

That could be too. But now you know the secret.

KEN

(trying to conceal the spear)

Yes, I do. And with me, the secret will remain.

MALA

(smiling, admiringly)

Spoken like a king.

With Kevin and Enid watching in amazement, Mala bows down to Ken who maintains a tight grip on the spear.

The end.

Glossary of Cromag terms

1. Dobbay – fool.
2. Besakay – bastard.
3. Beedookay – Neanderthals, also known as brutes.
4. Keelay-jeelay – a certain intimate act involving two males.
5. Keepay deepay yadohmay,
dohmay yaygay lagomay,
eckay megay yadohmay,
dooray selbay keebaday

Nature is great.
Respect the mysteries.
Nature is boundless.
Grant me strength.
6. Adabay – amen.
7. Baylay – the sun.
8. Dingay – one’s private parts.

Note: In the Cromag language, every word ends with the sound of “a” as in the word “bay.” In fact, the language is musical. Proper names end with the letter “a”.

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