



## 12. Twimfina and Baba Meet

*(an hour before dawn on a one-lane dirt road; Baba arrives at the sectarian border, gets off tricycle cart and sits on an old bench; a lantern hangs from the handlebars; crickets chirp; Baba looks at Twimfina's photo)*

BABA

*(pondering)*

The person with the poison is the person with the cure...

*(then sings)*

TO THIS PERSON I SHOULD HATE  
SHOW ME THAT IT'S NOT TOO LATE  
GIVE ME REASON TO FORGIVE  
GIVE ME PEACE SO I CAN LIVE

TO THIS PERSON I SHOULD SPURN  
SHOULD TURN BACK WITH NO CONCERN  
STAY WITH ME, PLEASE STAY WITH ME  
STAY WITH ME 'TIL I LEARN

I AM A MEAN, SELF-RIGHTEOUS IDEOLOGUE  
I AM A BIGOT THROUGH AND THROUGH  
I WANT TO FIND A WAY OUT FROM THIS FOG  
BUT MY WAY OUT MUST BE YOU

TO THIS PERSON I SHOULD STOP  
HAVE ARRESTED, CALL A COP  
MIGHT YOU SOMEHOW BE MY CURE?  
OR MORE PAIN I MUST ENDURE?

TO THIS PERSON I DON'T KNOW  
SLAMMED THE DOOR SHUT LONG AGO  
STAY WITH ME, PLEASE STAY WITH ME  
STAY WITH ME 'TIL I GROW

I AM ASHAMED OF WHAT I'VE COME TO BE  
I AM ASHAMED OF WHAT I DO  
I WANT TO CHANGE FROM SUCH A HATE-FILLED ME  
INTO SOMEONE MORE LIKE YOU

TO THIS PERSON I SHOULD FEAR  
SHOULD REJECT AND NOT GO NEAR  
PROVE TO ME THAT I AM WRONG  
HELP ME LEARN TO GET ALONG

TO THIS PERSON I SHOULD TELL  
"TURN AROUND, GO BACK TO HELL"  
STAY WITH ME, PLEASE STAY WITH ME  
STAY WITH ME 'TIL I'M WELL.

*(As Baba continues to look at the photograph, Twimfina's whistling of "Stranger in the Ocean" can be heard approaching in the darkness)*

TWIMFINA  
Hello there!

BABA  
A pleasant evening.

TWIMFINA  
Yes it is! It really is a pleasant evening, isn't it? Why have you stopped here? Some kind of problem?

BABA  
This is the border.

TWIMFINA  
*(chuckles)*  
Oh, you people and your borders! What kind of border is it this time?

BABA

A religious border.

TWIMFINA

*(incantation-like)*

“Border, border, much too long...

Now you’re here... *(claps her hands)*

Now you’re gone!”

There. Problem solved. You can go on across.

BABA

Twimfina.

TWIMFINA

Guru?

BABA

No, I’m Guru’s father.

TWIMFINA

*(grabs Baba’s hand and shakes it enthusiastically)*

Oh! I feel so lucky to finally meet you! Thanks for coming! Is Guru coming too?

BABA

No. Guru’s at home. He has classes to teach later this morning.

TWIMFINA

*(excited chuckle)*

Oh of course! Oh, I can’t believe I’m finally here! It’s like a dream!

BABA

*(remorsefully)*

Twimfina, I’m afraid it is a dream. You see, we didn’t tell you everything about us that we should have.

TWIMFINA

What didn’t you tell me?

BABA

We had no idea that you’d actually come here...

TWIMFINA

*(persistent)*

What didn’t you tell me?

BABA

My son, Guru, has some health problems. He was badly injured when he was 6 years old. He's paralyzed below the waist.

TWIMFINA

*(confused)*

I don't know what this means.

BABA

It means he has trouble getting around, even with a wheelchair. It means he has no control over his lower body.

TWIMFINA

I'm sorry. Why didn't Guru tell me this himself?

BABA

He was probably afraid of losing his pen pal.

TWIMFINA

*(removing photograph from her pocket and handing it to Baba)*

Is this Guru?

BABA

*(slight chuckle)*

Ah. I've been looking all over for this photo. Yes, this is my son – my dear son.

TWIMFINA

Is he a teacher in the schools?

BABA

He is indeed a teacher. But he can't get a job in the public schools because of his disability, so we've built our own little school at home.

TWIMFINA

Is he committed to teaching the poor?

BABA

*(slight chuckle again)*

Guru *is* poor. We both are. That's probably something else we didn't tell you. We manage to make a living by scavenging scrap metal and by doing odd welding jobs. Our home and the school are both in a scrap-yard. We're very poor, Twimfina.

TWIMFINA

*(persistent)*

But is he committed to teaching the poor?

BABA

Oh yes he is. Guru has long ago thrown his lot in with the poor.

TWIMFINA

*(putting her backpack in the cart)*

Well, that's good enough for me.

BABA

Please think this out carefully, Twimfina. You do have a choice. I'd be happy to take you back to the international border if that's what you choose.

TWIMFINA

*(with a chuckle)*

Too late. I got rid of that yesterday.

BABA

Are you sure about this, Twimfina? Life can be very hard in Ko-Lat Village.

TWIMFINA

But a hard life can be a happy life.

BABA

*(chuckles)*

Well, I don't know how much happiness you'll be able to bear, Twimfina. But if you want to give it a try, you're certainly welcome.

TWIMFINA

Thank you...

BABA

Baba

TWIMFINA

Thank you, Baba.

*(Twimfina sits in the back of the tricycle cart as Baba briefly circles across the border then begins the journey back to Ko-Lat Village. They briefly [45 sec] sing their thoughts [see "Twimfina - Baba Exit"])*

END OF SEGMENT 12