

TITLE

Written by
Author's Name

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EPISODE ONE(30 MIN)- KOKOPELLI

FADE IN:

EXT. TEOTIHUACAN RIVER BANK PARK - EARLY EVENING

Couples dressed in fine feathered cloaks walk along the stone-lined river through a garden of exotic trees and many upright stone stele honoring past kings and powerful gods. Larger stele line the opposite shore with the great pyramid and palace complex in the background. COLTAL, 18, leans against a white stele watching the passing couples with cold envy.

COLTAL

First night in the greatest city on earth, and I'm on duty!

He slaps himself on the forehead. A young couple pass by holding each other closely. They look at him suspiciously. He pulls his cloak up and fumbles in the folds, pulling out a clay blunt-style pipe stuffed with dried weeds. He opens a pouch, pulls out a fluff of fibers, blows on a black spot in the center, but nothing happens. As he blows harder he's startled by, ARABL, 24, unexpectedly appearing right in front of him, holding out a glowing coal.

ARABL

Fire, brother?

Coltal looks up, almost dropping his dead coal.

COLTAL

Uh.... Thanks. Uh.... Brother.

ARABL

You're welcome.

He leans in and lights his clay pipe, puffing out a big cloud of smoke. He looks suspiciously at Arabl, yet offers him the pipe. Arabl smiles, but politely declines.

ARABL (cont'd)

I couldn't help but notice your colors. You're a member of the Tikal team. Welcome! Welcome to Teotihuacan, City of the Gods!

He sweeps his arm around indicating all the brightly painted stone structures in all directions glowing in the orange setting sun.

COLTAL

We're here to beat you in the games.

ARABL

I know. But don't bet the farm. Enjoy your stay and don't let losing a ball game spoil your visit. I'm sure you're very good from where you come from. This, on the other hand, is the big time, so no shame in losing to the best.

Arabl puts away his glowing coal, smiles broadly and walks away toward the river. Coltal watches calmly while fingering a jade knife he had hidden in his hand. When Arabl disappears over the stone river embankment, Coltal quickly puts away his pipe and follows, still holding the knife. When he gets to the embankment, he peers down to the river and sees Arabl near a sewage outlet flowing offal into the river. Arabl pulls a large wicker basket coated in tar from a niche in the embankment, puts it in the water, climbs in on his knees and paddles across the slow flowing river to the opposite side.

COLTAL

Now why would the Teotihuacan ball captain visit a sewer?

SERVANT GIRL #1, 16, appears from behind a large stela on the opposite shore, making a soft whistling sound. Arabl steps out of the basket, ties it up, and disappears behind a stela with the Servant Girl.

COLTAL (cont'd)

And the plot thickens like a shit-filled river.

He wrinkles his nose and wraps a cloth around his face as he settles down to wait.

EXT. PALACE HIDDEN GARDEN - CONTINUOUS

JUJU, 16, wearing a flowing gown, walks aimlessly in an enclosed exotic zoo and gardens attached to the palace. There are many animal sounds. Suddenly, a jaguar growls loudly and she freezes, looking around fearfully.

JUJU

(quietly)

Is that my pet?

ARABL O.C.

G-r-r-o-w-a-l! Your loving jaguar has returned.

Arabl appears from behind a bush and she rushes to him jumping into his arms and passionately kisses him. They stay locked together as he turns in place holding her tight until he lets her down slowly. They stare into each others eyes adoringly. He lowers his hands and slipping them under her gown, feels along her hips and body. Dropping to his knees, he reaches underneath her billowing gown and caresses a bulbous belly.

ARABL

I thank the gods nobody knows our little secret yet.

JUJU

I'm afraid it's not that easy, Arabl.
All it takes is one servant to blab.
And if my father finds out--

Arabl stands up with a serious look and holds her in his arms. She cries softly.

ARABL

It's okay, my little hummingbird.
It's almost over. After I win the games next week, I'll be made noble, we'll be married and then I can parade you in front of everybody, forever. My boy will one day be Supreme Lord and I will spend eternity making you happy, Juju.

Arabl kisses her, but Juju grimaces.

JUJU

But what if something happens? What if you're injured and someone else wins? Then what? You could end up sacrificed.

ARABL

That's just a bad dream. No one has defeated the Serpent Eagle team. It's the one thing I can truly promise without any help from the gods. I will win and I will have you as my bride!

She puts her fingers to his mouth.

JUJU

Shhh! That's blasphemy. Don't anger the gods now. We need all the help we can get.

Arabl is not listening. He keeps up his attempts at kissing her, stroking her hair. Juju smiles weakly.

JUJU (cont'd)

My servants gossip about Tikal's prince, Monkey Python. He's boasting to all the nobles he will win. He's never been defeated--

Arabl touches his fingers to her mouth.

ARABL

When will the baby come?

JUJU

Spider Lady says soon, but I should stay quiet and not get excited if I'm going to carry till after the game.

ARABL

Don't be afraid my love. I will never let anything happen to you or our baby.

They kiss passionately sinking down on the grass, slowly undressing each other.

EXT. TEOTIHUACAN RIVER BANK PARK - LATER THAT NIGHT

Coltal shivers still watching the other side of the river. Faint light appears from behind the big stela. Arabl appears next to Juju carrying a small clay lantern. They kiss for a long time, finally separating slowly. Arabl descends the bank to the basket boat and paddles back across the river. Juju blows him a kiss and disappears. Coltal pulls the jade knife out, but ducks behind a nearby stela just as Arabl walks by holding a paddle and whistling. Coltal reemerges after Arabl passes disappearing in the dark.

COLTAL

My lord will not like this.

He smiles wickedly.

COLTAL (cont'd)

Not one bit.

INT. THRONE ROOM SUPREME LORD'S PALACE - NEXT DAY

ARAX, 32, dressed in his finest regalia, sits on a platform overlooking the royal chambers and dozens of nobility also wearing elaborately feathered colorful costumes. XLANGL, 45, stands by his side dressed plainly with a small headdress and a giant golden breast plate. Seated opposite Xlangl, SPIDER LADY, 47, sits, adorned with a black feathered costume emblazoned with a red "X" that resembles a venomous spider.

XLANGL

Our Supreme Lord welcomes the lords
of the great houses of the Five
Nations.

(whispers aside to
Arax)

Go ahead, just like we rehearsed.

ARAX

Now?

XLANGL

Now.

NXMUL, 23, captain of the Tikal team, and Arabl stand at attention in the first row of captains and kings attending the ceremony.

ARAX

(slow and deliberate
as if barely
memorized)

Lords! And Ladies! Almighty Tlaloc
has commissioned these royal games
celebrating our first Katun as
Supreme Lord. The winning team will
be pronounced the greatest
ballplayers in the world. The winning
captain will be honored by the gods
of Teotihuacan with royal status and
marriage to my only daughter, the
virgin princess, Jujuleptxlotl.

The crowd stomps their feet in unison, causing a buzz of ankle bells in approval.

INT. ANTIROOM BEHIND THE THRONE ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

Two servants, SERVANT GIRL #1, 16, and SERVANT GIRL #2, 35, are peeking behind several overlapping hanging tapestries, listening to the ceremony. Servant Girl #1 laughs when she hears the word "virgin."

SERVANT GIRL #1

The old clueless queer doesn't know a thing.

SERVANT GIRL #2

(spits to the side
and makes a sacred
sign with her hands)

The nobility never have a clue. They don't need them. The people struggle so royals can have feathers. There's no justice, no good future with such gods.

SERVANT GIRL #1

(pointing out through
the curtains at the
ceremony)

But look at our team's hunky captain. That's Juju's man. He's worth risking your life for. How romantic!

SERVANT GIRL #2

Oh my. Yes. I would have a hard time waiting for that too.

SERVANT GIRL #2 (cont'd)

(pointing through the
curtain, higher)

And Spider Lady is not too far from the right side of the throne. She's a brave woman to keep this secret.

SERVANT GIRL #1

She must. Juju is like a daughter to her. And, she's the best druggist and midwife in Teo. She alone will know how to delay the birth until the games are over. And then...

(mockingly)

the gods will see to it that Teo will have its new prince, and the young royal lovers will live long, as happy and proud parents.

SERVANT GIRL #1 (cont'd)

I'm still worried for her. My mother taught me that when men make plans, the gods laugh.

INT. SPIDER LADY'S TAVERN - ONE WEEK LATER NIGHT

A group of nobles are lounging on cushions, drinking and smoking pipes. SERVANT GIRL #1, enters and goes to the back where a skinny wrinkled SPIDER LADY SERVANT, 50, sits alone at a table. Servant Girl #1 sits at the table.

SERVANT GIRL #1
I was told to give this to Spider Lady. My mistress will be needing her soon.

She slides a leather pouch across to him. He grabs it and puts it in his robe. He pushes a folded leaf packet over to her.

SPIDER LADY SERVANT
Give her this powder for the pain. Bring her here when the contractions happen often and regular.

Coltal enters and sees Servant Girl #1 and Spider Lady Servant at the rear. He pulls his hood up and sits quietly nearby.

SERVANT GIRL #1
You must not say a word of this to anyone. Xlangl will punish severely any who do.

He smiles at her with missing teeth. She rises and walks to the door. Coltal turns away briefly as she passes by. Coltal gets up, walks to the back and sits down opposite Spider Lady Servant. Coltal pushes a golden nugget across the table. Spider Lady Servant looks up with a wicked grin.

SPIDER LADY SERVANT
And what can I do for you?

EXT. BALL COURT MONTAGE - THREE DAYS LATER

Two teams in full regalia enter the ball court marching in opposite directions waving to their fans at the top of the court walls. The players strip down to padded playing suits, dyed with their representative colors and begin volleying the ball from player to player.

The nobility above the walls are dressed in colorful feathered costumes and shaded by large fans. They argue and wager vigorously. Supreme Lord appears on his palanquin carried by four matching slaves all dyed white. Two young boys ride with him, pampering him.

An old warrior missing the lower part of his arm and dressed with black and white feathers blows a whistle and drops the ball at the center of the playing field. Both teams rush for it from opposite ends. When they encounter each other at the ball, half the players assume offense and start pushing and shoving the other team's defensive players, making way for their captain to get at the ball first.

Nxmul bats the ball using his padded arm to Coltal, who bats it on to others. The offensive Tikal team push and beat their way inside the opponent's court while Nxmul and Coltal pass the light and fast rubber ball back and forth, keeping it from Arabl's defending team.

An offensive player from Arabl's team breaks through the Tikal line and tries to bat the ball out of the air. He is immediately hit by Tikal players and beaten to the ground. They are dispersed by the whips from the referee, but the offensive player is left severely beaten and bloody. Slaves run out to pick him up and haul him off the field.

The game becomes more furious the closer one team gets to the hoop, bouncing it off the arena wall and controlling the ball in the opponent's court. Arabl breaks through the Tikal defense and the ball is passed to him over their heads as he jumps high hitting it with his shoulder through the hoop.

The crowd goes wild. Supreme Lord is handed money bags as he jumps up and down with joy hugging his two boys.

Coltal goes behind the wall at the end of the court and secretly puts obsidian blades inside his arm padding. Nxmul runs up, sees what he's doing, pats him on the back and runs away. The whistle sounds and Coltal returns to the court.

Coltal bumps into an opponent and the player recoils in the mele' bleeding profusely from deep cuts. The ball court becomes slippery from blood. Arabl spies Coltal bumping and cutting another player. He tackles him and while tangled on the ground, plucks out one of the blades and deeply cuts Coltal's right wrist. Coltal runs from the field clutching his arm squirting blood. Nxmul attacks but slips on some blood. Arabl bats the ball through the hoop using his arm pad, winning the game. The crowd goes wild again. Nxmul gets up from the ground covered in blood with glaring hatred in his eyes.

Arabl is carried on the shoulders of his teammates around the court to the noise from his fans.

Supreme Lord dances in place as he is lifted on his palanquin and turned in circles. More money bags are thrown onto the revolving royal platform as the young boys struggle to collect them all.

END MONTAGE:

EXT. OUTSIDE BALL COURT - CONTINUOUS

Nxmul finds Coltal behind the court binding his wrist with bandages. Spider Lady Servant, lurks nearby. Nxmul pulls Coltal close and hisses at him.

NXMUL

Give me one reason why I shouldn't give your heart to Tlaloc for this!

COLTAL

My Lord. I failed you. I should have cut him first. But I have just learned something very important.

NXMUL

What could be more important than losing to Juju's secret lover?

COLTAL

Knowing that Juju is giving birth right now at Spider Lady's.

Nxmul freezes, then begins seething with even more anger.

NXMUL

Are you telling me I've been betrayed!? Made the fool!?

Nxmul holds up a small bag in his hand. He pauses and then drops it at Coltal's feet.

NXMUL (cont'd)

Here, buy a slave for the sacrifice. You might still prove useful, even if you can't handle a sword anymore.

He deliberately bumps Coltal's bandaged arm then leaves ignoring him.

COLTAL

(Coltal has a nearly useless right hand for the rest of the story)

O-o-w-w-w! Thank you lord! Thank you. I'll be your undying servant for life!

INT. SPIDER LADY'S TAVERN BACK ROOM - NIGHT

Juju squats over pillows while SPIDER LADY kneels in front. Servant Girl #1 stands behind supporting Juju as she contorts and cries out in pain. Spider Lady gives her a potion to drink.

SPIDER LADY

Here. Drink, my sweet princess. Push when you feel the pain. Breathe! Keep breathing!

JUJU

A-a-a-i-i-e-e-h! Come my little one!
G-a-h-a-e-e-i-i-a! Oh mighty Gods!...
help me!

Suddenly Nxmul flings open the door. His team players are seen behind him cornering and killing two servants.

NXMUL

IT'S TRUE! You've been despoiled by a common snake!

SPIDER LADY

You can't be here! Get out!

NXMUL

I'm Monkey Python, son of Stormy Sky, prince of mighty Tikal! She was to be my virgin wife!

Nxmul grabs Spider Lady, pulling her away from Juju.

NXMUL (cont'd)

WHORE! This heresy must stop!

JUJU

I-i-e-e-a-g-g-h! He's coming!

Juju bears down, screaming. Suddenly a blue and pink baby boy flops out onto the pillows still attached to his mother. Spider Lady drops to her knees, carefully picks up the baby, and bites off the cord. She hands the infant to Juju, then turns back, confronting Nxmul.

SPIDER LADY

Get out, you filthy dog!

She beats on his chest. Nxmul slaps her aside. He snatches the baby away from Juju.

NXMUL

I'll take care of this!

He swings the baby over his head but it slips out of his grasp and slams against the wall behind Servant Girl #1. Juju screams and pounds Nxmul with her fists.

JUJU

A-i-e-e You murderer! Loser! Arabl
will have your head! I will eat your
still-bleeding liver!

Servant Girl #1 scoops up the baby, who is now constantly crying all the way to the end of the scene, wraps him hurriedly in cloth, and runs from the room.

NXMUL

You were promised to be a virgin
princess and I was cheated by that
old queer you call a father. You're
coming with me! Tonight!

Nxmul grabs Juju and throws her over his shoulder. Spider Lady attacks him as he carries Juju out of the room, taking a powder from her robe and throwing it in his face.

SPIDER LADY

I curse you, Monkey Python! Tlaloc
will eat your black heart from the
inside out!

INT. COURTYARD SUPREME LORD'S PALACE - LATER

Servant Girl #1 runs into the palace courtyard carrying a cloth bundle and screaming.

SERVANT GIRL #1

Help! Help! The prince is injured! I
need help!

She kneels placing a small bundle of bloody cloth on the floor. Baby cries are heard. Two guards, GUARD ONE, 25, and GUARD TWO, 20, carrying large obsidian spears, hurry into the courtyard followed by Xlangl.

XLANGL

What's going on?!

More servants enter and Servant Girl #2 goes to the bundle and carefully unwraps it. Xlangl looks down at the shaking and crying baby. A large bruise on his back bends his spine at an odd angle. The baby gasps for air and cries pitifully. Xlangl looks up at Servant Girl #1 with anger.

XLANGL (cont'd)
I warn you, your next words might be
your last.

SERVANT GIRL #1
My lord! I'm sorry. I should have
killed the monster who did this!

XLANGL
Is this Juju's baby?

Servant Girl #1 shaking with fear nods yes.

XLANGL (cont'd)
And Serpent Eagle Captain, Arabl, the
father?

Servant Girl #1 looks up fearfully. Then with quivering lips
mumbles.

SERVANT GIRL #1
Yes.

She looks down and begins crying. Xlangl nods to Servant
Girl #2 kneeling over the baby.

XLANGL
Take the baby to my rooms and tend to
it.

Servant Girl #2 picks up the bundle and leaves. Xlangl helps
Servant Girl #1 up.

XLANGL (cont'd)
Calmly now. Where's Juju and her
guards? Was the baby born that way?

SERVANT GIRL #1
No! Tikal captain do this! He very
angry, kill guards, try kill prince,
maybe kill Juju. I grab baby and run.

XLANGL
You did well. Go to your room and say
nothing about this ever more.

He gives her a jade nugget. She backs away bowing.

XLANGL (cont'd)
Captain!

GUARD ONE
My Lord!

XLANGL

Take some warriors to Spider Lady's tavern and bring back Juju. If you see the Tikal ball captain, Monkey Python, arrest him.

GUARD ONE

Immediately, sir!

XLANGL

Oh, and one thing more. I suspect an inside traitor. Interrogate all who work for Spider Lady and find the culprit.

GUARD ONE

I'll personally see to it.

Guard One rushes out.

XLANGL

Sergeant!

GUARD TWO

Lord!

XLANGL

Send orders to have Serpent Eagle Captain assemble his warriors on the plaza as soon as possible. Tell him to prepare for long travel. Then sound the general alarm and have five of our best warrior clans ready to march with full gear by daybreak.

GUARD TWO

Sir! Yes sir!

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. PYRAMID PLAZA AVENUE OF THE DEAD - LATER THAT NIGHT

It is raining and Arabl stands at attention with his warrior clan. In the background other warriors are assembling into troops. Xlangl walks out of the palace followed by two slaves, an old man carrying a large basket on his back and a large bosomed woman. Crying is heard from the basket. Xlangl hands a folded skin to Arabl.

XLANGL

Here's a map to the northern hinterlands and a royal pass.

(MORE)

XLANGL (cont'd)

Take your son to my daughter,
Popoxtalgipta. She is a well-known
shaman living among the cliff
dwellers.

ARABL

Please, lord! Let me and my men save
Juju from that monster.

Xlangl just looks at him with pity.

XLANGL

That so-called *monster* is the son of
Stormy Sky, the great grandson of
Jaguar Paw, supreme lord of Tikal.
You have awakened forces far beyond
your station. If anybody attempts to
rescue Juju, he wouldn't hesitate to
sacrifice her to his unholy gods.
Your impertinence has brought us to
the verge of war. Supreme Lord
mercifully forgives you but commands
that you deliver the boy safely to
Popo and then disappear for a while.
I'll send for you when it's possible
to return.

Arabl, blinking back tears and with stiff lips, holds his
arm up in salute while staring at Xlangl. He turns and
brings it down pointing at the road. His warrior clan turns
and begin quick marching followed by the two slaves and
Arabl. They disappear in the rain leaving Xlangl watching
with sadness.

INT. THRONE ROOM SUPREME LORD'S PALACE - NEXT DAY

Xlangl and Supreme Lord, confer together looking at a table
top 3-D display of the Five Nation Empire. A good looking
naked young boy massages Supreme Lord.

XLANGL

We arrested the traitor at Spider
Lady's who informed Monkey Python
about Juju. He kindly volunteered for
sacrifice later this afternoon, if he
survives the rest of the
interrogation.

ARAX

Oh I love a good torture. Is there
anything left to watch?

XLANGL

I'm afraid he's in no condition to provide any further entertainment, my lord. However, I have received a parchment from Monky Python.

ARAX

This has been my worst fear all along. My father should have struck the old king of Tikal, Stormy Sky, many years ago when the stars favored it. The gods never reward good deeds.

He pats the boy on the butt sending him away.

XLANGL

Timing is everything, my lord. Unfortunately, the stars do not predict human madness. Monkey Python says he has taken your daughter as his rightful wife and queen. If we try to intervene, he will sacrifice her.

ARAX

I'm cursed! My father predicted that his warrior sons would wage a final war, settling the ancient battle between the two forms of Quetzalcoatl, the feathered serpent or the flying serpent. Instead he got me. And I have lost my little dove. What am I supposed to do?

XLANGL

The house of Tikal proudly proclaim they worship the true Quetzalcoatl, the feathered serpent, and should rightly rule the Five Nations. Stormy Sky has ambitions on Teotihuacan and your Serpent Eagle clan since his grandfather conquered the last Mayan city holdout, Copal. Now, his son, holds your only child as his captured queen implying to the common people that we are just having a family feud. To the Tikals, it is a great victory. Your clan blood is now mixed with theirs, whether you like it or not.

ARAX

My daughter was brazenly stolen. The honor of the god's require that I capture and sacrifice the thief. If I don't, it will look bad to the other noble clans. But the stars tell me to be cautious. I don't know what to do!

He sobs as Xlangl pats him on the back.

XLANGL

I was your father's regent for many years and his last words to me were to watch after you. You're very special, he told me, and I have tried to be both a wise adviser and your closest confident.

ARAX

Indeed, you have been the father to me that I never knew in mine. But I get so confused about diplomacy and politics that I just can't keep up. It gives me headaches that only my pretty little boys can cure.

XLANGL

First of all, your lordship has dispatched several warrior clans to blockade Tikal trade routes. Total war is out of the question for now. But we secretly have the key to ultimate victory, your newborn grandchild.

ARAX

That broken baby! He could never grow up to be lord. My astrologers say the stars have already rejected him. He doesn't show up in any astrological predictions.

XLANGL

The only power you have left, my lord, is the idea of a prince in hiding, ready to contest any potential usurper's claim.

Arax makes an ugly face thinking about it. He absentmindedly picks up a little wooden model sitting near the 3-D map. It looks like a miniature palanquin but instead of a throne in the middle, there is a tripod pivoting a skinny tapered stick with a small leather pouch attached to upper end and a small macrame bag hangs from the lower end.

XANGL

As long as all the other noble clans think your grandson is alive in hiding, we're safe and so is Juju. Your lord's power exists because all trade routes pass through here and the nobles are powerful because of that trade. When wealth flows, it ultimately flows to the wealthy. No one wants to upset that.

Arax holds up the wooden model.

ARAX

What is this thing anyway? Are you planning to build a boat to return to your home in the east? Please don't leave me. I would be lost without you!

XLANGL

It's not a boat. It's something I saw as a boy. I've been working on it in secret at my seashore palace. Just in case things get really ugly.

ARAX

I hope they don't and the stars are with you. As usual, you speak like a god and not a vengeful man. Do as you see fit, old friend and give me more warning when I have to dress up for ceremonies. I must now find some solace in my little toys.

Arax claps his hands and several young boys enter laughing and dancing.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. TIKAL PYRAMID - DAY

Aerial view of a large city surrounded by brown farm fields slowly zooms in showing Tikal's great pyramid complex.

SUPER: "TIKAL ROYAL PALACE - SIX MONTHS LATER"

The view focuses in on a set of buildings behind the largest pyramid next to a ball court.

INT. TIKAL LORD'S PALACE - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Juju is reclining on pillows covered with feather blankets. She looks pale and haggard. Four priests burn incense, chant and wave feathers over her.

NXMUL

No more delays! My doctors tell me you are perfectly fine and capable of another child.

JUJU

No my lord. I am still very ill. Surely I will die if...

NXMUL

Enough! I have put up with your female problems too long. You are now my wife and you must produce a new heir to the Supreme Lord's throne. The doctors tell me you bleed on schedule and this is your fertile time.

JUJU

No! I will never give you a child! I hate you!

NXMUL

All the better. Hold her!

He rips off her blankets revealing her naked body. The priests grab hold of her limbs and two pull her legs apart as she struggles to fight them.

JUJU

Let me go! Eeeeeiiiyaaaa!

NXMUL

Stuff a rag in her mouth!

One priest holding her arm, forces a wad of cloth into her mouth.

NXMUL (cont'd)

Come here you whore wife! Let me pay you for your pleasure.

Nxmul strips his loincloth off, kneels in front of her and pulls her body up by the buttocks and penetrates her violently. He thrusts into her repeatedly while she thrashes and attempts to scream.

NXMUL (cont'd)
Ugh! Take that! Aagh! And that!

He pulls out a knife and makes slight cuts in her skin while continuing to rape her. He crudely scratches a picture of a monstrous face on her belly until he arches his back in orgasm. He makes more cut marks on his groin and hers mixing the blood together as he loudly chants prayers.

NXMUL (cont'd)
A-a-a-a-a-g-g-h! Gods of the
underworld! Give me a demon spirit!
Bring me power!

The outline of the cuts begin to glow red while Juju struggles and Nxmul laughs maniacally. A black spirit wisp with the head of a serpent suddenly appears whirling around the room and then flows into Juju's vagina. She arches her back and attempts to scream once more before collapsing. Nxmul steps back holding the knife high dripping blood as he cries a guttural scream of triumph.

NXMUL (cont'd)
Y-i-h-y-i-h-y-i-h-e-h-e-i-i-e-i!

EXT. DESERT NEAR POPO'S HUT - DAY

SUPER: "NORTHERN SONORAN DESERT - ONE YEAR LATER"

A young woman, POPO, 32, sits on a rock next to an adobe hut and is holding KOKO, 12 months, baby in her lap. When she touches the baby's bluish hump on his back, he cries out and whimpers from pain. She dips her finger into a small pot sitting next to her and wipes it in the mouth of the baby. The baby quiets and stops struggling as he becomes more attentive, moving his eyes around in awareness as everything slowly turns pink. He starts giggling.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. DESERT SPIRIT WORLD - MONTHS LATER

The desert sand is glowing intensely pink. The desert trees and shrubs are bright fluorescent green. The sky is bright lavender. A baby blue rabbit bounces into view and stops next to a multi-colored sparrow. The rabbit shakes itself and flashes colors, then distorts revealing a large hump on its back and short spindly hind legs. The face morphs to child-like, smiling with bright eyes. He listens carefully to the sparrow singing. The half-rabbit sits up on his back legs unsteadily as a large jaguar with stripes approaches and opens her mouth as if to engulf the rabbit.

A huge tongue leaps out and licks the rabbit. The jaguar kisses it and curls around it purring.

POPO

My little Koko rabbit listens to
sparrows sing in the Nagual. Here you
have no pain. Here you feel at home.

An orange sun dances over the distant neon-green glowing mountains.

EXT. DESERT NEAR POPO'S HUT - CONTINUOUS

The colors fade to desert browns and the rabbit slowly turns into a young naked male child, KOKO, 18 months, with a dark hump on his back, now being held in the arms of POPO sitting on the rock near her hut.

POPO

(singing a lullaby)
*Sleep softly my sweet baby, sleep
tight to my breast. Tomorrow is
rushing to us, so now sleep caress.*

The baby smiles and snuggles in her arms. She rocks him gently to sleep.

POPO (cont'd)

Small amounts of the Nagual drugs
daily keep you painless, my little
rabbit. You have a home here where
you can always be painless as long as
the cactus grows and the fungus
blooms.

INT. TIKAL LORD'S PALACE - NIGHT

SUPER: "TIKAL ROYAL PALACE - MONTHS LATER"

Juju lies on her pillowed platform thrashing and gripping pillows tightly. She contorts her body and breathes rapidly. SLAVE WOMAN #1, 16, and SLAVE WOMAN #2, 16, attend to her, wipe her brow and offer her a drink from a small pot.

SLAVE WOMAN #1

Here. Take this. The doctor said it
will ease your pain.

She sips from the pot and then has a strong contraction. Slave Woman #2 stands back fearful. Slave Woman #1 helps Juju get into a squatting position.

SLAVE WOMAN #1 (cont'd)
I'll hold you. Breath and push!

Juju bears down and stifles a scream. Nxmul comes into the room followed by Coltal dressed in priests black robes.

COLTAL
We must make a sacrifice now if we are to summon a spirit from the underworld to help your son be born. We need clean innocent blood.

NXMUL
It's too late to bring someone up from the pens.

Nxmul turns suddenly facing Slave Woman #2. Before she can react, he slashes her throat.

NXMUL (cont'd)
Quick! Help me put her on the alter.

Coltal looks mildly shocked. Nxmul signals for him to pick up the dying woman. Coltal complies. They place her on the alter. She bleeds into channels carved in the stone, all leading to a spout where the blood pours into a clay bowl.

COLTAL
My lord. I'm afraid if we use female blood, we might...

NXMUL
Man or woman, my loins have made the next Supreme Lord!

JUJU
Oh my gods! A-a-h-h-r-g! E-e-i-i-k.

Coltral goes to Juju and stuffs an ugly paste in her mouth. She fights against it but swallows some.

COLTAL
The spirit world of the gods needs to be revealed to the baby while still in the womb. Amanita Mescara, Datura and some morning glory seeds should help.

Juju gags but he massages her throat and she swallows more. Slave Woman #1 gives her some pulque'. Juju begins to show signs of being drugged as she weaves about, drooping her head and moaning loudly. Her abdomen begins to pulsate and glow a sickly green.

JUJU

I can't see you! All I can see is
swirling black smoke. Go away!

She flails her arms. Her groin glows greenish yellow and
black wispy plumes leak out of her vagina. She screams.

NXMUL

Wait for the blood!

He picks up the bowl of blood and runs to the bed where he
holds it under Juju. Juju contorts her body rigid and Slave
Woman #1 supports her and she pushes hard. A baby explodes
out with a whoosh of green gas and trailing a glowing
umbilical cord.

COLTAL

Catch him in the bowl!

The baby hits the bowl splashing blood and making sizzling
sounds. Nxm mul drops the bowl and stumbles backward. Juju
collapses. Slave Woman #1 stands aghast for a moment and
then rushes to the baby and cuts the cord with a knife.
Coltal reaches down carefully and lifts the bowl up holding
a dark baby covered in blood, pulsing with green glowing
snake-eyes.

COLTAL (cont'd)

It's a girl!

Coltal looks fearfully at Nxm mul.

NXMUL

I don't care. My child will give
birth to the next thousand lords of
the eternal world!

Nxm mul takes the bowl and holding it high, begins chanting.

NXMUL (cont'd)

May the great dark gods below,
Claim this child. Make her your own.
Bring your will and power to Tikal,
Rule us with glory and might.
Let Xixichupaka join your ranks and
become Quetzalcoatl, the feathered
serpent on earth!

FADE TO BLACK

FADE IN:

INT. POPO'S ADOBE HUT - NIGHT

SUPER: "NORTHERN SONORAN DESERT, 510 CE. Four years later"

A single oil lamp lights up the interior of Popo's hut. KOKO, 6, sits cross-legged on a reed carpet playing music on a small flute. POPO, 36, is kneeling before the corner fireplace, grinding herbs in her metate. Rows of small pots line a wall behind her. Sacks of dried cactus and mushrooms sit below them. Koko plays a sad song that makes Popo stop momentarily and look up at the boy. A tear appears in her eye. Koko stops playing and hobbles over near Popo where he sits down beside her and tugs at her robes. She looks down at him, flashes a smile and continues grinding.

KOKO

I love you Mama-Popo. I want to make you happy.

She continues grinding with a thin smile on her lips. She stops, looks at him again and speaks with a soothing voice.

POPO

I love you more, Mea-Koko. You're getting very good. I love hearing you play. It makes me feel warm and pleasant. It makes me happy, even when I cry.

KOKO

I love playing it. I want to spread joy like we spread seeds in the spring. It grows wherever it lands. Like your lessons.

(recites)

Love is better than hate.
Smart is better than dumb.
Give is better than take.
Truth is better than lies.
Include is better than exclude.
Nature is better than gods.

Koko claps his hands excitedly. He dips his finger in a small pot nearby and rubs it on his gums.

POPO

(proudly)

You're absolutely right!

She puts down her mano stone, turns to Koko with her arms spread apart. Koko happily hobbles over and falls into her arms for a big hug smothered with kisses.

POPO (cont'd)

I'm so happy you can play with no pain. Your music is truly a joy and a wonder. It makes me feel young and alive. Ever since you were brought to me, you have made this lonely old woman happier than I could ever believe.

KOKO

Tell me again! Tell me the story of how I came to live with you.

Popo holds him in her lap and tells the story.

BEGIN FLASHBACK MONTAGE

EXT. POPO'S ADOBE HUT - NIGHT

POPO

(narration over
montage)

I came to this far off place many years before to secure the best Nagual drugs for my father, Xlangl, the regent to the Supreme Lord of Teotihuacan. But I fell in love with the desert, built a home and stayed. Then, unexpectedly, on a cold and dark night, I heard a racket outdoors. When I looked, I saw a troop of Supreme Lord's warriors, still dressed in ceremonial clothes but dirty and tired.

Arabl approaches with his warriors reduced in numbers. He carries a bundle in his arms making a pitiful whimpering sound. When he gets to the hut, Popo appears in the doorway.

ARABL

Are you Popomagipta daughter of Xlangl?

Popo nods her head yes.

POPO

(narration over
montage)

They had been running hard for weeks just to bring you to me.

Arabl hands her the folded skin he was given by Xlangl.

ARABL

Your father commanded and the god's allowed, that I bring you my son, Kokopelli, Supreme Lord's grandson and only male heir to the throne.

Popo reads the skin and looks up as he pushes the bundle into her arms. Popo opens the bundle carefully exposing the tiny squirming deformed and crying baby.

POPO

I'll take care of him from here. You may go.

Popo turns back into the hut. Arabl returns to his warriors, goes to each one, kisses them, and walks away alone into the darkness. The remaining warriors look at each other and slowly walk away but one begins running after Arabl.

POPO (cont'd)

(narration over
montage)

He sent you to me to keep safe from your Grandfather's enemies and to cure your pain with Nagual drugs. I will also educate and train you for your chosen destiny.

END OF MONTAGE

KOKO

What's a destiny?

POPO

It's a possible future you already know about.

KOKO

What if I don't know about it?

POPO

Then that's fate.