

AUDITION SIDES

“THE CAGE”

ABD-AL-AZIZ

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(Stern, but always calm.)

If the word liar is again spoken to me, I will remind you that it is *I* who is Vizer of God. You call God liar?

(Waits.)

Who questions the will of God?

(Gestures towards IBRAHIM.)

This man who stands before you is the living son of our dead Sultan. He- by the will and order of God- is now the living Sultan. I will make *no* apologizes for my actions in this matter, for they were the will of *God*. True it is that Prince Ibrahim has been kept in hiding and solitude these many years, but only from mortal man. None may hide from God. It is true that you honorable and trusted men were not allowed to know of his existence, but his existence has always been known- by God... You ask me *why* he was hidden away?

(Walks to a Vizer/AUDIENCE MEMBER. Calmly.)

How dare you. Can this question even be asked? The corrupt nature of our now dead Sultan had made him a paranoid, lecherous, fool. We all know that he feared betrayal and madness from everyone. Even from each of you in this room! We all knew of his mad desire that he should have no living heir after him! His desire to go against the will of God! His years of murder and bloodshed over this Holy Empire!

(Pause.)

All had to be done against yours and our Sultan's knowledge, but it was not from the knowledge of God! God's will is the reason this man stands before you today. Doubt not the truth and the will of God! Praise him! Praise his will and show your loyalty to the living heir, the living Sultan- Ibrahim.