

ABU AL-UTHNAYN

The Series
"Mind, Soul, Body"

Ep 01

Main Characters

Abu Al-Adhanayn

A young man in his thirties, with a small head and large ears is on a quest to escape the nickname that has stuck with him and is trying to rid himself of it.

The Wolf

Along the journey, Abu Al-Adhnayn comes across a wolf, whom he helps. The two then travel together, spending a day in each other's company.

Secondary Characters

The Name-Giver

An old man always sits on a bench, wearing a tilted headband and a traditional robe. His role in life is to give people nicknames.

The Man in the Well

A young man falls into a well and is rescued by 'Abu Al-Uthnayn' (the man with big ears). He then becomes the means by which Abu Al-Uthnayn plans to rid himself of his nickname.

The Malsounah

An elderly woman who is nosy and very chatty, always gossiping and spreading news.

The Neighborhood Children

They play around joyfully.

Dialect Used in the Episode

The dialect of the people of Hail.

Location

Hail | Thousands of years ago, approximately 605 AD

OVER BLACK

ABU AL-UTHNAYN

(V.O)

I hear a sound!

(paus)

Even fire needs to breathe, so it
doesn't die out!

CUT TO:

EXT. TOP OF THE HAIL CITY - NIGHT

We can see a gray wolf, scared and wounded. He is shaking and looking at something with terrified eyes.

CUT TO BLACK.

OVER BLACK

ABU AL-UTHNAYN

(V.O)

I hear a sound!

(paus)

I've burned all the woods, my skin
is scorched, and the meat is
cooked, yet my heart remains a
frozen block of ice, refusing to
thaw!

CUT TO:

EXT. TOP OF THE HAIL CITY - NIGHT

The wolf is still shaking. Now, we can see a pack of hyenas circling around him. He cannot move. Somehow, he looks like he has already given up.

CUT TO BLACK.

OVER BLACK

ABU AL-UTHNAYN

(V.O)

I hear a sound!

(paus)

(MORE)

ABU AL-UTHNAYN (CONT'D)

If trees could speak, I'd say it
was the sound of that dry branch I
cut yesterday.

CUT TO:

EXT. TOP OF THE HAIL CITY - NIGHT

Suddenly, a bright light falls on the shadows. The scared
wolf and the pack of wild hyenas look towards the light.
There is a creature standing on top of a rock with a blazing
fire in its hand.

ABU AL-UTHNAYN

(V.O)

Searching for fire to avoid
freezing, for friends to avoid
loneliness, for shade from the sun,
from the trees...

The fire makes the shadows stronger, and we cannot see the
creature clearly. But one thing is so obvious: two big ears.
What is this creature?

ABU AL-UTHNAYN (CONT'D)

(V.O)

I search for my name, I'm searching
for the first name I truly
deserve—a name that suits me.

The wolf cannot move, but the hyenas move back a little. The
creature jumps from the rock and lands heavily on the ground.
The hyenas retreat further. After a short pause, the creature
suddenly starts to shout and run towards the pack of hyenas,
waving the fire in the air. The hyenas are scared and start
to run away. In no time, they are gone.

ABU AL-UTHNAYN (CONT'D)

(V.O)

I'm not Abu Al... I'm not Abu Al...
I can't even finish the word, not
even to myself, I can't say this
cursed name.

The poor wolf is still where he was before and believes that
he is about to die soon. The creature gets close to him and
bows down to see the wolf more clearly.

ABU AL-UTHNAYN (CONT'D)

(V.O)

I did everything a man could think
of to free myself from this shame,
but unfortunately...

Suddenly, the light of the fire falls on his face, and we can see the very kind face of a man—our main character, Abu Al-Uthnayn! The first thing you notice is his small head and big ears.

ABU AL-UTHNAYN (CONT'D)

(V.O)

Each time I plant a peg in the
ground, bad luck brings me a stone
instead!

Abu opens his shmagh from his arm and fastens it around his head, covering his beg ears.

EXT. TOP OF THE HAIL CITY/CAMPFIRE - NIGHT

An owl perches on a solitary tree in the desert. The full moon illuminates the sky, with Mount Aja and Mount Salma standing tall. Darkness surrounds, except for the glow of a campfire. The haunting melody of a Rababa echoes. A sorrowful voice harmonizes with the flickering flames, battling against the night's darkness.

Abu Al-Adhanayn and the wolf are sitting next to the fire. As Abu speaks, he puts a bandage over the wolf's wound.

ABU AL-UTHNAYN

They call me Al-Uthnayn. But My ears aren't that big. It's just that my head is small. Even my older brother has big ears, but his swollen head saved him, and since that day, he's been the "head". My father used to say it, laughing at his look, and now he takes pride in that name.

The wolf looks at Abu as if he can understand what the man is saying.

ABU AL-UTHNAYN (CONT'D)

How does a nickname stick to someone and not to others?!... It's like everyone agreed on a nickname without any agreement. You can't count the number of names people throw around, yet somehow, none of them ever stick to anyone. Do you know about the t he **Name-Giver?**

The wolf shakes its head, indicating it doesn't know about the name-giver. Suddenly, Abu becomes more serious and ominous.

ABU AL-UTHNAYN (CONT'D)

(melancholy)

You are very lucky, my friend!
Because he is the one who can make
your life full of joy and pride, or
make it as miserable as hell in the
blink of an eye...

As Abu explains, we get closer to the fire. The flames start to form scary shapes resembling the face of the Name-Giver.

ABU AL-UTHNAYN (CONT'D)

When the name-giver bestows a
nickname on someone, it sticks like
a shadow. It doesn't leave until
you have no shadow left...

The sound of some crying, poor souls can be heard.

ABU AL-UTHNAYN (CONT'D)

One day, you are the brave and the
noble one, and suddenly the next
day you are Al-Uthnayn because you
have big ears!

As we get closer, the flames reveal a terrifying image of the Name-Giver.

ABU AL-UTHNAYN (CONT'D)

You have to prove yourself to the
Name-Giver so that he might change
what he gave you before. And that's
what I want to do, my friend! I'm
going to prove him wrong and change
this cursed name forever!

As the flames flare up, we go to the next scene.

EXT. MARKET - DAY

As we enter this scene, the true face of the Name-Giver is exposed. He's not scary at all! The Name-Giver, an old man sitting on a bench, wearing a tilted agal and a traditional robe, watches as children play soccer. Among them is a boy with a limp who kicks the ball, which then hits the old man.

NAME-GIVER

(Sipping his tea)

May God deal with you, ya Limper!

The four children, stunned as if hearing the nickname for the first time, start chanting.

CHILDREN

(Jumping up and down)

Limper! Limper! Limper! Limper!

The boy with a limp looks annoyed by the nickname. Abu and the wolf are standing in a corner, looking at this scene with broken hearts. Abu shakes his head in agony.

ABU AL-UTHNAYN

Hundreds of nicknames are thrown around and die off, but one will cling to you, as if it were a part of your body that can only be removed with a deep wound that could destroy you. Or you might die, and your nickname will live on.

Suddenly a hyena walks into the neighborhood, and a young girl, dressed in her beautiful Hail attire, becomes terrified and screams.

THE GIRL

Heeeeeelp!!!

The boy with a limp hears her, grabs the ball, aims it at the hyena, and hits it, causing the hyena to flee in fear.

CHILDREN

Limper! Limper! Limper! Limper!

The Name-Giver stops the crowd with a powerful shout.

NAME-GIVER

No!

(everyone looks at him)

From this moment, this kid is no longer just 'Limper'... From now on, he is called... 'Limper the Brave'!

The crowd goes wild and they start to chant again.

CHILDREN

(lifting the limper the brave)

Limper, the brave! Limper, the brave!"

Abu looks at the scene in amazement. He cannot believe what he just saw.

ABU AL-UTHNAYN

That was the fastest name
correction in the village!!!
(to wolf)
Did you see that?

The wolf is happy. He shows his wounded arm to Abu, as if to say that Abu must tell the story of saving him to people in order to change his nickname. But Abu doesn't like the idea.

ABU AL-UTHNAYN (CONT'D)

No, no! That is not how it works.
The Name-Giver has to see it with
his own eyes, or Malsounah should
give him the news.

The wolf looks at Abu as if he is asking, 'Who is **Malsounah**?

ABU AL-UTHNAYN (CONT'D)

Malsounah is a very nosy and very
chatty woman. She's always
gossiping and spreading news. But
she makes sure that the news is
correct and real.

While everyone is still shouting and celebrating the limper kid, a distant voice suddenly catches Abu's attention.

DISTANT VOICE

Help! Help!

ABU AL-UTHNAYN

(to wolf)
Did you hear that?

The wolf shakes his head, indicating yes. Abu looks around and searches for the source of the voice.

DISTANT VOICE

Help! Help!

ABU AL-UTHNAYN

Here it is! It's the same voice
again!

DISTANT VOICE

Help! Help!

ABU AL-UTHNAYN

It's coming from the well!

They begin running toward the well.

EXT. WELL - DAY

Abu peers into the well, with the wolf beside him doing the same.

ABU AL-UTHNAYN

(With the wolf looking
down too)
Human or jinn?

WELL MAN

(O.SC)
(Fearfully)
HUMAN! O kind one... I ask for your
help.

The wolf runs away in fear but soon returns.

ABU AL-UTHNAYN

What got you down there?"
(turns to the wolf)
Not really the best time, for this
questin, right?!
(back to the man)
Don't worry, hold on a bit; I'll
get you out one way or another.

Abu Al-Uthnayn begins to think.

ABU AL-UTHNAYN (CONT'D)

If I save this man, he can come to
the village and let everyone know
that I saved him. Then the Name-
Giver will change my nickname,
right?

The wolf looks at Abu suspiciously, but Abu doesn't care. He
jumps toward a rope he saw under a pile of wood, takes it
out, and comes back to the well.

ABU AL-UTHNAYN (CONT'D)

Alright, alright, I was just
looking for a rope to pull you up.
Hold the rope tight, don't let it
slip.
(he begins to pull,
struggling)
You are my hope!

WELL MAN

No brother! You are my hope!

ABU AL-UTHNAYN

You are my hero!

WELL MAN

No brother! You are my hero!

ABU AL-UTHNAYNB

You are my salvation!

WELL MAN

Brother YOU ARE THE SALVATION!

ABU AL-UTHNAYN

(Looking up at the sky)
I'm not just pulling a rope; I'm
pulling my future, my life ahead,
my head held high... Without ears!

Midway through, the worn-out rope begins to fray, trembling and breaking thread by thread, the snapping sound like whips lashing at them. Without thinking, Abu Al-Uthnayn wraps the rope around his neck and continues pulling from the well.

ABU AL-UTHNAYN (CONT'D)

It's almost done, you're almost there...

(to himself)

If he gets out so easily, there's a good chance I won't get a nickname, and this will just be a passing incident... But what if he fall and die!

(shouts loudly)

Nooo...!!!

In that instant, he takes off his shmagh, revealing his ears, ties it around his hand, and starts pulling again. Abu Al-Uthnayn pulls the man out, looks at him, then hugs him, while the wolf watches in amazement.

ABU AL-UTHNAYN (CONT'D)

Thank God you're safe. I know if I tell you I'm happier than you are, you won't believe me, but it doesn't matter. The important thing is that you survived and you will tell everyone that I SAVED YOU!

He removes his shmagh from his hand as if taking off a shirt, kneels down, and ties it around the man's wounded, bleeding leg. With two swift movements, he lifts him and throws him over his shoulder with pride. They head toward the market.

ABU AL-UTHNAYN (CONT'D)

(as he goes)

What do you think my new nickname will be once people hear the story?

(MORE)

ABU AL-UTHNAYN (CONT'D)

The Savior? The Noble One? The
 Strong Rope? The Right Hand?
 It doesn't matter; any name is
 better than that cursed one!

But what he doesn't know is that Malsounah was watching all this from the shadows, and she is going to reach the market sooner than them. Malsounah becomes the shadow itself, moving through the ground, walls, and rooftops.

EXT. MARKET - DAY

As the shadow of Malsounah passes by, she whispers into everyone's ear, giving them the news. Finally, she arrives and sits next to the Name-Giver. She whispers in his ear, making his eyes shine.

Abu Al-Uthnayn arrives at the market with the wolf and the injured man, amidst the cheering and welcoming shouts of the people. He hears the different nicknames being called, and with each one, he seems to rise a little from the ground, as if growing taller with every cheer.

PEOPLE

(cheering)

"The Noble One!"

"The Brave!"

"The Right Hand!"

"The Strong Arm!"

"The Hero!"

"The Faithful Shepherd!"

Abu Al-Uthnayn turns towards another direction, facing the name-giver. He drops to his knees in front of a chair in the middle of the market, whispering without opening his mouth, as if pleading.

ABU AL-UTHNAYN

(To the name-giver, in a
 whisper without speaking
 aloud)

Please, say it. Just say it. One
 word from you can make me forget
 everything that's gone before. Say
 it, let no one else speak but you.
 Say it.

Suddenly, silence falls as Abu Al-Uthnayn waits for the name-giver to speak.

NAME-GIVER

You are truly a worthy man. How did you hear the wolf's cry from afar and help him, and then hear the injured man from the depths of the well, while we, who live closer, heard nothing?!

The name-giver stands, adjusts his agal, and quiets the crowd.

NAME-GIVER (CONT'D)

It's true, they once called you Abu Al-Uthnayn to belittle you, and you used to be ashamed of that name. But now, these ears saved a fierce animal, turning it into your loyal guardian, and saved a man from certain death. You have every right, from this moment on, to be proud of them, never ashamed. From this moment, with all due pride, you are: '**Abu Al-Uthnayn.**'

Abu Al-Uthnayn, stunned, doesn't know what to say. The scene pulls him away from everyone, focusing on him alone.

ABU AL-UTHNAYN

(V.O)

My heart beats... and the block of ice in my chest has started to melt.

The scene shifts back, showing him among the crowd.

ABU AL-UTHNAYN (CONT'D)

Yes, that's me. This is me. Yes, I am... Abu Al-Uthnayn!

He is lifted onto shoulders, with the wolf and the injured man smiling happily at what has happened. The name-giver and the Malsounah stand among the crowd, while an owl perches on a tree, signaling the end of the story.

CUT TO BLACK.

THE END