**"2/ EXT. BEACH – MORNING"**

**Wuqooqah (V.O)**

I am Wuqooqah.

My story began as an orphan before I even left my egg.

My mother abandoned me in a nest I did not recognize,

beside eggs that looked nothing like me, and yet, suspected nothing.

I hatched before them,

and committed the most horrific crime wings have ever known:

I pushed them... one egg after another.

Alone, I waited for their mother.

She became my mother...

She wrapped me in her wings,

protected me... protected the danger that had killed her children.

When my feathers grew, I left her—

Such is the way of cuckoos.

Since that night, guilt has haunted me.

So I vowed to atone for the sins of my kind.

I became the heart that cannot bear to see even one egg left behind.

**"3/ EXT. MOUNT MEYFA – MORNING"**  
  
 **Wuqooqah**

Here… on the island of Kadambala,

I am Wuqooqah,

The mother of every lost egg.

My nest, wide and open.

And every egg is my child… and my hero.

**"5/ EXT. BEACH – NEAR THE CIRCLE – MORNING"**

**Hudhud** I found it... I found it!

**Babghawiya** I found it... I found it!

**Najeer** Finally... Where is it?

**Habari** Na’eema!

**Habari**Come here..Come here..

**Habari** Go ahead. Do what you do best.

**Habari**

Quickly, Na’eema!

**Habari**

Quickly, Waqwaqa is waiting!

**Babghawiya** Waq... Waq... Waqwaqa...

**Hudhud** Where is it?

**Babghawiya** Where is it? Where is it?

**Hadhoud**

Stop messing around..

Females don't have Adam's apples...

**"6/ INT. CAVE - MORNING"**

**Waqwaqa** Thank you, my little ones.

(Grunts)

I don’t want to leave this life without having an egg beneath me.

I need to make up for my sins, and those of my kind, the cuckoos, who gave us a bad name.

**Hudhud** You looked after us, egg by egg, until we grew up.

**Habari** If it weren’t for you, the eagles would’ve eaten us.

**Waqwaqa**

The flock of turtle doves has arrived…

They will circle now, just like they do every year above Mount Mifa.

***"8/ INT. CAVE - MORNING"***

***Waqwaqa***

*What’s troubling you, Babghawiya?*

*There’s a question circling over your head.*

***Babghawiya*** *Ahh... I-I want…*

***Babghawiya*** *I want to know what my voice sounds like...*

***Waqwaqa*** *Ahhh... I’ve been waiting a long time for you to ask that.*

***Babghawiya*** *I can imitate every sound…*

***Babghawiya***

***…****yet I’ve never been able to imitate my own.*

***Waqwaqa*** *How can you imitate your voice if you’ve never heard it?*

***Babghawiya*** *Then how do I find it?*

***Waqwaqa***

*Hmmm…*

***Waqwaqa***

*You’ve been searching everywhere... except the one place that matters.*

***Babghawiya*** *Where?*

***Waqwaqa*** *Search within yourself.*

**"10/ INT. CAVE - MORNING"**

**Waqwaqa** And what’s on your mind?

**Hudhud**The turtle doves all look alike. And know what they look like...

**Hudhud**

And I know what they look like — their shape, their markings

**Hudhud**And I know what... every bird looks like…

**Waqwaqa**

And what is strange about that?

**Hudhud**

Except myself, I don’t know what I look like.

**Waqwaqa**That’s all right, don't worry... just wait, wait..

**Waqwaqa**

The season of the hoopoe migration is near.

**Habari** What about me? I waited for the houbara migration — no one came!

**Habari**I waited for the houbara migration — no one came!

**Najeer**Stop being selfish!

I also want to see myself.

**Habari**(Laughs)

And how can a one-eyed woodpecker, see himself?

**Hudhud**

Ah..Listen!

Where’s that lake you once told me about?

**Habari** Asfar Lake!

**Hudhud** The one that shines only once a year — turns into a clear mirror.

**Waqwaqa** I fear, little ones...

**Waqwaqa**If you go, you might not return.

**Najeer** Why wouldn’t we come back?

**Habari**And this... is our home.

**Hudhud** First love always stays with you.  
 And is there anywhere more beautiful than Kadambal?

**Waqwaqa** Then, with tomorrow’s sunrise... fly.

**Waqwaqa**  
 Chase every rising sun…You will fly toward the twin moons

**Waqwaqa**

But don’t let any of you leave a brother behind.

**Waqwaqa**

Keep going until your feet touch the shores of Asfar Lake

**Waqwaqa**

Arrive at midday — when the sun is overhead

**Waqwaqa**

and you’ll see no shadow beneath you

**Hudhud**  It sounds like a long journey...

**Hudhud** We need to prepare...

**Waqwaqa** Don’t overpack.

**Waqwaqa**  
 Follow the shoreline.

**Waqwaqa**  
 After two sunrises, you’ll reach the Hareed Dock.

**Waqwaqa**  
 There, the fish will leap into your beaks.

**Waqwaqa**

Eat, gather your strength — then move on.

**Waqwaqa**  
 But you, Na’eema...

**Waqwaqa**

Eat only a little.

**Waqwaqa**

(Coughs)

**"11/ EXT. MOUNTAIN – NEXT TO THE CAVE - MORNING"**

**Waqwaqa** Go after them…

**Waqwaqa**

And don’t come back.

**Waqwaqa**

I don’t think I could bear losing you all again.

**Waqwaqa**  
 Goodbye, my little ones.

**"14/ EXT. GREAT TREE - MORNING"**

**Hudhud**

(Sigh)

**Hudhud**

We’ve chased more than one sun… I’m afraid we might lose our way back.

**Najeer** Hmmm...

Let us mark our path, so that we don't lose our way back..

**Babghawiya** Search within yourself…

Search within yourself…

Search within yourself…

**Habari** Let’s mark this tamarisk tree.

**Najeer**

(SFX)

{Pecking the tree}

**Najeer**

(Sigh of relief)

**15/ EXT. DESERT – MORNING**

**Najeer** I’m dying of thirst…

**Habari**(Gasping, thirsty)

Where could we possibly find water in this desert?

**Babghawiya**

*Search within yourself…*

**Babghawiya**

*Ah! Search within yourself...*

**16/ EXT. FOREST – NIGHT**

**Habari** Where am I?

**Babghawiya** Search within yourself.

**Najeer**

(Grunts)

{Drawing on tree}

**Habari**

You carved all of us so beautifully…

**Habari**

But who will carve your portrait?

**Hudhud** Search within yourself.

**Najeer**

(Laughs)

**Hudhud**

(Laughs)

**Habari**

Ah-ahhh (I see)

**18/ INT. CAVE – MORNING**  
  
  **Wuqooqah**

I am Wuqooqah..

The mother of every lost egg.