

Fourth draft  
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In My Image

by

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1      EXT – MELANESIAN ISLAND BEACH - AFTERNOON

Credits appear intermittently against black as the view fades in and out of WAMAT'S POV running through the scrub and coconut palms towards a beach – we finally come to

The beach on a Melanesian Island, it is June 1938 - we are looking back over the sand towards the palm trees at the beaches edge, WAMAT, 20's a Papuan native, shortly emerges and runs down to the waters edge - he stands in the wet sand and looks keenly out to sea, holding a carved mask in one hand.

DAVID, 30's a white anthropologist, appears in the scrub, running after him, yelling out

DAVID

Wamat.....Wamat.....you don't have to.....don't

DAVID arrives next to him, sweat dripping profusely

DAVID

*(Catching his breath)* Wamat.....you don't have to sell it.....it's not wrong - it's not evil.....the Preacher's just telling you that.....because he wants you to become like him.....but this is you.....you do what you want.....this is you

WAMAT

No I want sell.....I want be clear for the Lord....I want the Lord to fill me and take my sin

DAVID

But Wamat you're not a bad person

WAMAT

I have sin - everybody have sin.....no man is without sin

DAVID

No...we all do bad things.....but you just learn from them and keep on going - you don't need all that - and you don't need to sell this.....if you sell this you're going to regret it

WAMAT

No...evil - can't worship dead people - only worship God

DAVID

But he's not 'dead people' he's your ancestor - look - *(takes the mask)* - who is this? *(Wamat says nothing)*.....it's Umitjl - your

ancestor.....he watch over you.....he take care of you.....don't you want him?

WAMAT

Lord watch over me now.....Lord take care of me now.....there is no other God but God.....can't worship dead ancestors anymore.....Umitjl die long long time ago - but Lord Jesus is risen and through him I have forever life

DAVID

*(Sighs, doesn't know what to say)* He's just making you think that.....this is what you believe - this is you

WAMAT

No it's not - this is what I am.....and this what I want to do

DAVID

No you don't

WAMAT looks at DAVID - hurt and insistingly - he can't understand him - DAVID senses he's done something wrong - their eyes are locked for a moment, then WAMAT turns away and looks to the sea - he sees what he's looking for – a trader's boat - and runs to the edge of the water and starts waving as it approaches - DAVID just watches him, after a short while FATHER NICHOLLS, 40's bearded, arrives and stands next to DAVID - they look at each other for a moment, then back out to sea, then FATHER NICHOLLS speaks in a deep Scottish brogue

FATHER NICHOLLS

Whatever happened to that old anthropological principle of observance without interference

DAVID

You wouldn't know anything about that

FATHER NICHOLLS

I don't have to Mr Miller - that's not my job.....you've been nothing but a destabilising influence on our community ever since you arrived here - the sooner you finish your study and leave the better

DAVID looks at him and trudges away, he has made a few steps when FATHER NICHOLLS turns to him

FATHER NICHOLLS

And why shouldn't he sell it anyway - at least it gives him a bit of money or trade - and he can buy something for his family

DAVID

All you've ever done is taken their beliefs and given them nothing in return – and taken their economic independence

FATHER NICHOLLS walks to him

FATHER NICHOLLS

I haven't taken anything Mr Miller, and neither am I making them do anything they don't want to – everything they do they're doing because they want to (*FATHER NICHOLLS stops next to DAVID*) – that's the one bit you find hardest to take isn't it – you can't stand seeing them respond to the living presence of God in their lives

DAVID

I can't stand seeing them have everything taken off them and being given some broken religion in return

FATHER NICHOLLS

The way of the Lord is not broken Mr Miller

DAVID

Yeah whatever you think (*walks away*)

DAVID stares at him intensely and then walks away - FATHER NICHOLLS watches him go and then looks to WAMAT waving to the trader's boat out in the water

## 2 INT - DAVID'S COTTAGE – LATE AFTERNOON

A few months later - September - DAVID is now back in his cottage in a small town on the New Guinea coast - it looks dilapidated and run down as the late afternoon sunlight streams in. The view moves across his living room - past an open chest with various newspapers, artifacts and shells lying around, past a chest of drawers and onto his desk - where it moves past his typewriter and books and papers and onto a bundle which he picks up - he looks at it in his lap and we see the title "The Ethnography of the Kincaid Island Group by David Miller, Prepared for the Anthropology Department, Moreton University, Queensland", he starts flipping through it and looks at it for a while when there is a knock on his door - he is a bit surprised and looks at his watch - not expecting anyone - and goes and answers the door

DAVID

*(Pause)* Dr Evans

DR EVANS

Hello David *(shakes hand with a big smile)*

DAVID

What are you doing here?

DR EVANS

Just passing through, thought I'd drop in

DAVID

*(Can't believe it)* What?....

DR EVANS

Well aren't you going to invite me in?

DAVID

*(Still disbelievingly)* Yes.....

They both walk in, Dr Evans is late 50's, hair thinning, eternally cheerful

DR EVANS

I pulled in this afternoon on a Schooner - on my way up to Hong Kong.....- a long deserved holiday

DAVID

Oh!!

DR EVANS

Yes relax - nothing's happened to the University I haven't thrown it in or anything - just decided I'm not getting any younger so might as well take that trip I've been wanting to for so long

DAVID

Yes of course....so when did you arrive?

DR EVANS

This morning

DAVID

Yes - so how long are you here for?

DR EVANS

Just over night

DAVID

Oh...what a coincidence

DR EVANS

Well not entirely coincidence.....half coincidence....Dr Clarke had asked if I might be able to call in on you on the way and since Dahroul was one of our ports of call I thought why not - give it a shot

DAVID

Yes.....so come in.....can I get you a drink? (*walks to a cupboard*).....no doubt he's interested in the report

DR EVANS

Yes....just whatever you're having will be fine.....cosy place you have here

DAVID

That's one word for it - another might be shack (*he smiles to Dr Evans*) ....how about a whisky? – it's probably time for one

DR EVANS

Yes that's fine.....I take it you've just come back from somewhere

DAVID

Ohll about five days ago

DR EVANS

And how was it?

DAVID

The reports done

DR EVANS

Oh

DAVID

(*Walking over to him with the drink*)...a little bit late but it's done

DR EVANS

Cheers

DAVID

Would you like a seat ?

DR EVANS sips first and then nods and sits

DR EVANS

*(Looking at the glass)* Ah that's good....haven't had too many of these lately - the captain of the vessel is insisting on a dry ship

DAVID

*(Nods)* Ergh....

DR EVANS

Yes which is rather a bit frustrating

DAVID

And how's it been?

DR EVANS

Good - we left Townsville two months ago – went straight to Moresby – spent a few days there catching up with some old friends – then onto Rabaul doing the same

DAVID

Ohr yes

DR EVANS

Still alot of damage there from the eruption

DAVID

Mmm

DR EVANS

What was that? – over a year ago now wasn't it

DAVID

Yes

DR EVANS

But still I suppose it'll clear away eventually

DAVID

Yeah

DR EVANS

And so then with the exception of stopping off here we'll go straight through to Honkers as quick as we can

DAVID

Right

DR EVANS

But it's been wonderful so far - I've enjoyed it like nothing else - you've got to do what you've always dreamed of.....it makes the world of difference

DAVID

Yes....spruced you up

DR EVANS

Oh beyond words.....and the trip up from Brisbane to Townsville was just superb.....wonderful fishing and good seas - mind you hit a bit of rough weather at the top of the Cape - but nothing like a bit of excitement for the old constitution

DAVID

*(Smiling)* No

DR EVANS

So it's been the trip of a lifetime so far.....and at my age there's not too many of them left *(David smiles)* .....and how's it all been for you David?

DAVID

Oh well busy.....the reports done - I'm sorry it's late - I finished it two days ago - I've just been waiting for a vessel which can take it down to Brisbane.....you can have a look if you like *(turns around, retrieves it off his desk and passes it to him)* I've got a carbon copy here too, but I was wanting to hang on to that

DR EVANS

No, it's right....it's not so much the report Dr Clarke was anxious about but just things in general.....he hasn't heard from you in eight months.... hasn't received any artefacts for I think nearly fourteen months - and the report is six months overdue

DAVID

Yes....

DR EVANS

Now.....- David - I know your fieldwork is going to put certain constraints on your time - but just the very basics of keeping in

touch and keeping the flow of artefacts coming is essential - and the very cornerstone of your contract

DAVID

*(Nodding quietly)* I know...

DR EVANS

*(Cutting in)* I mean we were beginning to wonder if something had happened to you – if the head hunters had got you or something *(he chuckles)* I mean you hadn't responded to any of our attempts to contact you - and we weren't hearing anything from you

DAVID

No I know....it's just....I *(he is lost for words - looks to Dr Evans)* ..... well the report took longer than I thought - it's a lot more complex than I expected....but you're right I still should have kept in touch and let you know what I was doing....it's just sometimes I can be away for months, but I still should have given you an idea.....so that's my fault - sorry.....but the artefacts.....well I'd explained my position on them in the last letter I'd sent

DR EVANS

Which is something Dr Clarke wanted me to speak to you about....it is in the initial agreement that you regularly supply us with them

DAVID

*(Nods)*.....the reason why I stopped....is that .....I just don't think it's right.....we're taking too much from them - it's just not right

DR EVANS

Look....., -David - I don't want to appear as some....ogre suddenly appearing out of the blue to you, but.....I don't think you realise what a unique position you're in here - here we are just over a third of the way into the twentieth century of mankind - and there are still primitives in the highlands who've never seen white man before and here you are right in the middle of it - with a major university prepared to fund and support you're every move - I mean do you know what that means?.....what you can do with that?.....I don't have to tell you there are people back in Australia who'd give their eye teeth to be in the position you're in.....I mean who knows what there is out there to be discovered....with more and more Homo erectus fossils being found all through out Asia - maybe that's what's here - maybe that's what these people are - who knows - but the point is the possibilities are endless - and you're right at the foot of it all - it's

all open to you.....and all you have to do is keep up your end of the bargain.....it's not too much to ask for surely (*David looks down*) look I can understand where your coming from with your concern for these people, I really can - but the world's not going to stop - civilisation is going to keep marching forward - and unless if we study and learn about these people we're not going to help them prepare for it

DAVID

.....but we're just having too big an effect on them – and when it comes to artefacts when you take them you're destroying the very culture you want to study

DR EVANS

But how else are we to learn about them - how else are the people in Brisbane to know about these people?.....and they can always make more anyway (*David looks away*) look the long and the short of it is David I've been asked by Dr Clarke to gauge your position on this and then cable back to him from Hong Kong so he can re-assess your contract.....he's under a lot of pressure from the Board to replace you with someone with recognised qualifications in Anthropology and someone who'll keep the flow of artefacts coming (*looks to him - David just acknowledges*).....so what should I tell them

DAVID

Well this is all very sudden

DR EVANS

Yes but you can understand the position they're in

DAVID

Yes - I know.....tell them.....the position I outlined in my letter still stands

DR EVANS

No artefacts?

DAVID

No

DR EVANS

Are you sure?

DAVID

Yes

DR EVANS

.....very well then.....it's your decision

DAVID

That's alright

DR EVANS

I must say you're a man of unusual courage David

DAVID

*(Half laughing)* Hmm! - is that what you call it *(gets up)* .....you just have to do what you most feel - that's all.....do you want another drink?

DR EVANS

Ohll...just the one - I won't be able to stay too long unfortunately.....I'm sorry about all this David

DAVID

*(Shaking his head)* No no - it's alright.....you've got to be able to feel right about what you do

DR EVANS

*(Drowning out)* Yes.....you know you'll probably find he'll scale down the agreement.....this report of yours looks very comprehensive, and obviously very well researched.....he'll probably keep you on in some type of reduced capacity like this

DAVID

It's alright *(comes back with the bottle)* to tell you the truth my heart's been going out of it for a while now anyway *(pours Dr Evans drink)* ....not in learning or helping - but just in doing some of the things...~ the way I have been *(he is looking to Dr Evans)* .....and you know the big thing is *(he sits)* no matter what you do, no matter what your intentions are you always effect them.....and I don't know if that's a good thing or a bad thing - but it's impossible to avoid

DR EVANS

Yes - well you can't live in a cocoon all your life - which is essentially what these people have been doing - which is what makes them so damn fascinating - I'll have to read this when I get back from Hong Kong - it should be in Brisbane by then

DAVID

Yes

DR EVANS

But I don't think you should worry too much about it David you know - some things are beyond our control - and it's just better to play our part in them rather than worry about the greater scheme of things

DAVID just muses over it - unsure

DR EVANS

And at my age you can't afford to worry about too much

DAVID

*(Smiles)* You've got an interesting attitude about it

DR EVANS

Well you can't take any of it with you, can you - so you might as well enjoy it while you can.....which I have been

DAVID

Hmm.....and so why Hong Kong

DR EVANS

Well the Governor there is an old friend of mine

DAVID

I imagine you've got old friends dotted all the way up the coast you've been seeing

DR EVANS

No - just a few places - actually you might know my friend in Rabaul from your law days - he's a judge

DAVID

Who is he?

DR EVANS

Colin Campbell – he's with the Supreme Court

DAVID

.....no.....it's been a few years though - the judiciary's changed a bit

DR EVANS

Yes and he hasn't been there long - actually he's just on his way through to a case in the highlands now

DAVID

Really – and he's a Supreme Court judge - what is it?

DR EVANS

I don't know - some murder case - he didn't tell me too much about it - he did say it's going to be precedent setting – something about making an example

DAVID

.....in the highlands - what'd the person do? – kill a white man?

DR EVANS

No – one of his own villagers

DAVID

*(Disbelievingly)* And they're charging him with it?..... *(shakes his head, looks away)*

DR EVANS

Yes well I don't know too much about it – you can talk to Colin if you like

DAVID

No.....that just typifies why I left law

DR EVANS

Well if you want to find out more he's coming through this way

DAVID

No....no.....I did my lot with Law ages ago – I don't believe that – but still I suppose I shouldn't be surprised – the way things are going

DR EVANS

Yes well – the forward roll of civilisation is inevitable

DAVID

It's all a matter of what you call civilised.....what tribe is it, when's it being held?

DR EVANS

Don't know – it's somewhere in the controlled territory – you'd have to ask Colin – he'll be here soon

DAVID

No....(*shrugs, disparages it*) ohr no - just wondering

DR EVANS

I think he arrives here in a few days.....then he's got one more quick boat trip to Tinook and then he flies up there from there – you know what (*his eyes light up*) that's what I should do - fly back from Hong Kong - that'd be an adventure - I've done the sea trip so why not do the air trip - there'd have to be a Douglas DC3 I could get - yes I'll do that.....oh my goodness me is that the time? - David I'm going to have to get going I meant to get here a lot earlier - we're casting off at dawn tomorrow and there's a number of jobs we have to do tonight and I'm not much good with a late night - but look if you have any questions see Colin - I'm sure he'll be able to help you out - I'm sorry I've got to leave so soon David - but I can't burn the candle at both ends - if there's one thing I've learnt with my age - you can only over do it so much

DAVID

(*Smiling*) Right

DR EVANS

Thanks for the whisky

DAVID

That's alright

They both stand up

DR EVANS

Yes....well - anyway I'm glad we had this opportunity David - it's been good to see you again - see that you're still alive.....I'll pass on the information to Dr Clarke when I arrive in Hong Kong.....it's a shame you know that it can't work out the way we all originally planned - but maybe that's better for everyone

DAVID

Yes....

DR EVANS

Alright then, well (*shakes hands*) you look after yourself - you're a good man David

DAVID

.....and you look after yourself too

DR EVANS  
Will do - and I'll see you again on my next trip through

DAVID  
*(Smiling)* Alright that'd be good

DR EVANS  
Rightio then....thanks once again

DAVID  
That's alright

DR EVANS  
Hooroo

DAVID  
Bye

DAVID stands at the doorway for a bit, smiling and looking off after him - then walks back in and sits down - he puts his feet up and picks up his report - staring at it and thinking without leafing through it – we see DAVID'S cottage again from the outside, slow fade out

3 EXT - LOCAL RIVER BANK - EARLY MORNING

The next morning ~ not long after dawn - DAVID is walking along a flat land by a river with mangroves in the background – the tide is out and there is a heavy organic smell in the air - he comes across his friend STU repairing a net

DAVID  
Giddyay Stu

STU  
David

DAVID  
What's the problem?

STU  
Ohr just the usual.....I thought I was going to be able to fix it quicker than this - I've missed the change in tide now

DAVID  
Can I give you a hand?

STU  
No.....ah (*chucks it down*) - who cares – I’ll do it later

DAVID  
You had breakfast?

STU  
Yeah

DAVID  
Oh – I’m on the way to Jacky’s – you don’t want to join me still do you

STU  
Ah no.....look I’ll probley go home and fix this

DAVID  
Alright – well I’ll catch up with you later then

STU  
Sure

DAVID keeps walking

4 EXT – JACKY’S BAR - EARLY MORNING

DAVID walks into Jacky’s Bar – it is a weather board colonial building with art deco pretensions, and frequented by all the Expats

5 INT – JACKY’S BAR - EARLY MORNING

DAVID walks in to the main eating area, past cane chairs and palm trees - JACKY is near the back of the room with a pile of plates at a table, she is looking at a chip in one when she notices DAVID

JACKY  
Giddy David

DAVID  
Jacky

JACKY  
How have you been keeping?

DAVID  
Alright

JACKY  
You after breakfast?

DAVID  
Yeah if that'd be alright

JACKY  
Sure what would you like?

DAVID  
Ohr just bacon and eggs

JACKY  
Yeah no worries - you're up bright and early

DAVID  
Yeah - bright and early and hungry *(he looks around the room - there's only a few people there, then turns back to JACKY and smiles)*

JACKY  
Well we'll soon fix that up - won't be a minute

JACKY walks off and DAVID looks around the room again - he notices Sergeant MICK Peters, stocky 40's, who looks up and nods in hello - DAVID walks over to him

MICK  
Well look who's back

DAVID  
Giddyay Mick

MICK  
Haven't they killed you yet?

DAVID  
*(Smiling, a bit begrudgingly)* No.....they're not going to either

MICK  
*(Gives a quick look of mock disappointment)* You having breakfast - d'you want to sit down?

DAVID  
Depends - if the conversation gets any better?

MICK  
Probably not

They both smile - DAVID pulls up his seat

MICK  
So where'd you go?

DAVID  
Kincaid Islands

MICK  
Ohr yeah

DAVID  
Just doing a report for the University?

MICK  
And how'd it go

DAVID  
Good

MICK  
What kind of things do you put on those reports?

DAVID  
Ohr....everything.....the whole ethnography - religion,  
language.....social structure....economy - everything I can

MICK  
Right

DAVID  
Just trying to get a picture of them in their own right before we  
influenced them.....hey you don't know anything about that court  
case that's going to be held in the highlands do you ?

MICK  
Yeah - we're getting the judge through here on Saturday - I've got  
to put him up for the night

DAVID

Why's the native being charged?

MICK

Well he killed someone

DAVID

But it was one of his villagers – they've never been tried for that before

MICK

Well I don't know – that's the Administration's prerogative

DAVID

What happened?

MICK

Some other Kanaka went and slept with his wife so he went and killed him

Pause

DAVID

Was it within their social law?

MICK

Apparently

DAVID

Well then what are they charging him for?

MICK

I don't know.....you'd have to ask whoever's decision it was – maybe they decided they just wanted to get tough – but it was always going to happen though you know – you can't have two ways of doing something in the one country – it's just stupid because it's going to be impossible to enforce that's all – they better not try something like that around here and make me have to enforce it on all of them.....so no I don't know what they're getting at

DAVID

Yeah well it shouldn't be happening at all if you ask me

MICK

Yeah a bit of give and take doesn't hurt – that's how I've always run it around here – and we've had few enough troubles – you just have to know when to lay off them and know when to come down on 'em.....but no.....they're setting a precedent they're never going to be able to maintain – they've really gone off half cocked – you know what happened when he was arrested?

DAVID

What?

MICK

Everyone thought he was a hero.....he proudly presented himself to be handcuffed and hundreds gathered round to watch him fly off when they took him down to Tinook.....they just haven't got a clue have they?

DAVID

*(With a smile)* Who – the Administration?

MICK

Both

DAVID smiles and half laughs a bit

DAVID

.....and so where is he now then?

MICK

Still in Tinook – in the watch house

DAVID

How long's he been in there for?

MICK

About a month

DAVID

Geez that'd be tough on him....where's he from – what tribe?

MICK

Ooohll.....now you're testing me – what was it.....Garndu.....Gaindu

DAVID

Gaindu?

MICK

Yeah you know 'em?

DAVID

Yeah – they were the first people I ever did field research with - this was just after I quit law – five years ago.....*(he drifts off)*.....I was only there for a week but it left such an indelible mark on my memory – they were great

MICK

Yeah?

We see a flash back in black and white of JAINANTU looking at DAVID through a crowd, as DAVID reminisces

DAVID

Yeah I actually made good friends with a bloke there – Jainantu.....couldn't speak a word of each other's language! – but that didn't matter – there was something special about him.....everyone else was still wondering if we were spirits and couldn't believe what our equipment was made out of but he knew we were just people.....he was a real bright spark

MICK

Yeah

DAVID

Yeah I often wondered how he's faired - I heard about the mission going up there the next year.....he was incredible – he worked out I wasn't there like all the rest – it was a surveying expedition I tagged along with – he knew I was more interested in them and he started showing me things and explaining things – teaching me words.....and a friendship developed – I've never been back since though – shortly after I got the contract with the university and most of the work they wanted done was out in the islands.....and I just haven't been back that way.....it would have changed a fair bit though.....there's nothing like just that moment when everything's new and untouched is there – if only it could stay like that.....but just by going there we change it.....and the mission would have changed everything now

MICK

Ohr I don't know – it might be on the wane from what I've heard

DAVID

Really?

MICK

Yeah the Minister died two years ago – and they still haven't replaced him – one of the Kanaka's has been running it – like a lay preacher – but I'm not sure how successful it's been

DAVID

Oh well maybe it's not too bad then.....

MICK

You should have a word to the judge - see if you can get a trip up there – have a look again

DAVID

Yeah

MICK

You might be able to get involved – be some sort of cultural advisor

DAVID

Ohr I dunno about that – the highlands aren't my area

MICK

No but you know a bit

DAVID

Yeah.....

MICK

Well have a word with him – you might be able to get a trip up there – I'll mention it to him when he gets here

DAVID

*(Considers it)* Alright yeah why not - that'd be good

6 INT - DAVID'S COTTAGE – DAY

DAVID is at his desk writing some notes about a sea shell – his whole cottage is gloriously dilapidated – made out of weathered timber and with artefacts gifted to him strewn everywhere – the outside world has crept in and fused with every pore of its existence – he hears STU'S voice from out through the front door

STU

You home?

DAVID

Yeah come on in

STU wanders in and leans in the doorway – looking down at DAVID

STU

What are you doin'?

DAVID

Ohr.....just a bit of this

STU

What.....drawin' it?

DAVID

Yeah.....just making notes

STU

What do you do that for?

DAVID

Can't help myself...I just gotta... *(he laughs)*

Pause

STU

What do you like about them?

DAVID

*(Pauses for a moment) Look (he holds up a large brown kauri shell and moves it around exhibiting it's form) and look*

DAVID reaches to a nautilus shell which he holds flat on his hand – it had been cut in two and he lifts the top off to reveal the beautiful spiral pattern inside with it's curved chambers – STU admires it, DAVID looks at him, then STU meets DAVID'S look, pause in this shared moment then, cut to

7 EXT - LOCAL BEACH - NIGHT

DAVID and STU are sitting around a fire on a beach – the waves sound in the background as the coconut palms gently sway and the last light of the day is replaced by the glow in front of them – they have both been drinking, STU more so than DAVID, but neither are really drunk

DAVID

So I'll go and see him on Saturday – might be able to get a trip up there – it'd be good ~ see Jainantu again.....it's been way too long.....really should have looked into it but I didn't

STU

Ah well

DAVID

.....be a lot of change there.....but if anyone could cope with it he could.....this trial though (*nods his head*) they just think they've got the right to do whatever they want

STU

Do you ever wonder why you came here?

DAVID

No - do you?

STU

Yeah

DAVID

Why?

STU

Don't know.....thought I'd make my fortune on Eddie Creek – but when the gold dried up - I guess I realised I had no real reason to be here.....I was so sure they were gonna find another one in the highlands but they never did (*with a smile*) kicked round for years waitin' for that.....and the croc hunting was just something that came up – but I couldn't give a toss about it now.....just want something better

Pause

DAVID

Ever think of going back to Australia?

STU

No – what's the point – there's no work there with the Depression – there's much more opportunities here – you just got to know what to take.....be in the right place at the right time.....how about you?

DAVID

Hmm?...yeah.....when it's right

STU nods quietly

DAVID

Don't you just love fires – I could stare in them for ages.....there's just something so.....fundamental about them - I always wonder how many other sets of eyes have stared into them in ages past ~ and what their thoughts and feelings were – what their world was like – their hopes and dreams and what they were afraid of.....and it's still the same isn't it – sand, sea, fire (*lets a pile of sand run through his hand*) ~ maybe that's what I like about this place – feel close to that

DAVID looks at STU for a moment, thinking about it then turns back to the fire, cut to

8 INT - A ROOM AT THE POLICE STATION - DAY

DAVID stands expectantly, looking around at the clean weather board walls as MICK enters with the Judge

MICK

David this is Judge Campbell

COLIN

How do you do

MICK

.....this is David Miller

DAVID

Pleased to met you

MICK

I'll leave you two to it

COLIN

*(Gives him a quick nod as he watches him go)* Thanks.....well I hear you're interested in the T'Laupo case David

DAVID

Yes

COLIN

And you're a barrister

DAVID

Well used to be – but that's not what brings me here – I've been working as an anthropologist for the last five years and the Gaiandu were the first people I ever worked with – I dunno know how but I've never been back to see them since then - most of my work's been out on the islands – but I thought I might take this opportunity if I could to tag along with your group and get a lift up there

COLIN

Yes of course by all means....but let's get back to that bit about being a barrister – are you interested in the case at all

DAVID

No

COLIN

Why not?

DAVID

Well I gave away law long time ago

COLIN

Why?

DAVID

*(Breathes in, lets out a big sigh)* I just came to see what it was doing – what we were doing here – wasn't always for the best – and law was one of the prime instruments of it

COLIN

Well that's a shame – this meeting could have been quite fortuitous

DAVID

Why's that?

COLIN

Just found out on route – two days ago – our defence Douglas Buckland has pulled out – which jeopardises the whole process – now I was actually going to come looking for you – Alistair Evans told me a bit about you – said you were once quite a...

DAVID

*(Cutting in)* Well if you're asking if I want to appear for the defence I don't

COLIN

Why's that? – what do you know about the case?

DAVID

Just that he killed a man in some sort of reprisal situation - in accordance with their social law

COLIN

Well true it was.....but he didn't just kill him David – he took to him like an animal – it was an act of the utmost barbarity...now I know these people are inclined to do these sorts of things – but if there's to be any hope of civilising them action has to be taken against acts like this

DAVID

But who's to say what's civilised and what's not – what's right and what's wrong – at home we'll hang a man here they'll kill him with an axe – why is one right and the other wrong?

COLIN

You're not in favour of what he did are you?

DAVID

No – I just don't believe in judging them by our standards

COLIN

Well there are certain God-given standards that apply to everyone David – no matter what race or culture they're from – you can't just let acts like this go unaccounted for.....it was the act of an animal.....it's in the best interests of them to lift them above this kind of thing.....it's not without a great deal of thought that the Administration decided to pursue this course

Pause – COLIN looks at him

DAVID

No - I'm still not interested – no.....see even though I don't believe he should be charged I still don't want to be involved

COLIN

It's all about keeping your hands clean is it?

DAVID

No – it's about doing what I believe in – I don't believe he should be charged at all so I don't want to take any part in it

COLIN

Well you're probably the best chance he's got you know

DAVID

*(Pause)* You'll find someone else

COLIN

It's not as simple as that – he's in the watch house at Tinook now and he's not handling it very well – he's been there a month and I don't know how much longer he could last there – see if we can't try him now we won't get another opportunity till after the wet season and he'll have to stay there for another five months *(David is looking at him despicably)*.....why don't you just go meet him David – find out the story from his point of view *(David is looking at him testily)*.....and then make your mind up

10 INT - THE MAIN OFFICES OF THE TINOOK POLICE STATION - DAY

DAVID is standing one side of the desk in the main office whilst Sergeant JOHN Bickford reads a letter of explanation from COLIN – the station is run down and has a putrid smell about, DAVID looks around a little worried – JOHN takes a while reading, then looks up

JOHN

Very well then *(shouting in the next room)* Peter!

Constable PETER Solomon wanders in

JOHN

This is David Miller he might be representing the Kanaka – take him down to see him

PETER

Alright – do you want to follow me

They exit down a hall

11 INT – STAIRWELL TINOOK POLICE STATION – DAY

We see them descending some stairs

DAVID

You keep him down here?

PETER

Yeah it's where the lock ups are

12 INT – HOLDING AREA TINOOK POLICE STATION - DAY

DAVID looks around – it is hot and humid and dark – very repressive

DAVID

He's been here by himself?

PETER

Yeah

They approach a cell, and PETER opens the door

13 INT – T'LAUPO'S CELL - DAY

T'LAUPO is squatting down on his haunches in a corner, his arms between his legs – the door creaks loudly and they both walk in

PETER

T'Laupo this man see you – talk with you

T'LAUPO turns slowly to them and looks, then stands up and walks over to PETER, offering his arms – PETER starts getting a pair of hand cuffs from his belt

DAVID

That won't be necessary

PETER

Procedure

DAVID glares at him as the cuffs are placed on

14 INT - INTERVIEW ROOM TINOOK POLICE STATION - DAY

DAVID is sitting opposite T'LAUPO at a table , PETER stands against a back wall with his hand on his sidearm– there is a pause for a bit then DAVID continues

DAVID

You understand who I am T'Laupo, don't you.....you understand why I'm here – what's happening (*no response*).....T'Laupo? – what happened?.....they say you killed a man is that true?

T'LAUPO

No

DAVID

Why don't you tell me about it?

Pause

T'LAUPO

He sleep with my wife. Wilu sleep with my wife – now jail me

DAVID

When did he sleep with your wife?

T'LAUPO

Two months

DAVID

Two months ago

T'LAUPO

Yes

DAVID

And what did you do?.....(*pause – no response*).....did you kill him?

T'LAUPO

No.....Ilbu kill him

DAVID

Who's Ilbu?

T'LAUPO

God of justice.....Ilbu make right what wrong

DAVID

Your God of justice

Yes T'LAUPO

And that's what killed him? DAVID

Yes T'LAUPO

Not you DAVID

T'LAUPO  
No – every time I think of Wilu take my wife I pray to Ilbu to help me.....every time I think of Wilu - then one night Ilbu come to me – I feel Ilbu spirit all through me – I no longer in control – Ilbu take me to Wilu and punish him for bad thing he do – and that how he die

DAVID is stunned – he has had an amazing insight and is thinking it through – he doesn't speak for a short while

...alright DAVID

15 EXT - A GARDEN IN TINOOK - DAY

COLIN and DAVID are walking along, undistracted by the incessant chatter of lorikeets in the trees around them

So you're going to represent him – my word what a turn around COLIN

Ah well DAVID

I should be interested to hear what made you change your mind but we don't want to find ourselves in a situation in which the prosecution could allege subjudicy, do we COLIN

No DAVID

COLIN

Not that I imagine Ryan would ever do that though – I think he's as keen as I am to see that a result comes from this case

DAVID looks at him, not quite sure what to make of it

COLIN

So then it's pretty well up to you then now David – the next move – Alan Llyod your instructing solicitor's been up there for a few weeks now and he'll be able to brief you as soon as you're there - I won't be flying up till about two days before the trial and T'Laupo will come up then as well, but we can get you up there anytime you like between now and then

DAVID

Alright – well give me a day or two to get some things in order and then I'll fly up – I'd like to interview T'Laupo again

COLIN

By all means

17 INT - TINOOK HOTEL RESERVATIONS DESK - DAY

A few days later DAVID is paying for his stay and passes some bank notes to MARGARET

MARGARET

Thank you *(she writes it in her ledger)* good luck up there Mr Miller

DAVID

Who needs luck – I've got right on my side

David smiles and walks away

18 EXT – PLANE MONTAGE - DAY

DAVID walks out on to a roughly grassed aerodrome – there is a Douglas DC-3 waiting – it's silver sides glaring in the sunlight and it's radial piston engines making a low deafening rumble as they idle, waiting for him.

He gets in the plane, the side door shuts and it starts a slow taxi to the other end of the run way and starts rolling forward as the pitch of the engines increase – it

eventually makes a low and unconvincing take off, and arcs back around over the runway with its impressive wing span filling the sky - Seargent MICK Peters watches it go

Inside the plane DAVID remains glued to his window – watching the massive mountain ranges alternately peeking out and being concealed by the thick white clouds that hug to them

After a number of hours the plane approaches the Gaindu land and many locals run out cheering as the plane circles around at a low altitude preparing for the landing. Most are naked or near naked – some with elaborate decorations made of Bird of Pradise feathers and pig tusks – most are carrying bows and arrows and stone axes – the women wait back quietly while the men rush forward

DAVID looks intently and can recognise some buildings and land marks, but can also see the Missionary buildings and is a little taken aback

The plane lands and taxis forward and stops – the crowd gathers but has learnt to keep their distance until the engines have ceased.

The ladder comes down and DAVID and the flight crew emerge – they are immediately surrounded and jostled and tugged and pulled

David smiles and looks intently for faces he recongises, but can't find any yet – he sees a white man in the distance walking away, and decides to makes his way to the Mission Hall

47 INT – MISSION HALL - MORNING

DAVID walks into the hall – it is comparatively calm and peaceful, but not well lit – he can see Ben Godfrey, sitting at a table near a window working through a pile of books and taking notes – DAVID approaches

DAVID

Hello....how do you do I'm David Miller

BEN

Ah....the defence....*(he stands up)*.....sorry I should have gone out and met you – saved you from the crowd

DAVID

No it's alright

BEN

How do you do I'm Ben Godfrey – instructing officer for the prosecution....just got a bit carried away on the work here

DAVID

No no that's alright - how do you do

They shake

BEN

Cut to DAVID and BEN sitting down, DAVID drinks, camera arcs around them first – they've been there for a little bit, DAVID is sweating now, and relaxed

BEN

There's plenty more where that come from

DAVID

It's very sweet

BEN

Yes.....they haven't let the natives try any yet for fear they won't get it back

They both smile a bit

DAVID

So where is everyone.....who was that as I was coming in?

BEN

That was Arthur Walters – the Patrol Officer – there's a bit of a problem at the moment

DAVID

What's that?

BEN

The neighbouring tribes have heard that something important is about to happen here on Gaindu land, and they're jealous that it's not going to happen on their own – the way they see it the Gaindu have had everything – first the gold prospectors, then the mission and the airstrip and the dredges – now this (*DAVID nods*) – there's a lot of jealousy towards them for what they've got – and they always did better out of the trade than the other tribes ~ so there's a big meeting now down on the boundaries of the tribal land and all of the....big men – I think they're called – are giving speeches apparently it could erupt into a massive tribal war so it's quite a delicate situation.....(*DAVID nods*).....and of course the tribes on

the other side of the neighbouring ones have offered to get involved as well just to get at the Gaindu.....there's a lot of animosity towards them – and of course we've tried to explain that the trial is open for everyone to see but that doesn't seem to make any difference – the fact that it's on Gaindu land is still the sticking point – and of course some of the Gaindu big men are saying they won't let people from the other tribes on their land (*David nods*) .....so it's quite a situation.....apparently it's been better in the last year or so though with more shells and what-have-you getting out to the other tribes – but it's always something that could boil over at any time.....I imagine it would be quite a spectacle but with a couple of thousand people there.....

DAVID

Mmm

It pauses for a moment

BEN

I don't think that's where Alan Lloyd went though – your instructing solicitor – he was around before (*looks over to JAINANTU who has entered in a mixture of traditional and priestly robes, holding some books*) and can't be too far away

DAVID turns round and notices JAINANTU - JAINANTU looks at him, and they slowly smile as they recognise each other, DAVID stands up slowly and then notices the priestly robes as he continues to stand – he becomes confused and taken aback – and doesn't know what to think or say

JAINANTU

*(With a big warm affectionate smile - and thrilled)* David Miller! I was hoping it was you, and it is! – I heard your name, I know it because I still have the book you gave me with your name in it - but I did not know if it would be you, and it is! Oh my goodness how are you – it is so good to see you

DAVID walks towards JAINANTU, over come by his use of English and his beaming spirit – the Christian aspect forgotten at the moment

DAVID

Jainantu

JAINANTU

....ohll I cannot believe I am seeing you now – it is so good

DAVID

*(Trying to grasp it, looking at what he is wearing)*  
Ohhhhhh...hohhhlll you've changed

JAINANTU

Yes but so have you.....where have you been – I always thought you would come back sooner – and now we can talk properly – not signing

DAVID

*(Looking at the robes)* Yes....I should have come sooner I'm sorry

JAINANTU

Oh there is so much we can talk about – you are here for the trial aren't you – I am hearing people say your name in the last week – and I ask them – is this the same David Miller that came here after the white man first came here – but no one can say.....some people cannot even remember you – but I remember you.....many white people come here – most come here for themselves, and what they can take – but not you – you come here for us – you want to learn from us.....see I remember that – even though I could not speak your language then – I remember that

They both laugh and smile a bit

DAVID

That's good.....I can't believe you speak English so well – I'm sorry.....but it's amazing.....I've often wondered how you've been

JAINANTU

Oh I have been very good.....I have learned so much – first I help the gold prospectors and work with the dredge, then I help Father Daniels when he come, and we set up a school and now everyone know English – and in my time I come to discover the Lord Jesus Christ – and now I am so happy I have the Lord Jesus in me.....and what are you – what are you been doing?.....and what about the trial – how come you are in it?

DAVID

Well I'm not in it – I'm the defence – I'm defending T'Laupo

JAINANTU

Ah you are the one saying he didn't do it – but how do you know – you weren't here?

DAVID

*(Smiles)* Well.....that's not really how it works.....I don't think he should be tried at all for it – and that's how I'm going to approach it

JAINANTU

Well I think he should – he killed someone you know and that is against God's wishes - but we can talk about that later – there is so much for us to talk about

BEN

I see you two obviously know each other

DAVID

Yes *(JAINANTU smiles and nods)* I came up here about five years ago when I just started as an anthropologist – I'd joined a government surveying expedition just doing the edge of the highlands, and we stayed here about a month – that's when I met Jainantu

JAINANTU

Yes

DAVID

And a lot's changed since then

BEN

Yes I can imagine

JAINANTU

But all for the better.....and I can still remember you as clear as day, as if it was the very day you came.....oh this is so good – but how long will you be staying for?

DAVID

Well for the whole trial – it's not due to start until next Wednesday – so probably at least a week - might even stay longer

JAINANTU

Yes that would be so good – you must stay for a long time – we have so much to talk about.....I cannot believe it is you – I waited and prayed for so long that you come back and now you have – my prayers have been answered – what have you been doing for so long?

DAVID

*(Pauses as takes it all in)* Yes I'm sorry I didn't come back sooner – I always wanted to, but my work took me away – just after I was here I got a contract with a university collecting artefacts – mainly out on the islands – and I just got more involved there – but I always wanted to come back.....I'm glad I have

JAINANTU

Yes.....and these islands – you must tell me about them – and the sea – I have heard it goes forever and it tastes like tears

DAVID

Yes

JAINANTU

Oh we have so much to talk about – and I will show you things – how we have progressed – what do you think of our church – it was not here when you were last here

DAVID

No

ALAN enters – sees JAINANTU and DAVID, realises who it must be and starts to walk over

JAINANTU

*(Looking to David)* Oh this is so good

DAVID smiles, unsure – BEN notices ALAN approaching

BEN

Ah here we go – David this is Alan Lloyd your instructing solicitor

DAVID

How do you do

They shake

ALAN

Good to meet you – glad you could make it

DAVID dismisses it with a shrug

JAINANTU

Alright I will leave you – you must have important things to talk about now – but it is so good to see you David Miller - *(smiling)* I will see you soon

DAVID

Yes Jainantu

JAINANTU continues on his way

ALAN

You know him?

DAVID

Yes – I came up here years ago once

ALAN

Right.....have a good trip up? - you must be exhausted

DAVID

Ohr no....

ALAN

Well there's room for you over in the Patrol Office – that's where we've all been staying

DAVID

Alright

ALAN

I can show you over there if you like

DAVID

Alright

ALAN

I don't know if you want to take the rest of the day off or not – but when ever you want to be briefed as well we can start going through that

DAVID

Alright.....well maybe later this afternoon

ALAN

Alright

BEN

*(Quickly)* I'll just go

ALAN

I've done a lot of interviews so there's a lot we can start going through already

DAVID

Good

ALAN

But we'll look at that this afternoon (*they turn to go*) .....it's a bit cramped over in the patrol office but you'll find it hospitable enough

DAVID nods - fade out – cut back into

48 INT – MISSION HALL – AFTERNOON

DAVID and ALAN are sitting around a table talking - ALAN has a number of folders and books with him

DAVID

Look it's probably appropriate for me to get a few things clear before we start – I haven't done this for about five years so you might have to bare with me a bit

ALAN

*(With a smile)* Alright.....

DAVID

I've been working as an anthropologist all that time but because of some of the exigencies of this case I've decided to become involved again

ALAN

Alright

DAVID

Now I've spoken to T'Laupo a number of times – which has given me an idea of how I want to approach this – it was actually something he said that made me want to get involved – but obviously I'll start from everything you've done and we'll take it from there

ALAN

.....alright

DAVID

And I should just warn you – I don't know what type of barristers you've worked for before but I'm the kind who looks to get pretty involved – conducting interviews and getting a first hand knowledge of it all myself – alright – so that's what you're dealing with

ALAN

Sure... well this is the papers from the committal hearing (*passes them to him*) there's nothing in there that's not dealt with better here – but you'll probably want to go through them.....(*reaching for a bigger folder*) now since I've been here I've interviewed about fifty people – these are the notes from the interviews (*passes them over*)

DAVID

Alright

ALAN

You'll find as you go through them the case against him is very strong.....to be honest the prosecution have all they need I think – witnesses – including one to the act, and a couple who'll attest to the fact that he had the premeditated intention of killing.....the weapon.....the motivation.....-it's all there – they've got it all – it's going to be a very hard case to win.....I've been trying to find any kind of precedents at all but of course can't for this case

DAVID

(*Agreeing*) No.....

ALAN

But that's their whole point I guess – it's a first.....there are similar ones in the coastal areas – but they're different because the Kanaka's there aren't living under a fully traditional system ~ but we can't claim lack of knowledge of the law here with Colin Campbell – I know him too well and he just won't accept that.....I think what we've got to do is.....get some kind of leniency – not based on ignorance of the law.....but maybe provocation – these people are different - they've had a long running feud going – we could make some argument that for them it was still in the heat of the moment and get some kind of diminished culpability based on that.....I don't know.....it's our best bet I think – their culture being so much different to ours – and them being so much more reactionary than us.....that's the only thing I can think of – what do you think – what are your thoughts?

DAVID  
*(Leans forward with a slight smile)* Well.....

49 INT - A ROOM IN THE PATROL OFFICE - NIGHT

DAVID is having dinner with BEN, RYAN and ALAN that night – the room is rudimentary but somehow still feels like Western civilisation – they sit around three kerosene lanterns in the middle of the table as they eat - ALAN is a bit subdued and not entirely happy with DAVID

RYAN  
No go on – you couldn't possibly camp out like that – there's plenty of room here

DAVID  
Well maybe just for tonight – it's a bit late now to set up my hutchie – but honestly I like it – I prefer it that way.....it's how I've spent most of the last five years

They laugh a little

BEN  
Could you pass the jug please David?

DAVID  
Sure.....I must say I was a bit taken a back by Jainantu like that

ALAN  
I thought you knew him

DAVID  
Well that was years ago

BEN  
Nobody told you?

DAVID  
No.....well somebody told me one of the highlanders was running the mission but I had no idea it'd be him – I wouldn't have thought he'd done it

RYAN  
Why not?

DAVID

Ohr.....when I came here five years ago he was just so wide eyed and intelligent – he was just leaps and bounds ahead of all the rest – I would have thought when the missions came he would have just sailed right through it

BEN

What do you mean?

DAVID

Seen it for what it was

RYAN

You mean what it is in your eyes

DAVID

Well isn't everything?

ALAN looks at DAVID, unimpressed - RYAN smiles

BEN

You forget we're dealing with an anthropologist here Ryan

RYAN

So I take it you're opposed to the work of the missionaries

DAVID

*(Pause, as he cuts up his meal)* Yes

RYAN

So tell me then – do you see the work of the missionaries implicated in anyway with the murder – by way of breakdown of social customs, that kind of thing

DAVID

As far as I understand it T'Laupo acted fully in accordance with social law

RYAN

But there has been break down of social law and customs here since the missions arrived

DAVID

*(Pause – not clear what he is getting at)* Yes

RYAN

And do you realise that the rate of killings here and in the neighbouring tribes has dropped markedly since the missions arrived

DAVID

And what are you saying?

RYAN

Well you'd have to agree that the missions are having a positive effect then

Pause

DAVID

Is it the result or the means with which it is achieved that matters?

RYAN

What do you mean?

DAVID

There are plenty of other ways to pacify people than to rip the guts out of their belief system and social structure

RYAN

So I take it you're in favour of what T'Laupo did

DAVID

Not what he did – just his right to do it

RYAN

So you think people should be allowed to kill people if they want

DAVID

*(Pause)* .....no – I just don't think they should be dictated to the way they are ~ I mean he's going to hang if he's found guilty

RYAN

Well that's his fault for doing what he did

DAVID

No it's not – they're two separate things

RYAN

It's an eye for an eye David

DAVID

And you believe in that do you – is that what justice is for you?

RYAN

Well prove him innocent then

ALAN looks to DAVID in an unsettled fashion, pause on DAVID

DAVID

Just because he may have done it doesn't mean he should be hung

RYAN

Prove him innocent. ....it's an open and shut case David...we have all the motive, evidence and witnesses we need – it's open and shut

Pause on DAVID for a bit

50 INT - SLEEPING ROOM IN THE PATROL OFFICE - NIGHT

DAVID is lying there awake on his side in the moonlight – we hear T'Laupo in voice over

T'Laupo

*(Voice over)* then one night Ilbu come to me – I feel Ilbu spirit all through me – I no longer in control

Fade out, cut to

51 EXT - HIGHLAND VALLEY - DAWN

We see the sunrise in the distance – then DAVID'S face developing richer hues of orange as he watches it alone

52 INT – A ROOM IN THE PATROL OFFICE - EARLY MORNING

RYAN and BEN are on the verandah eating and looking at some pieces of paper together – DAVID walks in

BEN

Where'd you get to so early?

ALAN

Just wanted to watch the sunrise

BEN

Your friend was looking for you – the preacher – came by here

DAVID

Jainantu – what'd he say?

BEN

Nothing – said he'd see you later (*DAVID nods*) we cooked some bacon and eggs if you want some

DAVID

*(Looking over)* Yeah.....thanks

53 INT - MISSION HALL – MORNING

DAVID walks in and sees ALAN at a table and walks over to him

DAVID

Good morning Alan

ALAN

David

There is a pregnant pause for a moment

ALAN

Listen David – I've been thinking about what you were saying yesterday – how you want to approach the case

DAVID

Yes *(sits)*

ALAN

I don't think it's the best way – I don't think he'll accept it

DAVID

Well.....I'm going to go back over it all – make sure I haven't missed anything – but if this is what we're dealing with – and they're going to charge him for it – this is the only way I can respond to it – and the only way it should be

ALAN

But it won't hold up – no judge will accept it

DAVID

Well they should

ALAN

But it won't work David

DAVID

Yes it will (*JAINANTU walks over to him and they stop and look up at him*) Good morning Jainantu

JAINANTU

Good morning David – Alan.....how are you

DAVID

Good – I heard you were up looking for me

JAINANTU

Yes but you are gone already – are you starting work so early?

DAVID

No – just got up to have a look at the sunrise

JAINANTU

Ah yes it is very beautiful – so are you ready to work now?

DAVID

Yes

JAINANTU

Good because I have something for you – do you have a desk of your own David?

DAVID

Ah.....(*looks to ALAN for a moment*).....no

JAINANTU

Well come with me because I have something for you

DAVID

(*Looks to ALAN with a bit of smile*) Alright – won't be a minute

DAVID follows JAINANTU – they walk to an adjoining area of the hall and approach the vestry – standing just inside the doorway

54 INT – VESTRY – MORNING

The Vestry is small and cramped but clean and has one vertical window with a small but pleasant view down a valley towards some forest

JAINANTU

This is Father Daniel's room – this is where he would do all his work and prepare for the sermons

DAVID watches the way JAINANTU looks around the room – it is clear by this that it means a lot to him

JAINANTU

And that is his desk there – you can use it if you like

DAVID

Ohr.....no I couldn't Jainantu – thanks very much for the offer

JAINANTU

No no I'd like you to – I don't use it and you are going to need a desk.....go ahead.....it is much better than being on a table with everyone else

DAVID

*DAVID smiles*).....but don't you use it

JAINANTU

No I don't read as much as Father Daniels – I do not need all these books – and I cannot even write yet – it is of no use to me.....go on I would like you to

Pause for a bit as DAVID considers

DAVID

Well alright if you insist – that's very kind of you Jainantu

JAINANTU

That is alright – I want you to use it

DAVID

*(Smiling)* Alright.....but you sure you don't use it?

JAINANTU

No – I only come here to put the clothes on.....I prepare what I have to say when I preach in here (*indicates where his heart is*) – all I need is the Bible and the world and I know what to say (*DAVID looks at him*) which reminds me you will be able to come to service on Sunday and see me speak – it will be so good

DAVID

(*Looking down*) erggh.....

JAINANTU

Oh I know you are probably busy working on the case – but you know what – I have been thinking about that too – I have been watching Alan and Ben interview people for the last three weeks – and they have all approached it from the position of a white man from the outside – I think there is alot more you could learn if you had somebody helping you – someone who knew the people here and how they think.....so if you would like me to I would very much like to help you David – I can find people for you and help you talk to them – and I can translate for you if their English is not very good – and most importantly of all I can tell you if they are a trustworthy person – because there are alot of people here who aren't

DAVID

...alright.....alright.....no you're right – it would be a great help....alright righto we'll do that then – alright thanks for the offer Jainantu

JAINANTU

That is alright

DAVID

Good – alright well look I'm going to spend most of the day just going over Alan's notes with him – so why don't you come and join me here later – at about 4 or 5 and we'll see what we can do then

JAINANTU

Alright ~ that will be good David – I want to help

DAVID

Thankyou – I'll see you this afternoon then

JAINANTU

Alright

DAVID

Thanks for the desk and this room too Jainantu

JAINANTU

That is alright

DAVID

Alright well see you then

JAINANTU smiles and nods

55 INT – MISSION HALL – MORNING

ALAN is at the table – DAVID leans forward on to it

DAVID

Look he's offered me the use of the vestry to work in and I didn't want to be rude to him so I said yes

ALAN

*(With a slight smile)* .....alright

DAVID

*(Sitting down)*.....and he's interested too in helping us out – finding people, helping us talk to them – that kind of thing

ALAN

And what did you say

DAVID

Well I think it's a good idea – a bit of inside knowledge might help *(ALAN shrugs)*.....you never know what he might bring to it

ALAN

I suppose

DAVID

*(Pause)* Anyway let's start going through these

Fade out

56 INT – VESTRY – AFTERNOON

JAINANTU and DAVID are both in the process of sitting down

DAVID

Um now I was thinking Jainantu before we start there's something we should probably just go over.....you remember yesterday you said you think T'Laupo should be tried.....now I don't know if you really understand – but I just want to go back over it – I'm going to be defending him – that means I'm going to be trying to get him off – you're aware of that, right – because I don't want you to feel like you've been used or you've done the wrong thing or something later

JAINANTU

Ohr no

DAVID

So you know I'm going to be trying to get him off

JAINANTU

Yes

DAVID

And you still want to help?

JAINANTU

Yes

DAVID

Alright.....(*trying to understand, but can't*) why?

JAINANTU

Because you are my friend and I want to help you

DAVID

(*Considers, with a slight smile*) .....alright....but you're totally happy with this?

JAINANTU

Yes

DAVID

.....alright.....well....look – I've been over Alan's interview notes – I've spoken to T'Laupo twice – but why don't you just tell me what you think happened – and how you see it all – and we'll take it from there

JAINANTU

Alright.....well what happened everyone knows – Wilu was sleeping with T'Laupo's wife Biancanni – and that made T'Laupo jealous – so one night when Biancanni is with Wilu, T'Laupo go and kill Wilu

DAVID

And what did Biancanni see?

JAINANTU

I think she saw them argue – but when Wilu run from his house and T'Laupo chase him she is too scared to go and see what happens so she just stay there.....and then when he doesn't come back she knows something bad has happened.....(*DAVID nods*).....and no one else in the village know any of this happened until the day break and they hear Biancanni crying – except for Talia though – because he saw it happen

DAVID

Yes I know about him – we'll talk about him in a minute.....but after the attack T'Laupo didn't go back to Biancanni

JAINANTU

No.....I don't know what he do

DAVID

(*Nods*).....how many wives does T'Laupo have

JAINANTU

Three

DAVID

What are the names of the other two

JAINANTU

Riambi and Djuorlgu

DAVID

Is Biancanni his favourite wife

JAINANTU

No I think Riambi is.....I don't think T'Laupo was jealous because of what Biancanni was doing – I think he is jealous of Wilu

DAVID

Why's that?

JAINANTU

Because he thinks everyone is laughing at him because of what Wilu do.....see Wilu is very popular man in the village – and both Wilu and T'Laupo have a long running feud going because they both know they will never be big men, so they are always trying to out do each other – but T'Laupo always thinks Wilu has got the better of him because he is more popular in the village than him – and he thinks they are laughing at him because of what he is doing

DAVID

And were they?

JAINANTU

No – no one even knew.....except maybe Wilu's wives and T'Laupo's wives – but no one else knew

DAVID

What are the names of Wilu's wives

JAINANTU

Aukora, Gwagigi, Karamai, and Ngeok

DAVID writes them down

DAVID

Do you know if any of them saw anything that happened that night?

JAINANTU

I don't know – but you can ask them – I can get them for you

DAVID

Yes.....does T'Laupo have any close friends that I can talk to

JAINANTU

Yes Okanao and Wamaulil – but I don't know if they can tell you more – everyone knows he did it because he's jealous of Wilu – Wilu doesn't even love Biancanni – he just sleep with her to get at T'Laupo – and I know that T'Laupo say Ilbu did it – but that is rubbish – that is the Devil's voice ~ do you know what I think made him do it – Satan.....that is Satan working through him – not Ilbu – there is no Ilbu.....just a trap set by Satan and T'Laupo fall into it.....you know all the time while Father Daniels here

T'Laupo come to no services – he learn the language but no more – he doesn't really learn – and all the time I am preaching now Father Daniels gone he never comes once either.....- of course he's going to fall into Satan's trap if he doesn't know what to look for

DAVID sighs and leans forward – wanting to stop there but not sure where to take it – but JAINANTU continues

JAINANTU

That is why it is so important that he is buried properly to give him at least some chance to go to heaven (*his eyes becoming glassy as he pictures it*) it must be a terrible thing to be separated from your Father

DAVID

Alright Jainantu.....let's just wait a minute.....tell me about Talia – what did he see

JAINANTU

Well.....he is walking along near the edge of the forest and hears this running and then hears the blows with the axe, so he moves around to have a better look and he sees T'Laupo hitting Wilu, and then T'Laupo stop and just stared at the body, and then he walks away

DAVID

And he's sure it was T'Laupo

JAINANTU

I thinks so

DAVID

How close was he?

JAINANTU

I don't know

DAVID

Alright – well he's someone I really want to see – can you make that a priority – see if you can find him first for me

JAINANTU

Alright

DAVID

In fact why don't you make a mental list of all the people you think I should see based on your understanding of it and we'll start to work through from there.....and anyone that I want to see as I go I'll tell you about – and we'll see if we can find them as well

JAINANTU

Alright

DAVID

Well good we might leave it there for now Jainantu – it's getting pretty late and I'm going to have to keep moving – I've got to put up my hutchie – but this is a good start – so thanks for this

JAINANTU

What are you doing?

DAVID

I've got to put up my hutchie – I'm camping out tonight

JAINANTU

Oh.....hutchie – that is like a tent

DAVID

Yes a little tent - a one man tent

JAINANTU

Oh....do you want some help with that – I can help you do that if you like

DAVID

Yeah sure – why not

57 EXT – DAVID'S CAMP – LATE AFTERNOON

DAVID and JAINANTU are standing near the edge of the forest – DAVID'S opened pack and the hutchie are on the ground in front of him, and he is holding a length of rope

DAVID

It's pretty simple we've just got to put it between two trees, or I've got pegs

JAINANTU

*(Looking at the hutchie)* Alright

DAVID

And then I'll just dig a trench around it – but I don't think it'll rain

JAINANTU

No

Cross fade to

58 EXT – DAVID'S CAMP – NIGHT

DAVID and JAINANTU are sitting around a fire relaxing, they are both laughing – it dies down a after a while – JAINANTU just stares happily at DAVID, DAVID is aware of this and turns to him

DAVID

You don't have to keep staring at me

JAINANTU

I am sorry David I am just so happy you are here.....it is like a dream come true.....I have waited so long, and now you are here.....I have to keep looking to make sure it's you

DAVID

It's me alright

JAINANTU

Yes I know – it is so wonderful – you are here again, but things have changed greatly.....and how has it been for you – the last five years?

DAVID

Good.....got right into anthropology.....glad I left law, even though I'm doing this

JAINANTU

Tell me about these islands where you were – are they high too – do they have mountains?

DAVID

Some do – but most are low – surrounded by water – everything's surrounded by water eventually – even here

JAINANTU

That is why our water runs sown the mountains it is wanting to return

DAVID

Yes

JAINANTU

But it is salty water

DAVID

Yes

JAINANTU

And it is white

DAVID

No, where it comes on the shore it is white, but it flows back to the sea and turns blue again

JAINANTU

Yes I remember the first man to leave our tribe Waribi – he was flown down to the coast by the white men and he said the water was white and it tasted like tears – and no one would believe him, then Paura was taken down, and he brought some back and everyone wanted to taste it – no one could believe that water could taste like this – it tasted like tears, or sweat – no one liked it

DAVID

No – well we don't drink it either.....there's a poem like that – water water everywhere but not a drop to drink

JAINANTU

Ah yes.....maybe it is one of the books that Father Daniels has left.....I have read some of them, but I am always reading the Bible – in it Moses parts the sea – what a powerful man he must have been

Pause

DAVID

How come you don't write Jainantu?

JAINANTU

I don't know Father Daniels only teach me to read.....I know what the letters are, I just need to practise – I could write letters to you then! – they take papers down with them on the planes – I could write to you once you have gone

DAVID

Yes you could

JAINANTU

Oh this is so good.....I thought you were gone from my life forever.....do you know who you are David? – you are the man who opened up the world to me – who showed me that there is another way ~ that it is good to question and learn – I knew as soon as I saw you that you were different to the other white men – and you were – you didn't want to use us, you wanted to learn from us.....you showed me that it is alright to be different from your own people, and to question the world yourself – that is what you gave me, I owe you so much

DAVID is looking appreciatively, a bit touched – doesn't know what to say – fade out on DAVID

59 EXT – DAVID'S CAMP – MORNING

Fade into a medium long shot – we see the hutchie and the dead fire just smoking – the soft morning light is just starting to heat up - after a short while JAINANTU walks in and sees DAVID asleep in the hutchie – he squats down to him and DAVID stirs and wakes up – he sees JAINANTU

JAINANTU

Oh you are awake – I thought you were going to sleep through the whole trial

DAVID withdraws with a smile

DAVID

No

JAINANTU

You are sleeping for a very long time – it is ten thirty now

DAVID

Really

JAINANTU

Yes – I have found people for you to talk to

DAVID

Oh.....well give me half an hour or so – I'll just get dressed and have breakfast

JAINANTU

How about an hour if you want – I can tell them to wait

DAVID

Yeah that'd be better.....I must have really needed that sleep

JAINANTU

What are you going to do for breakfast – would you like to come to my hut?

DAVID

Um....I've got a bit of tucker here – why don't you join me ?

JAINANTU nods

Cut to DAVID and JAINANTU sitting around a small fire – DAVID is pouring tea into a cup from a small billy

DAVID

Sure you don't want some?

JAINANTU

No – it's one of the few modern things I haven't got used to

DAVID

*(Smiles and sips)* Right.....

DAVID sighs and relaxes as the flavour of the tea fills his body

DAVID

.....so who have you got – Talia?

JAINANTU

No I haven't found him yet – he is very hard to find – but I have got all of T'Laupo's wives.....and also Aukora and Gwagigi, but I haven't seen Karamai and Ngeok yet – they are Wilu's wives

DAVID

*(Nods)* Yes.....shame about Talia but maybe you can find him later

JAINANTU

Yes

DAVID

Well – just bring in T’Laupo’s wives and we’ll see how we go – we can probably see Wilu’s wives later if we haven’t found Talia by then

JAINANTU

Yes.....do you want me to be with you when you interview them David?

DAVID

Ah.....no it's probably better if I do it myself.....

JAINANTU

That is alright – whatever you want

DAVID

Just to keep it confidential

JAINANTU

Ohr no I wouldn't tell anyone – but whatever you want is fine

DAVID

*(Looking down – thinking – feeling a bit guilty)* It’s just the way it’s done that’s all – I’ll tell you what you could do though if you want is just hang around nearby while I 'm interviewing them in case you might need to translate

JAINANTU

Yes of course that would be fine

DAVID

Alright, good

JAINANTU

And if I can’t find Talia today or tomorrow I will ask around at the service – there are people there who know him well – and there will be other people who you might want to interview too – perhaps you can talk to them then to arrange it ?

DAVID looks down with a quiet unsure sound of acknowledgement

JAINANTU

Anyway why don't I go and tell Biancanni and Riambi and Djuorlgu to come to Father Daniel's room in one hour and I will see if there’s anyone else I can find before then

DAVID

Alright

60 INT – MISSION HALL - MORNING

DAVID is leaning on the table talking to ALAN who is seated – DAVID has just explained what he is going to do for the morning and we see ALAN nod in agreeance – DAVID then walks away

61 INT – VESTRY – MORNING

DAVID walks in and starts readying things for the interviews – after a moment or two Patrol Officer WALTERS looks in and walks in a bit gingerly

WALTERS

There you are – look sorry to interrupt what you're doing

DAVID

No no that's alright

WALTERS

I just wanted to tell you I don't think it's a good idea camping out like that

DAVID

Oh....

WALTERS

Yeah it's just not safe at the moment – nothing was resolved at the meeting of the big men the other day – and the situation still could go either way.....you just can't trust these people - it could take off at anytime and you don't want to be left out in the open like that.....you're welcome to stay in the Patrol Office with the others with me if you like – or even here – but I probably wouldn't recommend it actually – it's been the object of some hate for quite a few people here

DAVID

Alright well thanks I'll have a think about it

JAINANTU walks in

WALTERS

No rush immediately – I just wouldn't stay out again tonight – the Patrol Office is probably the safest place but if you want to be by

yourself – you'd probably get away with it here – most of the windows are still bordered up or have shutters – it's just not a good place to get isolated though

DAVID

*(Pauses, thinks)* Alright well I'll have a think about it

WALTERS

*(Nods)* Righto well just come by anytime if you want to – oh and I wouldn't go leaving too much at your hutchie over there unattended – they may have seen white men for a few years now but the novelty hasn't worn off – if you're not careful you might not find it all there when you go back

DAVID

Alright....

WALTERS leaves

JAINANTU

What is the matter

DAVID

Ohll....it's probably not a good idea camping out like that

JAINANTU

You need a place to stay – you can stay with me – it would be wonderful David

Pause, DAVID weighs it up – appreciating JAINANTU'S enthusiasm and excitement

DAVID

Alright

JAINANTU breaks into a big smile, then speaks

JAINANTU

Ohll.....this is so good

DAVID

Alright – well we'll look at that later – we better get into this now

JAINANTU

Yes – I will help you move after we do this

DAVID

Alright.....so who's here

JAINANTU

Biancanni and Riambi – but Djuorlgu could not come now – she will be here in about an hour

DAVID

Alright – well why don't you get Biancanni and I'll get ready here

JAINANTU

Alright – and then I will do some business in the church – so I will be nearby if you need me

DAVID

Yes – yes that's better than sitting around waiting and doing nothing

JAINANTU

Yes – I will get Biancanni

DAVID

Alright

JAINANTU exits, DAVID positions a chair for BIANCANNI and prepares himself – JAINANTU returns with BIANCANNI who looks a bit sad and timid

JAINANTU

Biancanni this is David Miller – now remember what I said, and if you need anything I'm just outside alright – don't be afraid to ask me

She nods 'no' in agreeance

DAVID

Would you like to sit down Biancanni?

She does

JAINANTU

*(To David) Alright (Jainantu exits)*

DAVID

Hello Biancanni how are you.....*(she doesn't really respond)*  
....you understand what I'm doing don't you – I'm here to help your husband – I don't believe he should be charged with this and I want

to get him off.....but to do that I'm going to need all the help I can get – I need all the help you can give me alright (*she nods a little*).....so I'm going to ask a series of questions and you tell me everything you can – and everything else that you think I might need to know alright (*she nods*).....alright what I want to know first is some of the background about you and T'Laupo.....how long have you been married for

BIANCANNI

.....I don't know - since before white man came

DAVID

(*Thinks for a moment*) .....right.....were you T'Laupo's first wife

BIANCANNI

No – Djuorlgu was – I was second

DAVID

Alright.....how long have you and Wilu been seeing each other for.....(*thinking she doesn't understand*) been lovers

BIANCANNI

Almost one year

DAVID

How long has T'Laupo known this for

BIANCANNI

Since the middle of the wet season

DAVID

(*Thinks*) .....eight or nine months (*writes it down*) .....how did he find out

BIANCANNI

(*She becomes a little unsettled and reserved*) .....he sees us talking one day near the forest.....we spend more time together.....and one day he see me tending Wilu's garden and I not come home that night

DAVID

And what did he say to you when he saw you again?

BIANCANNI

He didn't say anything.....from then on he become very quiet  
and he not say anything to me

DAVID

....right.....as time went on did he become more and more upset  
by your relationship with Wilu?

BIANCANNI

I don't know – I'm not paying attention to him by then, I'm  
spending all my time with Wilu (*starts to sob*)

DAVID doesn't know what to do – and though touched just pauses a bit for her to  
collect herself

DAVID

.....did T'Laupo ever make threatening remarks to you or any of  
the other wives about Wilu?

BIANCANNI

No

DAVID

What about to Wilu himself, did you ever hear him say anything to  
him?

BIANCANNI

No

DAVID

(*Pause*)..alright – well lets look at the day it happened – tell me  
about that as you remember it

BIANCANNI

I go to Wilu's quite often by now.....I not love T'Laupo anymore

A cross fade starts over BIANCANNI talking

DAVID

.....and where was Wilu?

BIANCANNI

He was still on his way home....it was still early

The cross fade continues

DAVID

.....and had he been aware of it?

BIANCANNI

No because they had always done it.....

DAVID

Did he seem different to you?

BIANCANNI

Very angry.....never seen him that angry before

DAVID

But it was still him (*she nods*) and then what happened?

BIANCANNI

He went out through the door.....and I never see him again

Haunting music starts – DAVID says something else to BIANACANNI – she responds – we don't hear either of them – then the scene cross fades to DAVID interviewing RIAMBI, and then again to DAVID interviewing DJUORLGU – each time we don't hear what they say as the music continues – it then cross fades to just DAVID by himself, the music stops – we are in real time – after a moment or two JAINANTU walks in

JAINANTU

So how were the interviews – were they good for you?

DAVID

Ah.....spose they didn't really tell me anything I didn't already know.....I mean they did – but not really

JAINANTU

You still want to see the others today?

DAVID

Who have you got?

JAINANTU

Well I haven't gone out to see anyone else because I've been waiting – so it's just Aukora and Gwagigi

DAVID

(*Nods*) .....yeah I'll still see them.....maybe you don't need to wait actually – everyone's English is pretty good isn't it?

JAINANTU

Yes

DAVID

Well if I see these two after lunch maybe you can try and find Talia then

JAINANTU

Alright

DAVID

And if you find Wilu's other wives bring them in too

JAINANTU

Alright.....

DAVID

But no more than three or four people for the afternoon alright.....I might just go and stretch my legs now – I'll see you back in an hour – if they can be ready by then

JAINANTU

Yes

DAVID

Alright (*he exits*)

62 EXT – HIGHLAND VALLEY – AFTERNOON

DAVID is walking along near the edge of the forest – he can hear the villagers in the distance and rustles further back in the forest behind him. He leans against a fallen log next to a colony of rich golden fungus – his arms are folded and he is deep in thought – we see WILU frantically running into the edge of the forest with T'LAUPO, axe raised, right behind him – DAVID looks down to the ground in front of him, disturbed

63 INT – VESTRY – AFTERNOON

DAVID leans forward over his papers with AUKORA in front of him, who we see at the edge of frame

DAVID

Alright Aukora now I'm going to ask you a series of questions.....

64 EXT – MISSION HALL – LATE AFTERNOON

We see the hall – the sun is now lower, it is a little bit darker and we are near the end of the day

65 INT – VESTRY – LATE AFTERNOON

The interviews are over, DAVID is straightening up the chairs, JAINANTU is there

DAVID

So no sign of him?

JAINANTU

No.....but we will find him.....he is just very.....elusive – he likes to go off on his own alot

DAVID

Yeah well he’s one of the more important witnesses so I want to find him soon

JAINANTU

But Alan would have talked to him, wouldn’t he?

DAVID

Yeah – but I want to see him myself – it’s just the way I work – but anyway let’s not worry – let’s get on with things

66 EXT –DAVID'S CAMP – LATE AFTERNOON

DAVID and JAINANTU are packing up his hutchie, as a group of children look on and giggle

JAINANTU

.....so were you disappointed in the interviews then?

DAVID

Oh....well to tell you the truth they really gave me what I expected they would – but you always hope you know

JAINANTU

Well you will see – when you interview Christian people what they say will be better

DAVID stops what he is doing

DAVID

Well I don't think they were telling me the wrong thing Jainantu

JAINANTU

No but you will see - there is a big difference between the people here who are Christian, and the people here who aren't

Pause

DAVID

You're pretty big on your religion, aren't you?

JAINANTU

Yes – aren't you?

DAVID

*(Pause)* No.....I'm not a Christian Jainantu

JAINANTU

No.....

DAVID

*(Shaking his head)* No

JAINANTU

Oh David – I never would have expected – you? – you are not a Christian?

DAVID

No

JAINANTU

Oh.....*(looks down thinking – searching for a while)* .....then what do you believe?

DAVID

I don't know.....I'm still finding that out

JAINANTU

Oh.....

JAINANTU is trying to comprehend it

DAVID

Do you find it hard to believe?

JAINANTU

No.....I just.....I thought you would be (*comes back smiling*) but it is alright you can believe whatever you like – it is alright

JAINANTU is a bit confused, DAVID smiles

67 INT – JAINANTU'S HUT – NIGHT

DAVID and JAINANTU are sitting down eating from some wooden bowls, there is a small fire burning which dances shadows across the vertical log walls behind them

JAINANTU

You know I still have that three pence you gave me

DAVID

(*Smiling, laughing*) Ah yes I remember that.....ah you still have it

JAINANTU

Yes I kept it hidden for a long long time because I knew other people would want it and steal it from me – it was so valuable I could show it to no one.....and then one day I showed it to Father Daniels and he said “a three pence – that’s not worth very much at all”.....I had no idea what money was, but it’s worth a lot to me

DAVID

(*Smiling*).....I’m surprised you kept it

JAINANTU

Oh yes.....tell me how long will you be staying for David?

DAVID

I don’t know – we’ll see how long the trial takes but a week or so after that

JAINANTU

Oh that is right, you have told me.....I can show you so many things – do you still want to learn from us

DAVID

Yes

JAINANTU

.....funny thing is though I think we have learnt more from you – Father Daniels was a very wise man, he taught me a lot.....some people learn false things though – when Waribi and Paura return from the coast and say the sky reaches the sea, and there are no legs that hold up the sky at the end of the world then many people say that the white man's beliefs must be right – because they have so many things and there are no legs that hold up the sky – so all our beliefs must be wrong – and many people start to turn to Christianity because of that – and others turn to it just to be saved in the afterlife – but all that is wrong – you can only love God for God – not for other reasons.....and I see all this going on all the time and I know it is wrong – but when Father Daniels teaches me to speak and read and I come to see the word of God itself, then I know that God is right – and I come to love God for God ~ through Jesus – and become a Christian.....that is why I cannot understand that you are not

DAVID

Well do you really want to know why?

JAINANTU

Yes

DAVID

Because to me it's a very negative religion – it's all about sinful man and forgiving God – it focuses on all the negative things that people can do and none of the positive ones.....and it says if man does a bad thing then it comes from man, but if it does a good thing then it only comes from God ~ well if it can attribute one type of behaviour to man, why can't it attribute the other?.....but no it's got to come from God

JAINANTU

But it is true – it says that in the Bible all goodness comes from God

DAVID

But if bad things come from man why can't good things as well – haven't you ever done any good or unselfish thing yourself ? .....and who's to say what's good and bad anyway, it's just your interpretation of it

JAINANTU

And this is what you believe?

DAVID

.....well I don't know what I believe – I'm still finding that out.....but I do believe everything is your interpretation of it, it comes from you

Pause

JAINANTU

Well it is good to know what you believe David – but I feel sorry for you, because you do not know the true love of God

DAVID

Well.....(*wryly*) I'll survive (*smiles*)

Cut to the hut from the exterior, fade out

68 EXT - HIGHLAND VALLEY - MORNING

DAVID is walking towards the edge of the forest with WALTERS – the ground is heavy with dew and some tree kangaroos scarp away in the canopy as they approach some large trees

DAVID

So you were the first person to find him?

WALTERS

Yes – it wasn't hard though – there was such a commotion about it on the day – and a group had gathered around – his body was just up here

They walk on

69 EXT – EDGE OF THE FOREST - MORNING

WALTERS

It's just in here.....he was lying face down – that way

DAVID

Right

WALTERS

It's hard to tell where he was hit first – he had three cuts on his back – one across the base of his spine – which would have severed it I think – and his head was caved in

DAVID

Oh.....

There is an uneasy moment as DAVID absorbs this

WALTERS

I think he'd been running from this way – a bit of the scrub was broken – T'Laupo must have caught up with him just there and brought him down by here.....his house is down there – so he probably chased him all the way from there (*David nods*)

DAVID

.....and the weapon

WALTERS

Stone axe – I've got it – it was just left lying by the body.....there's no doubt it's his – he was quite well known for them – even recognised it myself.....I'll have it until the trial if you want to have a look at it (*DAVID nods*)

DAVID

.....was there anything else here?

WALTERS

Some shells – a decoration T'Laupo used to wear – must have been broken off in the fight

DAVID nods

70 EXT - OPEN PLAIN IN THE VALLEY - MORNING

DAVID and WALTERS are walking along across a large grassy area – cleared decades ago for farming - we see them in a medium distant shot

DAVID

And what became of the body?

WALTERS

It was buried in the traditional way – but even that created a furore – some people - Jainantu included – wanted a Christian burial for him – but luckily sanity prevailed and he was buried in the

traditional way.....Wilu was never a Christian – and nor was his family – so it was quite upsetting for them the fact that he may have been buried in a Christian way

They continue walking

71 INT – PATROL OFFICE – DAY

We momentarily see a blank table and a wooden chest is dropped on it reasonably loudly – WALTERS opens it and pulls out a bundle of cloth – he unwraps the cloth to reveal a stone axe

WALTERS

There you go

He passes it to DAVID and he looks at it

WALTERS

The blood there was fresh on the day so presumably it's Wilu's

DAVID

It was fresh when you got it?

WALTERS

Yes

DAVID

What time was that?

WALTERS

About lunch time – it was pretty tacky but you could tell it wasn't dry..... and like I said – it's definitely his axe – he was quite well known for them

DAVID

Alright.....hmmm

DAVID finishes looking at it, then hands it back to WALTERS and watches him wrap it up

72 INT – MISSION HALL – DAY

ALAN is sitting down working, DAVID walks into the hall and walks over

ALAN  
Ah.....so you saw it all?

DAVID  
Yeah

ALAN  
What did you think?

DAVID  
Ooohll.....not a very nice way to die.....I think the axe is probably the most damning piece of evidence – but just because it was used doesn't mean it was he who did it

ALAN sighs and looks away, nodding his head

DAVID  
Look just see where this leads to alright

ALAN  
Well Jainantu's in the vestry – he's got someone else for you to see

DAVID glances to the vestry

73 INT – VESTRY –DAY

DAVID walks into the vestry. JAINANTU is reading a book by a candle and puts it away and stands up as soon as DAVID walks in

JAINANTU  
Ah David I have found someone for you to see

DAVID  
Yeah Alan just told me

JAINANTU  
It is not Talia though – I am still looking for him – but it is Okanao – a friend of T'Laupo's who said that T'Laupo told him he was going to kill Wilu

DAVID  
Oh alright

JAINANTU

But I must warn you David Okanao will tell you anything if he thinks it will win him favour with you – he comes to church but he does not believe – he just wants people to think he does – he is not a true Christian – you will see

DAVID

Yeah alright Jainantu, just get him

JAINANTU

He cannot be trusted David

DAVID

Alright just get him

Cut to DAVID and OKANAO opposite each others in chairs – DAVID looks up to JAINANTU who is standing half way in the doorway – he exits and shuts the door behind him, not entirely sure or happy – DAVID looks back to OKANAO

74 EXT – MISSION HALL – DAY

We see the mission hall

75 INT – JAINANTU’S HUT – NIGHT

DAVID and JAINANTU are sitting down eating, it is a bit subdued for a while

DAVID

So tell me Jainantu what made you want to become the minister as well?

JAINANTU

I am not the minister – I am just a lay preacher

DAVID

Well that

Pause

JAINANTU

Everyone has a calling – this is my calling – God wants me to do it

DAVID

What makes you so sure it's God?

JAINANTU

Ohll.....you just know – when God asks you to do something you just know – and when you accept it it is the most wonderful thing in your life.....something you will feel one day David

DAVID

*(With half a smile)* Hmm....I don't think so – it's got way too many contradictions for me

JAINANTU

Oh there are no contradictions in it

DAVID

How well have you read your Bible?

JAINANTU

What do you mean?

DAVID

Well all that killing and banishment to hell when God is supposed to be eternal love – that's a straight out contradiction

JAINANTU

*(Pause)* It is not up to us to say what God should do

DAVID

But why shouldn't it make sense, why shouldn't we question it?

JAINANTU

*(Pause)* I don't think a human being can ever understand God

DAVID

But how can you believe in it if you can't even understand it?

JAINANTU

I don't have to understand it.....I just have to know the Lord – and he keeps me on track

DAVID

But what makes you so sure it's the Lord?

JAINANTU

.....well you just know

DAVID

Couldn't it be one of the other Gods – a traditional God – Ilbu perhaps?

JAINANTU

There is no other God but God

DAVID

But God's just a name

JAINANTU

No it's a thing

DAVID

But it's called God.....so what's it matter what you call it? – why couldn't it be called Ilbu?

JAINANTU

Because God would never have someone kill someone like Ilbu did

DAVID

You have a very selective reading of the Bible don't you

JAINANTU

*(Pause)* What do you mean?

DAVID

There are plenty of examples where God's had people killed.....why is this any different to what T'Laupo did

JAINANTU

Because there is no Ilbu – only God

DAVID

But to T'Laupo there is

JAINANTU

No he is mistaken – there is none – only God

DAVID

But how do you know?

JAINANTU

Because God tells me

DAVID

But that's what we're questioning – so you can't use that as a justification.....and you're saying God wouldn't have people killed like Ilbu did – so are you saying Ilbu's real?

JAINANTU

No – but to T'Laupo he is – but he's mistaken, there is no God but God

DAVID

No but forget for a moment that it's called God – or Ilbu – what difference is there? – they're both trying to make justice in the world and they've both done it through killing – so why can't they just be different names for the same thing?

JAINANTU

No – because God is God – there can only be one God

DAVID

But how do you know?

JAINANTU

*(Said a bit emphatically)* Because that is what God is

DAVID

How do you know?

JAINANTU

Because that is what he tells me

DAVID

And how do you know it's *God* telling you

Pause – JAINANTU can't answer

DAVID

See it's always your perception of it – no matter what it is you're being told, or what it is you think is telling you – it's always your perception of what those things are.....you can't have God without having Ilbu – and if you can't have Ilbu you can't have God either

JAINANTU

No....no you are mistaken – there is only one God – God – and he is my Lord and saviour

DAVID

But you're missing my point – it's always your perception of what those things are

JAINANTU

No – there is only one God – now lets not talk about it anymore – lets just enjoy our meal (*David looks down, dissatisfied with the abrupt end – Jainantu continues a bit more brightly*) .....I have not seen you for so long David – let's not waste our time arguing

DAVID

But this isn't arguing – it's getting points across

JAINANTU

No we are arguing and it's not good to – lets just enjoy what we have ~ this time together, good food – a lovely night.....it is too good to waste.....you have no idea how long I lay in this very room wondering what you were doing, when you would come back.....and now you are here – I still can't believe it – let's not waste it arguing.....you know I'll never forget when I first met you and you started asking me things - (*starts to laugh*) I had no idea what you were asking, and I still don't remember – but I knew you were different, I knew you were trying to communicate with me .....oh it was such a special time.....you have no idea what a big effect you had on my life.....you were so different from the other white men – you made me see that there was more – not that there was another world – because I have often wondered what was on the other side of the tribes on the other side of us – but that there was another way of being – of looking at things – and that I was not wrong to be looking that way myself.....-you had such a big effect on my life – I am going to be giving a special prayer for you tomorrow in the service

DAVID

(*Pause, looks down, sighing*) Jainantu look.....there's something I should say (*sighs as he thinks*) I don't.....I jus'.....I don't feel comfortable in churches

JAINANTU

(*Pause*) Oh but you must come – I want you to see how good it is.....and I want you to see what I'm doing

DAVID

(*Looking down, troubled*) I dunno.....it's just not part of my beliefs – I just.....it doesn't feel good to me

JAINANTU

Won't you come to see me?

There is a pause as JAINANTU waits on DAVID'S answer – DAVID is troubled and none is forthcoming

JAINANTU

It is alright – if you don't want to come it is alright.....whatever you want to do is alright David

DAVID is looking, caught in a feeling – we then cross fade from this to

76 INT – JAINANTU'S HUT - NIGHT

DAVID asleep in the moonlight on the dirt floor, later that night – it is very still and there is hardly any sounds – cut then to JAINANTU asleep in moonlight as well – haunting music starts and we cross fade to the following montage

INT AND EXT – MISSION SERVICE MONTAGE – DAY

77 JAINANTU on the front landing of the mission the next day – looking, hoping for DAVID

78 The open valley – JAINANTU'S POV

79 JAINANTU again, still looking

80 DAVID sitting in some scrub at the edge of the forest looking sternly

81 JAINANTU looking for a bit more then going to the hall, disappointed

82 DAVID getting up and walking a bit further into the forest

83 JAINANTU preaching, reasonably impassioned

84 Tracking shot across the front of the audience as they watch JAINANTU

85 DAVID standing against the trunk of a tree looking up

86 DAVID'S POV – the tree branches, arcing around as his head moves

87 JAINANTU finishing the service

88 DAVID sitting on a rock by himself, looking to the distance

DAVID is reading a book on the verandah with sunlight streaming through a half torn cane blind - JAINANTU enters

JAINANTU

Ah there you are.....I have been looking everywhere for you

DAVID

*(A bit startled)* Yeah.....just doing a bit of reading *(he takes his feet off the table)*

There is an awkward pause for a moment

DAVID

Look I'm sorry about before.....I would have wanted to come.....but you know – you just got to do what you believe

JAINANTU

*(Pause)* That is alright David

DAVID

I've found life doesn't have any meaning if you don't

JAINANTU

That is alright.....so how have you been?

DAVID

Oh good.....just a bit of research .....so how'd it go?

JAINANTU

Good – there were many people there

DAVID

*(David nods)*.....what was it about – the sermon?

JAINANTU

Caring for your fellow man *(David nods)*.....why do you ask?

DAVID

Ohr....just like to hear what they're talking about – it's all just ideas isn't it

JAINANTU

*(Pause)* It is the word of God David

DAVID looks down with a slight smile – lets it ride

DAVID

Look.....what are you doing for the rest of the day?

JAINANTU

Just rest – it is the Sabbath today

DAVID looks down disappointed – just realising

JAINANTU

Why - did you have something you wanted to do – you want me to try and find Talia?

DAVID

Yes – we haven't really got much time

JAINANTU

I'm sorry David I would like to help you but I can't

DAVID

*(Pause)* That's alright – I'll try and find him myself then

JAINANTU

I'm sorry David I would like to help

DAVID

*(Dejectedly)* No it's alright don't worry about it

JAINANTU

It's just that today is the Lord's day and I must sit back and enjoy his creation

DAVID

Yeah....

JAINANTU

Can't we do it tomorrow?

DAVID

No there's going to be another meeting of the big men tomorrow and the Judge and T'Laupo arrives – and the thing starts on Wednesday

JAINANTU

I'm sorry – but we can still look tomorrow

DAVID

No don't worry about it

Fade out

90 INT – JAINANTU'S HUT – NIGHT

They are both just sitting there – DAVID is looking sternly ahead towards the ground

DAVID

You know I don't even know why you believe in the things you do

JAINANTU

The one thing I would never do is criticise someone else for their beliefs David

DAVID

Yes you do – every time you get up in church and tell people what they should think you do.....every time you tell me a Christian person here will give a better testimony than the others you do – every time you criticise the traditional beliefs here you do.....why do you have to try and change them – why can't you just leave them as they are – be happy that they've got some beliefs that work for them and just leave it at that

JAINANTU

Because it's not as simple as that – the Day of Judgment is coming David and we must all atone for our sins

DAVID looks away not believing it

JAINANTU

You should not take it so lightly David – one day you will stand in front of your own creator and you must account for your life

DAVID

Says who?

JAINANTU

Says the Bible

DAVID

But does that make it right?

JAINANTU

It is the word of God

DAVID

No it's not, it's just written by people

JAINANTU

It is God-inspired – written by people but still God-inspired – it is still the word of God

DAVID

No it's not it's just what they thought – and then it's just what you think as you read it

JAINANTU

The Bible is quite clear David atone for our sins or be banished to hell forever

DAVID

Yeah well what kind of a loving God would do that ?

JAINANTU

There must be justice David

DAVID

But who's to say that's what justice is ~ that doesn't sound like love to me.....I mean haven't you ever done anything wrong – is that what you deserve for it?

Pause

JAINANTU

There must be justice David

DAVID

Yeah but who's to say what justice is – that's just their fears coming out - that's just some material equating or balancing ~ or not even that – it's just retribution

JAINANTU

No it is justice – the Bible is quite clear.....

DAVID

*(Cuts in)* But it's not even the Bible speaking to you Jainantu – it's just the fears of the people who wrote it ~ or more to the point it's your fears as you're the one breathing meaning into those words as you read them

JAINANTU

No the Bible is quite clear what it says - you are just angry with me because I did not help you today

DAVID

No I'm not, you can do what you like

JAINANTU

I wanted to help you David, I did – but it is the Sabbath – the Lord's day – I must rest.....but I wanted to help you David, I did.....did you find anyone today – someone you could talk to

DAVID

.....yes

JAINANTU

Well there you are it was not a total waste then was it.....I would have helped you if I could David, but I couldn't – I'm sorry

We see JAINANTU desperate, DAVID a bit stony

91 EXT – HIGHLAND VALLEY – MORNING

We see DAVID up close staring ahead intensely, thinking – cut to medium shot just him and some trees in front of him ~ he creates a lone image – after a while ALAN joins him and they walk off together

92 EXT – HIGHLAND VALLEY - MORNING

ALAN and DAVID are walking along

ALAN

So how much longer do you want to keep going on this path for?

DAVID

Well I still want to see Talia

ALAN

He saw it David – he’s got no doubt it was T’Laupo, and he’s going to testify – they grew up together – he knows it was him

DAVID

Yeah.....no I know – it’s just that I have to be sure of everything myself – I don’t doubt you

ALAN

But what’s the point of that?

DAVID

It’s because I take it very seriously and I have to be sure myself

ALAN

But we could be preparing a case now – it’s just wasting time

DAVID

Well I don’t think he should be tried at all, and I’m going to keep looking until I find some minor technicality that will avert the whole thing ~ and if we can’t find it when we argue this we will argue it exactly when and how I say so

ALAN

Yeah well you’ll lose it David

DAVID flicks his hand back defiantly and walks on ahead of him

93 EXT – AERODROME – MORNING

DAVID and ALAN arrive at the aerodrome and join RYAN, BEN and WALTERS – WALTERS looks over to them

WALTERS

Gentlemen

DAVID

*(Surly)* Morning

ALAN

Hello

BEN and RYAN look to them, they all look up

DAVID

Any sign of it?

WALTERS

Not yet – you normally hear it first – but it'll be here

They all look for a bit – then WALTERS looks down and around

WALTERS

I tell you what – this is something you'll never see again – it's normally full of them – hundreds – as soon as they see you out looking for a plane (*the others look down*) .....they're all at that meeting – it's not a good sign.....I don't even know if the judge should be arriving now – of course the other tribes are going to get jealous if we hold it – it's just like waving a red flag to a bull – they're far better off holding it down on the coast (*DAVID looks to WALTERS*) but I'll go down afterwards and see what the wash up is – pray to God it'll be alright

DAVID looks away and back to the sky – he has agreed with WALTERS concern, but hasn't voiced it – they keep looking for a short while

BEN

I see it.....there

The others make a few sounds of agreeance and we see the silhouette of a Junkers, with the feint drone of its engines

We cut to fifteen minutes later – the plane has landed and we see it in the background as COLIN walks towards WALTERS with SENTJL behind him – carrying his luggage and wearing just a lap-lap

COLIN

Hello – you must be Arthur Walters

WALTERS

Yes

COLIN

How do you do, Colin Campbell

WALTERS

Pleased to meet you (*they shake hands*)

COLIN

And you (*he moves along*).....ah Ryan – good to see you

RYAN

Judge Campbell (*they shake hands*)

COLIN

Ben.....trust your surviving

BEN

Judge Campbell (*they shake hands*)

COLIN

David – glad you made it (*DAVID smiles, they shake hands*) Alan  
– good to see you again

ALAN

Judge Campbell (*they shake hands*)

COLIN

Well now – where’s the welcoming committee? – I was led to  
believe by the pilot that there’d be hundreds of Kanakas here to  
meet me

WALTERS

Well that’s something we’ll talk about

COLIN

Ohr yes

WALTERS

But probably best to get you in first – offload your things – and  
give you a break

COLIN

Sure

DAVID

Where’s T’Laupo?

COLIN

He couldn’t come up today – they can’t spare the officers to guard  
him until tomorrow (*DAVID is angry that he needs to be guarded*)  
but he’ll be up tomorrow with the bailiff and the clerk as well  
(*looks to DAVID then the others*) well perhaps we should go in

They walk off

COLIN sips a drink and listens as WALTERS explains things – DAVID, ALAN, RYAN and BEN listen as well

WALTERS

So that's basically the situation.....I'll find out more when I go down there shortly, but my expectation is that the neighbouring tribes will take any excuse to have a go at the Gaindu – and this court case will do finely

COLIN

Mmmm

BEN

What about the possibility of relocating it?

COLIN

The whole purpose of it is to have it here – let the natives see justice in action – if we take it down to the coast or back to Rabaul – they're just going to think T'Laupo's won some lucky trip away and treat him like a hero – which is what they did when he was arrested – we've got to show them that this is deadly serious.....and the best way to do that, to be perfectly frank, is to carry out the sentence here (*David looks at him alarmed*) – assuming he's found guilty of course – but unfortunately we won't be able to do that.....well look you get back to me once you've found out about what happened at the meeting and we'll take it from there

WALTERS

Alright

95 EXT – HIGHLAND VALLEY – MORNING

DAVID is sitting by the same rock he was on at the end of the montage about not going to the church, thinking things through

DAVID

*(In voice over)* I'll tell you what it is – it's what you think it is

We hear a sudden reverberating echo sound – then cut to

DAVID walks in and finds JAINANTU sitting at a chair reading a Bible – JAINANTU is engrossed in it and DAVID watches him in a stand offish and unhappy manner as JAINANTU absorbs it all – after a short while JAINANTU notices DAVID and smiles

JAINANTU

Ah – David – I have some good news for you – I saw Talia this morning and he said anytime you want to talk to him today is alright.....I can go and get him now if you like

DAVID

Ah.....alright

JAINANTU

He came to me – he heard that you wanted to talk to him so he came and found me

DAVID

Oh

JAINANTU

Do you want me to get him now? – I will only be five or ten minutes

DAVID

Yeah sure

JAINANTU

Alright

JAINANTU exits, DAVID ponders things – we cross fade to DAVID sitting at a chair reading some papers – JAINANTU returns with TALIA – DAVID stands up as they enter

JAINANTU

David this is Talia

DAVID

How do you do?

TALIA

Good to meet you David Miller (*TALIA holds out his hand – they shake – DAVID smiles*)

DAVID

Would you like to sit down (*he indicates to a chair*) I think we'll be right Jainantu

JAINANTU

(*Nods, pleasantly enough*) I will be just outside if you need me

DAVID

Alright

DAVID shuts the door behind him and sits down

DAVID

So.....Talia.....you claim to have seen T'Laupo attacking Wilu

TALIA

Yes that is right.....I was walking along just further up from them - I was about to go into the forest – when I hear them running and I hear angry sounds - T'Laupo angry

DAVID

You heard T'Laupo's voice?

TALIA

Yes

DAVID

And you're sure it was his?

TALIA

Yes I know T'Laupo very well – good friends

DAVID

.....and then what happened

TALIA

I see T'Laupo hit him with the axe in the back and he stumbles and falls and T'Laupo hit him many many more times

DAVID

Did you see this?

TALIA

Yes

DAVID

Are you sure it looked like T'Laupo

TALIA

Oh yes – it was him – I recognise him – he and Wilu were only about 100 feet away – and I recognise Wilu too

DAVID

.....alright - go on – what happened next

TALIA

After T'Laupo finish hitting him – he hit him many many times – he get up and just stare at the body.....I start to think what could Wilu have done to deserve this? – and I think maybe T'Laupo should not see me so I move back into the forest – and after a few minutes T'Laupo walks right by in front of me – up the hill and into the edge of the forest – where I think he goes to wash himself in the stream – I could see Wilu's blood on him when he walked past

DAVID

Right.....so there's no doubt in your mind it was T'Laupo?

TALIA

No none at all – that is why I was not surprised the next morning when they found T'Laupo's axe there and Wilu's body

DAVID

No.....so what did you do?

TALIA

I waited until he's gone and I continue on my way

DAVID

Did you tell anyone about it?

TALIA

No

DAVID

Why not?

TALIA

Why should I?

DAVID

Doesn't it seem unusual?

TALIA

No

DAVID

*(Rubs his hand behind his neck)* No well you're right I spose it doesn't have to be

TALIA

They will find out the next morning I thought.....and then the next morning everyone is talking about it – and people start talking about Biancanni and Wilu and then we hear Ilbu did it, it all seems to makes sense.....and no one worry – except for the people like Jainantu – Walters not even worry

DAVID

No.....so when did you first tell people about it ?

TALIA

The next day – when everyone talking about it

DAVID

Right

DAVID thinks for a bit

97 EXT – MISSION HALL – AFTERNOON

We see the mission hall – it is later in the day

98 INT – MISSION HALL – AFTERNOON

DAVID and ALAN are sitting at their table – there is an awkward silence – DAVID glances at ALAN and then to the dank walls in the shadows inside the hall and back to ALAN again

ALAN

Well what did you expect?

DAVID

I dunno – I just had to find out for myself

ALAN

And now what are you going to do?

DAVID

Well the best way to approach it is what I outlined.....

ALAN

*(Cutting him off)* Oh God you're still not going to do that are you..... *(there is a slightly stunned silence for a moment)* you're going to throw out the best chance we've got

DAVID

No it's not – this is the only way to approach it

ALAN

Well what's all my work been for then? – what has the last four weeks of my life been for?

DAVID

*(Pause for a bit)* Every journey is just an exploration of the self  
Alan

ALAN rolls his eyes and looks away in disbelief and disgust – he is about to reply when BEN comes in

BEN

Walters is back – if you want to come over

DAVID looks to BEN, ALAN to DAVID - and they start to go

99 INT – PATROL OFFICE – AFTERNOON

The camera arcs around the group as WALTERS talks

WALTERS

No they're adamant about it Colin – none of the other tribes are to set foot here

COLIN

That's ridiculous – look I haven't come three hundred mile just to be held ransom to some group of squabbling Kanaka's

WALTERS

Well they're deadly serious about it

COLIN

But they haven't even got the manpower to hold them off

WALTERS

Doesn't matter to them – none of the other tribes are to set foot here

COLIN

They know the trial is for everyone to see?

WALTERS

Yes – but they won't have a bar of it

COLIN

And what happens if we acquiesce to their demands

WALTERS

.....to be honest I don't think it'll matter – the three other tribes'll keep coming anyway

COLIN

This is the politics of primitives – it's ridiculous!

BEN

What if we were to hold it in the open – down on the junction of the boundaries

WALTERS

No – I actually mentioned that to Kiambu today – still makes no difference

COLIN

Who's Kiambu?

WALTERS

One of the Gaindu big men

COLIN

*(Nods)* Mmm.....why don't they have one elected leader – at least then we'd have a chance of swaying him.....

Pause

WALTERS

The thing is Colin – this has gone back for generations – it's in their blood – they just want an excuse to fight each other or to show each other up.....I don't think you're going to sway them that easily

COLIN

Look I know that, but we're not calling it off – and we're not taking it down to the coast either

WALTERS

Colin if you hold it here there'll be a massacre.....three tribes to one – you don't need to be Einstein to work out what the results of that will be – not to mention the fact that we'll still be here when it happens

Pause

RYAN

What if no one comes if we ban everyone except those called to appear in the trial

COLIN

*(Pause, thinks)* The whole point of it is for them to see it...but maybe this will work – at least they'll still see the ramifications of it....Walters?

WALTERS

.....could work.....if we make it clear it applies to the Gaindu as well.....of course some Gaindu will be appearing in it though

COLIN

Will that matter?

WALTERS

.....don't know.....it's probably a matter of how you tell the others

RYAN

You wouldn't even have to tell them at all

WALTERS

No – they're going to find out sometime – so it's better to

COLIN

Can you call a meeting tomorrow of all the big men?

WALTERS

*(Nods)* Yes

COLIN

Alright well put it to them.....it's not as good as having it open for everyone to see – but it's not a dead loss either – and it's better than taking it to the coast

WALTERS

Well I'll get onto it first thing in the morning – I should be able to hold it by nine – and I'll get back to you as soon as I can

COLIN

Good.....perhaps the thing to do is to make it appear that the Gaiandu are not just banned like everyone else, but that it's too important for them and they're not allowed to attend because of that

WALTERS

.....that's a bit of a kick in the teeth for the Gaiandu though

COLIN

Doesn't matter it's appeasing the others

BEN

Maybe you could make it appear that it's some kind of ceremonial thing for us – and unless if you're involved in it you're not allowed to watch it (*David looks at him*) – that way they might be able to understand it more and you're not putting anyone down

COLIN

Sure whatever works – but just put it to them.....the transport plane with T'Laupo is arriving at ten tomorrow morning – so if you haven't heard a result by then I'll get it to wait here till you do – it might be necessary to take him back

WALTERS nods

DAVID

So if we don't get an agreement we won't be holding it here

COLIN

Not till after the wet season when we'll return with a greater security presence (*DAVID and WALTERS both look dismayed, almost disgusted – DAVID looks away*) so it's resolved then – until tomorrow when I'll wait to hear from you

WALTERS nods, DAVID looks unimpressed - fade out

100 EXT – HIGHLAND VALLEY – NIGHT

The huts look unusually quiet and are casting soft shadows in the moonlight – only the smoke from buildings and the movement of penned pigs catch the eye

101 INT – JAINANTU’S HUT – NIGHT

DAVID and JAINANTU are sitting – JAINANTU passes DAVID a bowl – DAVID receives it stony faced, just looking at JAINANTU – knowing he can’t get out of him what he wants – fade out

102 EXT – HIGHLAND VALLEY – DAWN

Fade into sunrise over the edge of the valley

103 EXT – MISSION HALL – MORNING

We see the hall – and by the brightness of the light we see that it the day is now well underway

104 INT – VESTRY – MORNING

DAVID is writing some notes – in an enthusiastic but concentrated fashion

105 EXT – HIGHLAND VALLEY – MORNING

WALTERS is surrounded by twelve big men from the Gaindu and neighbouring tribes – the heat of the day is picking up and the men are restless – twisting their grip on their axes and spears

WALTERS

Closed – no one come – no Gaindu, no Chilbu – no no-one – white man only

KOWENJAN

You need talk some Gaindu

WALTERS

Some Gaindu come – maybe this many (*shows his hands*) no more

KOWENJAN

Gaindu come, some Chilbu come (*the others start echoing what he is saying*)

WALTERS

No shame shame – great shame Gaindu come – great shame white man need talk Kanaka in court – great shame.....great shame for Gaindu – you want shame on Chilbu?

They consider what he is saying

106 EXT – HIGHLAND VALLEY AERODROME– MORNING

COLIN is talking to John DEAN, the pilot of the Junkers – who is checking a wheel strut - WALTERS approaches – nods

COLIN

It's alright?

WALTERS

Yes

COLIN

Top job (*he shakes his hand*) What did it take?

WALTERS

.....ohr well – had to tell them it was a great shame to be called up in a court case.....that was the only way the others would accept it.....of course it's a bit hard for the Gaindu to take but that'll be alright I guess

COLIN

Oh that'll be fine.....well done.....splendid (*he turns to DEAN with a smile*)

DEAN

Alright well I'll head off straight away then – won't hang about – good luck

COLIN

Thankyou

WALTERS

(*Watching DEAN go*) Everything off loaded already?

COLIN

Yes

WALTERS

Where's T'Laupo

COLIN

In the patrol office

WALTERS nods

107 INT – PATROL OFFICE – MORNING

DAVID and ALAN are talking to T'LAUPO – SIMMONDS, the officer guarding him, is in the background

DAVID

We'll run through what's going to happen tomorrow this afternoon – but for now we just want to talk a bit more about what happened, and about Ilbu in particular

ALAN doesn't look very impressed

DAVID

Actually tell us about Ilbu first – when did you first know Ilbu existed?

T'LAUPO

I don't know.....Ilbu always there.....I know Ilbu from the time I was child.....from before I could remember

DAVID

How did you know he existed?

T'LAUPO

By the things he did.....I see things he do in world

DAVID

Like what?

T'LAUPO

Someone hurt someone – soon they get hurt – it is Ilbu that puts it right.....everyone come to feel Ilbu in them – you know when Ilbu take control of you.....it is a great feeling of justice, and finish – finally finish

DAVID  
Have you ever felt Ilbu in you before?

T'LAUPO  
No

DAVID  
Then how did you know it was Ilbu in you this time?

T'LAUPO  
Because Ilbu tell me.....at first when Ilbu come I am scared, but  
Ilbu says not to be – Ilbu says to let Ilbu take control – so I did

DAVID  
And what did you feel?

T'LAUPO  
The best feeling I have ever felt.....I am not me, but am me – I  
am Ilbu – Ilbu live through me – I am Ilbu.....and Ilbu do what  
Ilbu must

DAVID sits back and looks at ALAN

108 INT – MISSION HALL – AFTERNOON

DAVID is at their desk with some papers and notes – ALAN is walking around

ALAN  
Well it's clear you don't need me for this

DAVID  
Alan

ALAN  
No - do as you like - you always were going to weren't you

Pause

DAVID  
It's the most logical way to approach it

ALAN  
That's rubbish

DAVID

Well it's the most honest way, the most truthful way – the only way it should be

ALAN

The only way you should be approaching it is the way that's going to win it.....or as close to that as you can – all this truthful crap has got nothing to do with it

Pause

DAVID

Yeah well I guess that's where you and I are different

ALAN

Yeah well as long as you're happy David

109 INT – PATROL OFFICE – AFTERNOON

DAVID is talking to T'LAUPO, SIMMONDS is in the background again – ALAN is absent

DAVID

.....they're brought in and sat out the front, next to the judge – now both the prosecution and the defence get to ask questions.....and then to re-examine them if necessary

T'LAUPO

And what do they do?

DAVID

They just say what they saw.....or what they know

T'LAUPO

And who will be witnesses?

DAVID

Well it's whoever they want to call in – someone who knows you.....or knows something to do with what happened

T'LAUPO

And then what happens?

DAVID

Well after all that is finished then Ryan and I give our closing arguments

T'LAUPO

What is that?

DAVID

Well we just summarise everything we've said – all of the points in the case

T'LAUPO

And when do they let me go?

Pause, DAVID breathes in – thinking how to approach the question

110 INT – JAINANTU'S HUT – NIGHT

There is quiet for a bit DAVID and JAINANTU are eating – DAVID is a little bit withdrawn and is staring vacantly where the logs join the thatched roof

JAINANTU

So David how are you feeling about tomorrow?

DAVID

.....alright

JAINANTU

Do you think it will go alright?

DAVID

It should do

JAINANTU

.....I will be most interested to see what happens

DAVID

Why?

JAINANTU

Well it is a good test to see how far we have come – and to finally see justice in action will be good – there are alot of people who think they can do whatever they like – but now they will start to know they cannot – every action has its consequences and now they will start to think about theirs

DAVID

.....why do you want him charged Jainantu?

JAINANTU

Because he killed someone

DAVID

That used to be alright

JAINANTU

No it didn't

DAVID

Yes it did.....just because some other culture comes in and says it's wrong – doesn't mean you have to start doing what they say

JAINANTU

No it was always wrong

DAVID

No it wasn't – there was a time in your head before you heard of Christianity – or the outside world – it wasn't wrong then

JAINANTU

Yes it was.....even then I felt it wasn't right

DAVID

Well alright I can accept that – that's more like truth.....but if you think that why do you want him charged? – they're only going to hang him

JAINANTU

Because justice must be done

DAVID

And that's what justice is to you?

JAINANTU

Yes

Pause

DAVID

Before you heard of Christianity – and you felt it was wrong for people to kill – did you want the people who had done the killing to be killed?

Pause

JAINANTU

Before I heard of Christianity.....the whisper in my heart I heard was God.....given full voice by the Bible and the work of Father Daniels (*DAVID heaves a heavy sigh*) it is true ~ everything I felt made sense when I read the Bible – I saw and felt it in its true glory and majesty.....you know what the Bible says – it says – the word of God has gone out into all the earth and to the ends of the world – so I know what I was feeling was the word of God, before I knew what it was

DAVID

And you believed that?

JAINANTU

Yes it is true

DAVID

God don't you ever think for yourself

JAINANTU

I think for myself all the time

DAVID

No you don't – all you've done is swallow up everything the missionaries ever gave you – can't you see what they've done to you?.....you weren't like that when I first came up here.....you used to have this wonderful feeling of discovering things for the first time ~ like you were fearless – now you're too afraid to even think outside the lines the missionaries ever gave you – why do you do that?.....why'd you change?

JAINANTU

Do you want to know why I first became a Christian? – what I liked about it? – when Father Daniels was first teaching it to me – what made me keep an open mind about it.....it reminded me of you David.....with all of it's high ideals and values – it reminded me of you – and I wanted to be just like you

DAVID doesn't know what to say – he is both angry and touched – but the anger wins out - we cross fade from this to

The court case is about to begin – we see DAVID staring deeply in front of him, thinking – this only lasts for a short while as the bailiff, Thomas HENDERSON, begins

HENDERSON

All rise. *(Everyone does)* This session of the Supreme Court of the Mandated Territory of New Guinea is about to begin, Judge Colin Campbell presiding. God save the King

COLIN comes in, they all bow, COLIN bows back, sits down

COLIN

*(To the Clerk)* Mr Davis could you please arraign the accused

DAVIS

*(Standing up)* Gaindu Ndenka T'Laupo you are accused of willfully taking the life of Gaindu Aundilika Wilu on the night of July thirtieth last. How do you plead?

T'LAUPO

*(Looking to DAVID for some confirmation he is saying the right thing)* Not guilty

DAVIS

The accused pleads not guilty Your Honour

COLIN

Thankyou Mr Davis *(he sits)* Could I have appearances please

RYAN and DAVID stand up

RYAN

Your Honour Ryan Challinor appearing for the prosecution

DAVID

David Miller for the defence Your Honour

COLIN

Thankyou.....Mr Challinor *(DAVID sits)*

RYAN

Thankyou Your Honour. Given the overwhelming amount of evidence in this case our list of witnesses is relatively short, but as you will see more than sufficient to prove beyond any doubt whatsoever the guilt of the accused in this most shocking crime.

Your Honour our witnesses are Gaindu Amp Biancanni wife of the accused, who's adulterous relationship with the victim provided the accused with the necessary motivation for the murder. Gaindu Ndenka Okanao witness to T'Laupo vowing to kill Wilu in revenge. Gaindu Aundilika Talia who on the night of July thirtieth witnessed the accused attack Wilu with an axe at the scene of the murder, where the body was subsequently found the next day. Gaindu Ndenka Gumakala friend of the accused, who found the body the next morning, and identified the axe at the scene as belonging to the accused. Patrol Officer Arthur Walters who recorded details of the death of the victim and condition of the body, and also identified the axe as belonging to T'Laupo.

Now Your Honour, as everyone here is aware, this is a very important case, it marks not only a turning point in the history of the Administration of the Mandated Territory, but in the broader scheme of things in the civilising of the native population as well. It is a very important course the Administration has decided to set out upon, but one which comes with a lot of provisos – not the least of this is the continuing maintenance of this standard once it has been set – for if this is to be more than just an example, if it is to enter into the hearts and minds of the native population, if it is to become part of the fabric of their everyday life – then it must become part of the way they instinctively feel, think and behave – for only then will the bar have been raised that little bit more and the degree of civilisation of the stock native thus lifted as well.

However what concerns us more now is the proviso that the proper intention of setting out on this course of action is preserved in this hearing, and that the clarity and purpose of the law in question is not muddied by the often emotional responses brought about by involvement in native issues – due no doubt to well meaning, though ultimately misplaced sympathies towards the natives cause. To that end then, if Your Honour sees fit, I would like just to enter on record a few relevant factors with regard to the involvement of the law in this case (*COLIN nods*) Now no doubt you are aware of all these Your Honour – (*looking over to DAVID*) but let's just remind all here present – of a few salient points.

Firstly this is a murder trial, and as such it does not fall under the Native Administration Regulations for consideration of custom or traditional law as a mitigating circumstance in the trying and sentencing of the accused. This is an indictable offence, it is a criminal trial under the criminal code and is to be held and judged purely within those terms. Now as you would know Your Honour, under the Laws Repeal and Adopting Ordinance, which brings us

the Criminal Code of Queensland as our criminal code, there is some allowances made for customary law – but let us look at that more closely. The law states “The tribal institutions, customs and usages of the aboriginal natives shall be permitted to continue in existence in so far as the same are not repugnant to the general principles of humanity”.....the general principles of humanity.

Now Your Honour as testimony will shortly bear out, the body of Gaindu Aundilika Wilu was found with it’s spinal chord severed and it’s head caved in beyond recognition. This was brought about by repeated blows with a stone axe in what could only have been delivered in a frenzy like fashion. It is self evident Your Honour that this act is beyond all accepted principles of humanity (*COLIN nods in agreeance*) and as such under law cannot be mitigated by any consideration of traditional customs or institutions whatsoever.

So with that in place then Your Honour let us move on to the details of the case itself. In comparison to other criminal trials this one is relatively straight forward.....the chain of events are quite clear to see – and the actions and motivations of all persons involved are quite transparent. The accused Gaindu Ndenka T’Laupo did willfully and knowingly set out to kill Gaindu Aundilika Wilu, on the night of July thirtieth. This was in retaliation to the adulterous relationship between T’Laupo’s wife Biancanni, and Wilu. There are a number of witnesses to the anger and public humiliation T’Laupo felt over the affair, but more importantly there are numerous credible witnesses to T’Laupo vowing to kill Wilu in retaliation. And this is one of the key points Your Honour – although as we will see there is clear evidence of the actual attack, there is irrefutable evidence to the intention as well – the accused is guilty of *willful* murder, and any lesser charges based on reduced culpability can not be entertained. The murder took place on the edge of the forest, in which under a driven rage of base anger the accused attacked Gaindu Aundilika Wilu repeatedly with a stone axe, so much so that he caved his face in beyond recognition and severed his spine. This shocking attack was witnessed at close quarters by Gaindu Aundilika Talia, who has no doubt whatsoever to the identity of the guileless perpetrator and the victim. Further evidence Your Honour, if any such thing should be needed, is provided by the murder weapon itself - T’Laupo’s own axe – at the scene and the presence of traditional dress fragments belonging to T’Laupo at the murder scene as well.

Then the next day Your Honour upon the discovery of the body the accused then claimed that it was not he that killed Wilu, but in fact a traditional god that had possessed him – this was done no doubt

as a cowardly act in a desperate bid to allay blame from himself – but his belief in this god can in no way be used to exonerate himself from the crime – because it was still *his* belief, *his* action and *his* choice ~ whether or not the god exists is inconsequential - as is the accused’s claim or belief in it ~ because *he* still chose to believe in it ~ the final choice and act was therefor his – as is the entire responsibility – and this will be shown beyond any doubt whatsoever in the course of our examination

Now Your Honour on one hand this is one of the most distressing and repugnant cases I have ever been involved in – the sheer magnitude of the brutality and inhumanity involved is beyond comprehension – yet on the other hand this has the potential for being one of the most fulfilling cases anyone could ever have hoped to be involved in – because we find ourselves at the turning point – we have the opportunity to bring justice to not only Wilu and his family – but to a whole culture as well – and we may consider ourselves blessed to be at such an important point in the development of a culture ~ and this is not something to be taken lightly – it is our Christian duty to see that justice is done here, and we play our part in the civilising of these primitives ~ but as great as that is it must not be forgotten that law is the instrument of that justice – and the case and it’s punishment must be considered entirely within that law – but here again we find the law is quite specific - we are dealing with a willful, premeditated and exceedingly violent homicide and it is therefor the recommendation of the prosecution that the full punishment be carried out, and that the defendant be hung by the neck until his death. (*RYAN sits*)

COLIN

Thankyou Mr Challinor.....Mr Miller

DAVID

(*Stands*) Your Honour.....the defence has no need for an opening statement

COLIN raises his eye brows and looks to the side – not happy, but not surprised either

112 EXT – HIGHLAND VALLEY - MORNING

We see a great number of highlanders gathered behind a roped boundary looking to the hall – men stand in the foreground, except for elderly ladies who they let stand next to them – mothers stand to the back and to the side with their children.

There is a look of worry and confusion on everyone's faces – it is a spectacle they don't understand

113 EXT – MISSION HALL - MORNING

We see the hall from their POV

114 EXT – HIGHLAND VALLEY - MORNING

Tight close up on JAINANTU as he looks at the hall from the crowd – more concerned than most

115 INT – MISSION HALL – MORNING

We cut back to the proceedings

DAVID

.....Your Honour our recommendation on sentencing is complete exoneration from the crime, and that no sentence be apportioned at all

COLIN gives him a slightly withering look then proceeds

COLIN

*(To RYAN)* Counsel would you like to begin

RYAN

*(Stands – still a bit unimpressed by it all)* Yes Your Honour.....the prosecution calls Gaindu Amp Biancanni to the witness stand

HENDERSON exits and then returns with BIANCANNI and produces a Bible to swear her in – he takes her right hand and places it on it

HENDERSON

Do you swear that the evidence you are about to give is the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

BIANCANNI

I do

She sits in the witness stand

RYAN

Now Biancanni what is your relationship to Gaindu Ndenka T'Laupo?

BIANCANNI

*(Slowly)* I am his wife

RYAN

And what was your relationship with Wilu ?

Pause

BIANCANNI

I was his.....I was in love with him

RYAN

It was an adulterous relationship wasn't it?

BIANCANNI

*(Looking to him – almost defiantly)* I know what that means.....yes

RYAN

How long had this relationship been going on for?

BIANCANNI

Since before the wet season

RYAN

And was T'Laupo aware of the relationship?

BIANCANNI

Not at the start but he did come to know it

RYAN

And did he say anything to you about it?

BIANCANNI

No

RYAN

Did you notice a change in his behaviour after he found out?

BIANCANNI

Maybe....

RYAN

And what was that - how was he ?

BIANCANNI

At the start before he found out.....

We cross fade from this to DAVID just staring ahead

RYAN

Thankyou Your Honour no further questions (*sits*)

COLIN

Mr Miller

DAVID

No questions Your Honour

Pause

COLIN

No questions?

DAVID

No

COLIN

(*Stares at DAVID for a bit*) Alright.....Mr Challinor

RYAN

(*Stands again – looking sideways at DAVID – a bit laboured*) Your Honour the prosecution calls Gaindu Ndenka Okanao

Cut to RYAN questioning him

RYAN

So was this the first time T'Laupo had heard people talking about it?

OKANAO

No.....he had heard them long time before

RYAN

But this is the first time he had mentioned it to you?

OKANAO

Yes

RYAN

And what exactly did he say?

OKANAO

He said Wilu bad man – bad man bad man – one day going to kill him

RYAN

And what was his tone of voice like when he said it?

OKANAO

Tone of voice?

RYAN

How was he like – what was his feelings?

OKANAO

Angry, very angry

RYAN

And did you feel he meant it – that he was going to kill him?

OKANAO

Oh yes – he was angry, but you could see he was thinking about it properly – he meant it

RYAN

And how long before Wilu was killed was this?

OKANAO

About one week

RYAN

Now you said he had heard people talking about the relationship along time beforehand – when did he first hear people talking about it – that you know of?

OKANAO

Oh.....that would be maybe.....in the middle of the wet season.....maybe nine months

RYAN

And how did he react to that?

OKANAO

At first he try to ignore it – but he not like it, and it start to make him sad and quiet but as it go on he just angry

RYAN

So it had been building up for a long time before he finally told you a week beforehand of his intention to murder Wilu?

OKANAO

Yes

RYAN

Alright thankyou – no further question Your Honour

COLIN

Thankyou.....Mr Miller

DAVID

No

COLIN

....alright (*thinks about DAVID then turns to RYAN*) Counsel

RYAN

Your Honour we would like to call Gaindu Aundilika Talia

Cut to RYAN interviewing TALIA

RYAN

And so then what happened?

TALIA

Well after he just stare at the body, he turn and walk up the hill right past me into the forest

RYAN

And you could see him clearly from where you were?

TALIA

Oh yes it was T'Laupo

RYAN

There's no doubt in your mind whatsoever about that?

TALIA

No – it was T'Laupo

RYAN

Alright thankyou - no further questions Your Honour

COLIN

Thankyou.....the defence

TALIA

No questions Your Honour

COLIN

*(Pauses, looks at DAVID, says nothing to him – turns to RYAN)* Mr Challinor

RYAN

*(Looks at DAVID slightly disdainfully through the corner of his eye)* Gaindu Ndenka Gumakala Your Honour

Cut to RYAN interviewing GUMAKALA

RYAN

So you knew the axe was T'Laupo's?

GUMAKALA

Yes – I had been hunting with him many times with that same one

RYAN

No one else had an axe like it?

GUMAKALA

No – I am sure it was T'Laupo's

RYAN

No further questions Your Honour

COLIN

*(Nods)* ...Mr Miller

DAVID

No questions Your Honour

COLIN

*(COLIN thinks for a while – he is becoming more and more disturbed by this)* Mr Challinor

RYAN

Well I hardly get a chance to sit down

COLIN

It appears this is going to be a shorter trial than we expected

DAVID stares at COLIN somewhat defiantly

RYAN

We call Patrol Officer Arthur Walters to the stand

Cut to RYAN interviewing WALTERS

RYAN

.....so just to sum up in your opinion the size and shape of the wounds on the body are consistent with the size and shape of the axe head

WALTERS

Yes

RYAN

No further questions Your Honour

COLIN

Mr Miller

DAVID

No questions Your Honour

COLIN

Alright.....there'll be a one hour luncheon adjournment, and then we'll reconvene and hear the defence, such that it is, court adjourned

After lunch cut back to dolly shot past the prosecution and the defence – DAVID stands

DAVID

Your Honour the question before us is should T'Laupo be convicted.....*should* T'Laupo be convicted - now the prosecution has presented what I'm sure it thinks is a very solid and irrefutable case to back it's claims, but it has forgotten the most important issue of all: what right do we have to do this? What right do we have to walk in on a culture on their land in complete negligence of all their social laws and customs and tell them what to do?

Did they ask for us to come here? No. Are they the ones dictating the degree of our involvement with them? No. What right do we have to do this?

It may seem logical to answer the question “should he be convicted” with a series of factual statements that link him to the murder – and if they all hold then the final logical step is he should be convicted. But that does not *have to* happen – it is not some independently true thing - but it is a choice which comes from us – and as such it is as open to bias and fault as anything else we do. So I ask you again – what right do you have to do this? (*Pause as he stares at COLIN*)

We’ve heard the prosecution say “because it is repugnant to the general principles of humanity”.....but what are the general principles of humanity? ~ who is to say that – Ryan and his Christian outlook, this court and it’s Christian outlook? We’ve heard that it is our cultures duty to civilise these people, but who’s to say what’s civilised and what’s not – these people have lived here for thousands of years, and may well prove to be the oldest settled agriculturally-based people in the world – these people have complex social laws and customs and patterns of interaction and marriage and ways of handling disputes that you people have no idea of.....no idea ~ who are you to be telling them how they should be living?

Perhaps they’re the civilised ones, and we’re the uncivilised ones trying to make them like us ~ because let’s be honest “civilising them” means making them like us ~ and why? – because we’re too insecure about ourselves to accept them on their terms – because it makes us feel good about ourselves to put them down and say they’re the primitives and we’re the civilised ones ~ maybe they’re the advanced ones living in small communities close to nature – and we’re the ones who have degenerated with our nations and technology and thirst for power ~ and let’s not kid ourselves you talk about acts repugnant to the general principles of humanity – acts exactly the same as this happen in our society as well – so what validity do you have for this? – ultimately you say it is a Christian one, and it is your Christian duty to civilise them – but I think the way to judge whether or not a people are civilised is not by the rash action of one individual, but by the way that society responds to that action – and how have we responded ~ by imprisoning a man who’s only ever forests and log huts in a brick cell in a land he never even knew existed before, and then deciding if we should kill him or not, for killing.

The prosecution with its ample knowledge of Gaindu spiritual beliefs has claimed even though T'Laupo believes the god Ilbu possessed him and made him do it this actually came from himself – because it was still his choice to believe in that god and his choice to carry out that act ~ the motivation, the decision and the excuse all ultimately came from him.....but what then does that tell us about the prosecutions motivation in this case, about the court's motivation, the administration's motivation ~ for they are all carried out for the Christian god ~ it is your Christian duty to do this – if Ilbu comes from T'Laupo as the prosecution claims, then so to does your god come from you – and what you are doing is no different to what T'Laupo did ~ wanting to kill a man, not because of your god's wishes, but because of your own fears and insecurities ~ and if it is wrong for T'Laupo to do that, then so too is it wrong for you too and this trial clearly is in contravention of its own laws – and is a mistrial and T'Laupo can't be tried.....but can you prove that any god is actually the creation of its believer? – can you prove that?.....yes you can – and for that I call my only witness Gaindu Ndenka Jainantu

HENDERSON brings in JAINANTU, a bit confused

HENDERSON

Do you swear that the evidence you are about to give is the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

JAINANTU

I do (*sits*)

DAVID

What is your job here – what do you do at the mission?

JAINANTU

I am the preacher – lay preacher

DAVID

And why do you do that?

JAINANTU

It is my duty.....I feel I should

DAVID

Why?

JAINANTU

God wants me to

DAVID

How do you know?

JAINANTU

It is my calling

DAVID

How do you know what God is?

JAINANTU

Because the Lord Jesus showed me

DAVID

How do you know what Jesus is (*pause – no answer*) Jainantu ten years ago as far as you were concerned neither of these two existed

JAINANTU

No they did – I just did not know them

DAVID

How did you come to know them?

JAINANTU

Father Daniels showed me, and I read the Bible

DAVID

How did you know what Father Daniels was saying? – you didn't speak the language

JAINANTU

Father Daniels teach me the language

DAVID

How did you know what he meant when he was teaching you the language? – you didn't know what he was saying

JAINANTU

No I try and work it out – then see if I got it right

DAVID

How did you know if you got it right?

JAINANTU

He would tell me

DAVID

But how did you know what he was saying when he was – you didn't know the language

JAINANTU

.....well I try and work it out

DAVID

Precisely.....every word you hear ~ or read or speak – exactly what it means comes from you

JAINANTU

No I work out what it means

DAVID

No but you don't know what it means ~ you make an assumption and go on that – but exactly what that assumption or meaning means comes from you

JAINANTU

No

DAVID

Yes Jainantu ~ so when someone tells you about this thing called God or you read about it in the Bible – exactly what it is comes from you

JAINANTU

No

DAVID

Well where does it come from ~ you have nothing else to go on – it's just what you think it is – it's just your thoughts - it has no other meaning other than what you give it - it all comes from you – you just don't want to admit it because you're too afraid of the ramifications – but it's true and you can't deny it (*to COLIN*) and this is exactly the same for everyone Your Honour – whether they're in their own culture learning their own language as an infant – through to learning someone else's language ~ it's impossible to separate the observed from the observer – so much so that what the observed means ~ what it is – actually comes from the observer.....and something doesn't have to exist independently in the first place in order for it to be observed or interpreted ~ because whether or not it exists at all is still just another thought – or interpretation.....it all comes from the person having it – and this is exactly the case with God or gods - and this

is the cornerstone of what is happening here - and why this is a mistrial.....no further questions

DAVID sits down feeling a bit guilty for what he has done to JAINANTU, JAINANTU is hurt

COLIN

*(Laboured)* Mr Challinor

RYAN

No questions Your Honour

COLIN

.....alright – closing comments – let’s get this over and done with

RYAN

Your Honour as much as the defence would like to berate us with theoretical arguments – this is a court of law

COLIN

Thankyou counsel

RYAN

And this case is to be judged and sentenced purely within terms of the law

COLIN

Thankyou counsel

Now Your Honour the evidence speaks for itself – through expert testimony we’ve seen that the accused's wife had an adulterous relationship with the deceased, we’ve seen that this relationship caused the accused much jealousy and anger, and that he eventually decided to kill Wilu – we know that he admitted to this at least a week before the attack, but most likely would have been planning it for even longer – and then one night Your Honour when circumstances presented themselves opportune to his plan he carried it out in the most bloodthirsty way possible – not just killing Wilu but attacking him with such ferocity that is incomprehensible to the civilised man, but precisely that which was needed to exorcise his base primitive anger. That done he then skulked away into the night - to then claim the next day that it was in fact this god Ilbu which killed him.

Now whatever the defence wants to make of that two things are clear - one: T'Laupo did kill Wilu - we have heard ample evidence during chief examination to this effect and his belief in this god Ilbu in no way alters these facts or removes his culpability because that belief was still *his choice*; and two: justice must be done - a clear message must be sent to these natives that this type of behaviour is not acceptable and will not be tolerated. Any failure to do so by us will grant tacit approval to these types of acts and will run the risk of encouraging them by default - thus allowing the natives to sink even further back into their primitive ways.

Now no matter how many questions the defence wants to throw up over the validity of our involvement here, the fact is *that validity is self evident* - and whether we like it or not we are faced with a choice over what we are going to do - it is unavoidable - now we can either turn our backs on it and shirk our responsibilities, or we can face up to it and treat it as it so deserves to ~ and lets make no bones about it Your Honour, we are dealing with a murder of sickening proportions - a young man had his head caved in, in an act of the utmost barbarity and inhumanity - certainly one of, if not the worse case, I have ever seen - and there is only one way this deserves to be treated - murder, no matter where it occurs or for whatever reason, is the most heinous crime known to man - it runs against our greatest aims and destroys the very fabric of our existence - it is a disease running through all human societies - it needs to be met head on and with out any quarter wheresoever it occurs - and given the overwhelming amount of evidence in this case, and the utter barbarity of the crime - the accused deserves to be found guilty and charged to the fullest possible extent under law.....to do anything less would be to abrogate our responsibility to not just ourselves, not just them - but to humanity itself

COLIN

Thankyou.....Mr Miller

DAVID

Your Honour the prosecution claims T'Laupo killed Wilu, not because of his spiritual reasons, but because of reasons to do with himself ~ because the final choice was his ~ now what are they proposing? - that T'Laupo be killed in response because *their spiritual values* tell them this is the right thing to do ~ if it was wrong in the first instance, why is it now right in the second - I have never seen as clear cut a case of double standards in my life - this court is clearly in breach of it's own laws - this is evidenced by the prosecutions statements and the examination of our witness.....the prosecution talks about commitment to

humanity.....well if there truly was any commitment to humanity here this trial would be declared a mistrial and the charges would be dropped.....you simply can't do it ~ the same thing to a man that you are accusing him of – is this justice? - if you are truly committed to humanity why do you want to kill him for it?.....ask yourself why are you really doing this – and come up with an answer that has nothing to do with religion or humanity or anything but just yourself - because that's what's really going on here – and if there was one shred of decency about this he'd be exonerated just because of that

DAVID sits, COLIN stares at him for a bit, then glances down and back up

COLIN

Is that the final statements of both sides

RYAN

Yes Your Honour

DAVID

Yes

COLIN

Alright – I have no need to take this under consideration.....Mr Miller despite your propensity to want to claim the moral high ground it is not exclusively your domain – and neither I'll have you know is this a mistrial – punishment by death is fully consistent with the laws regarding homicide. The prosecution is right when it claims acts of this nature are universally repugnant to mankind, and that murder is a blight on all human societies ~ and there is absolutely no reason whatsoever to except this case from that. The prosecution is also right when it points out the importance of this case in relation to the moral development of the New Guinean natives. So given all of that and the overwhelming amount of evidence linking the defendant to the murder ~ I have no trouble in finding the defendant guilty as charged, and sentence him to be hung by his neck until his death. God save the King.

DAVID is in shock, T'LAUPO is confused, ALAN hangs his head down, RYAN smiles and nods, BEN is quiet

DAVID is sitting in some grass looking intensely out, some women tend a garden in the distance but he is oblivious to it – BEN approaches from behind and sits next to him

BEN

.....I'm sorry you know David – I could see what you were getting at.....but you must have known what he would say

DAVID

*(Somewhat hurt)* No I'm one of those people who's still stupid enough to think matters of principle can stand and the world can be changed by them.....and they're going to hang him – it's just not right

BEN

There'll be an appeal.....

DAVID

Yeah well someone else can handle that – I'm done with it – this should never have happened in the first place

BEN

.....so what now?

DAVID

Leave

DAVID gets up and goes

117 EXT – HIGHLAND VALLEY – AFTERNOON

DAVID is walking along near some huts – he walks past a group of highlanders talking - JAINANTU is one of them – DAVID looks down – feels he can't look JAINANTU in the eye for what he did to him – and keeps on walking – JAINANTU watches him go

118 INT – VESTRY – AFTERNOON

DAVID is packing up some books and papers, after a short while JAINANTU arrives and leans next to the door frame

JAINANTU

Hello David

DAVID looks to him, doesn't say anything just nods his head and keeps on packing

What are you doing? JAINANTU

Packing up DAVID

.....you are leaving? JAINANTU

Yes DAVID

Pause

Before you go I have something for you JAINANTU

What? DAVID

Come with me and I will show you JAINANTU

Jainantu I haven't got much time DAVID

It won't take long JAINANTU

DAVID looks at him for a bit then puts his things down and starts to walk away with him – they exit

119 EXT – HIGHLAND VALLEY – AFTERNOON

DAVID and JAINANTU are walking along towards some forest

This is something for you David JAINANTU

120 EXT – HIGHLAND FOREST – AFTERNOON

They travel down a gully that is getting increasingly rockier with the sound of running water approaching. They stop at the base of some rocks and follow the bend around till they see an enormous waterfall – framed with giant fig trees in rich green tones, and palms trees growing through – the cool fresh mist of the water touches DAVID on the face but he resists it

JAINANTU

.....here see this

DAVID

This waterfall

JAINANTU

Yes - it's beautiful isn't it (*waits and watches DAVID*) we have a story for it – my people.....along time ago when the world was still young Wanginini the cockatoo took a nut from the kawol tree – and tried to fly away with it, but the nut was too heavy and it fell from Wanginini's grip and hit the ground here – and because it was so heavy it split the ground open and let all the fruits out that were stored in the ground – and now they flow down the valley to our tribe below

DAVID

And do you believe that?

JAINANTU

Does it matter what I believe?

Pause, DAVID thinks

DAVID

Why did you bring me here?

JAINANTU

Because I see how much trouble you are having – and I want you to be able to feel the peace and beauty of this place – and take it with you wherever you go so it can help you and make you feel better

Pause, it becomes too much for DAVID and he becomes close to breaking and sits down

DAVID

Ohr I'm such a hypocrite aren't I.....I preach acceptance and diversity – but all I really want is for everyone to be like me.....I'm sorry Jainantu

JAINANTU

That is alright David.....we are all just learning

JAINANTU sits next to him, fade out