

## SCENE 3B: Ancient Kingdoms of West Africa

Taki - Athena  
Tut- Simon P  
Lucy - Gracie

Sundiata Keita (soon-jah-tah kay-tah) - Kofi  
Mansa Musa (mahn-sah moo-sah) - Deen  
Griot 1 - Ziva  
Griot 2- Emma  
Griot 3 - Natasha  
Servant 1 - Eugene  
Servant 2 - Adam  
Servant 3 - Aaquib

**Sundiata Keita:** Of course, Egypt, Egypt Egypt... they get all of the headlines and glory!

**Taki:** Excuse me?

**Sundiata Keita:** We in west Africa are the largest producers of Ivory, gold and salt in the world but alas, all anyone cares about is our brethren to the north in Egypt. That Sphinx! I just don't get it... What IS that thing anyway? A man? A cat? And what happened to it's nose?

**Mansa Musa:** No kidding! I established the first university in Africa and gave away enough gold to build hundreds of Mosques and schools in Africa... but alas, all people want to talk about are pyramids.

**Musa & Keita:** (SIGH)

**Tut:** Where are we now, Lucky?

**Lucy:** Welcome to the west African empire of Mali and their kings: Sundiata Keita (Soon-JAH-tah KAY-tah) and his great nephew, Mansa Musa (MAHN-sah MOO-sah). They are telling their life stories to a few Griots (GREE-OHS) who will preserve their stories for generations to come.

**Sundiata:** Ok. So I was born with a bad foot and no-one thought I would amount to much. Then my father, the king, died and I was to assume the throne but .... Hey shouldn't you write this down or something?

**Griot 1:** Your Highness, that's not how this works.

**Griot 2:** We will tell others your story so it doesn't HAVE to be written down.

**Griot 3:** It's an oral storyteller tradition.

**Sundiata:** Yeah, but I want you to get ALL the details....

My mother took me from the kingdom because she feared for my safety. As I grew stronger, the kingdom fell into turmoil under a bad king. The people searched for me and urged me to return to my rightful place as Mansa or King.

I finally returned with my army, took my place upon the throne and brought the kingdom to greatness!

**Griot 1:** What a tale, your majesty!

**Sundiata:** Yes! You know, I've been thinking..... It would make a great children's story!

**Griot 2:** Your Highness, a **children's** story??

**Sundiata:** It will be perfect! You do know the "JATA" part of my name means Lion? We could call it ..... The King Lion!

**Griot 3:** Your Majesty, I'm sorry to disappoint you but this seems a bit complicated...

**Sundiata:** Oh well..... Hakuna Matata!

**Mansa Musa:** My dear uncle, your story is exciting but mine is filled with unimaginable riches!

**Griot 1:** Oh, **DO** tell!

**Musa:** Well, my great uncle DID create a charter for human rights for the people of the kingdom: one of the first of it's kind. But under my reign, Mali became the greatest produce of gold, ivory and salt! I built mosques, schools and filled them with books.

**Giot 2:** Aren't you getting ready to make a pilgrimage, a Hajj (HAA-shhh), to Mecca? Are you excited?

**Musa:** Oh, yes! It will be marvelous!

**Giot 3:** It's quiet some distance, isn't it?

**Musa:** Yes, it's 2700 miles. I'm worried that I may have overpacked a bit...

**Servant 1:** Your highness, the 60,000 gold bars you've requested for the journey are ready. I'm... uh... just not sure how to pack them? It seems to be quite a lot?

**Musa:** Well, I just want to make sure sure I don't show up anywhere empty-handed.... So rude not to have a gift for the hostess.

**Servant 2:** Your highness, the 60,000 men you've requested to travel with you are assembled. I'm just not really sure where to uh, PUT everybody???

**Servant 3:** And, Your highness there seems to be six dozen or so camels behind the palace? They are making a bit of a mess.....

**Musa:** Ah! All of the comforts of home!

Well, Griots, it looks like I had better skedaddle. Here's some gold for your time!  
(Looking off stage) I LOVE roadtrips. Hey I call shotgun!