**AUDIO SCRIPT (500-600 words)**

Make a copy of this page (File>Make a Copy). Retell the Maqamat episode in a fun and engaging way aimed at your peer group in a 500-600 audio script with related imagery and animation sequences. Include at least 1 choice line from the translation.

Maqamat 16: “Of the West”:

Author: Dan Mortenson

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Begin Time: 00:00 | End Time: 00:44 |
| Fade in, zoom onto Abu Zayd | Pause |
| https://puu.sh/ycWXv/6318a70322.jpg | https://puu.sh/ycWXv/6318a70322.jpg |
| Abu Zayd recites a poem in front of a group as they look on in awe, *Maqamat 16: Of the West*, Baghdad, Iraq, 1236-1237, BN Paris al-Wasiti Maqamat manuscript, Arabe 5847 (f. 42r) |  |

The story begins in a mosque where Al-Harith joins a gathering of people having an entertaining discussion. Shortly after Al-Harith joins them, a wanderer with a bag slung over his shoulder approaches. His introduction to them is quite pitiful as he begins his plea to the group of men, “*O ye men of understanding and choice excellence! – Know ye not that the most precious of offerings is the relieving of sorrows, and the firmest cord of salvation is the imparting to those who have need? – Now, by Him who hath set me down in your precinct, and destined to me the asking alms of you, truly I am the stray of a distant abode, the messenger of lank-bellied children; - And is there in the company any that will cool down for us the heat of hunger?*”

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Begin Time: 00:44 | End Time: 00:56 |
| Zoom out/pan right | Pause |
| https://puu.sh/ycXa1/4e0403062b.jpg | https://puu.sh/ycXa1/4e0403062b.jpg |

As he finishes his spiel, the men feel pity on him. The group has just finished with their meal, however they are able to offer him the leftovers and scraps if he pleases, to which the wanderer graciously accepts.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Begin Time: 00:56 | End Time: 1:20 |
| Zoom into group | Pause |
| https://puu.sh/ycXgv/050c15dfe4.jpg | https://puu.sh/ycXpO/92dd489dac.jpg |

While servants gather the food for the wanderer, the group of men move around the circle creating pieces of poetry that are palindromes, meaning they read the same backwards as they do normally. Soon it is Al-Harith’s turn, but as it turns out, he is a bit hopeless. He fails to come up with anything and the others sympathize with the difficulty of the task (although they seem a bit proud, honestly). The wanderer interjects with an expression of contempt on his face.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Begin Time: 1:20 | End Time: 2:15 |
| Pan left onto Abu Zayd | PAUSE, begin zooming out |
| https://puu.sh/ycWXv/6318a70322.jpg | https://puu.sh/ycWXv/6318a70322.jpg |

The man who was just begging for scraps has now become pretentious and talks down to the group, specifically pointing out that he will free Al-Harith of this supposed burden. As we see in this image, he begins reciting a complex verse as the onlookers begin to praise him and his outstanding knowledge and wit. As he finishes his verse he gathers his things and makes his way for the door as if he is performing a rather archaic version of a “mic drop.”

Not to be outdone by himself however, he stops at the door and starts pitying himself again, groaning about how it’s dark outside and nobody is around to help him home. It is at this point where he makes it known that he is none other than Abu Zayd. Al-Harith makes a case to the rest of the group to let Abu Zayd stick around for a little longer, suggesting that he is familiar with him and knows him to be an engaging conversationalist. Unfortunately for them, they listen to Al-Harith.

‘

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Begin Time: 2:15 | End Time: 2:45 |
| Zoom out to show whole image | Fade out image 1, Fade in image 2 |
| https://puu.sh/ycWXv/6318a70322.jpg | https://puu.sh/ycXtt/3cf9e72971.jpg |
|  | Abu Zayd rips his bag from the servants hands, *Maqamat 16: Of the West*, Baghdad, Iraq, 1236-1237, BN Paris al-Wasiti Maqamat manuscript, Arabe 5847 (f. 44r) |

The men begin to offer Abu Zayd more food if he will stay and hang out with them. Abu Zayd though regrets to inform them that he was only away from home to gather food for his poor, starving children. Wouldn’t it happen though that Abu Zayd has a plan that will surely make everyone happy! He suggests that they give him food to take back to his children and he will quickly return. They agree and send Abu Zayd with a servant boy to help him find his way and carry his bag.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Begin Time: 2:45 | End Time: 3:12 |
| Zoom into boy, pan out and left | Fade out |
| https://puu.sh/ycXtd/b8518c2299.jpg | https://puu.sh/ycXtd/b8518c2299.jpg |

It is here we see Abu Zayd have a bit of a tussle with the servant boy. The servant boy returns to the mosque alone and explains that upon arrival at Abu Zayd’s home he tore his bag from the hands of the boy and bid him farewell. He left the servant boy with a cheeky little poem to recite to the men in the mosque that reveals the true intentions of Abu Zayd. With the knowledge that they have been duped, the group becomes sour and disbands.