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Shaman Bntoa was an esteemed and accomplished Shaman of the Temple during the First Kulum War. After the war was over, she and husband agreed to accompany a paroled enemy Kulum soldier to his family in the same Kulum village, Wotiq, where 40 year old Bntoa had lived from age 10 to 25. The Wotiq village men had kidnapped and enslaved Bntoa from TokTok Land; she was ten-years-old when taken from her family. Wotiq was four days walk on a one cart wide brown dirt track, which partially passed through thick green TokTok forests from Bntoa's village, Kalita. Kalita is near TokTok Land's western border with Kulum Land.

Ten-year-old Bntoa had eventually been enslaved by the Farke family, who lived over their carpentry shop in the Wotiq village proper. The Kulum soldier Bntoa and husband escorted was from a farming family well-known to the Farke family of carpenters. Bntoa knew both the soldier's mother and his extended family and she spoke the Kulum language fluently, of course. Bntoa volunteered to personally escort the young man afoot through many kilometers of fallow brown fields of Kulum farmland.

The rural village's center square erupted into an impromptu harvest festival on its dirt high street that ran between its brightly painted wood-walled shops when three hundred twenty young repatriated Kulum soldiers entered the village escorted by twice as many armed Federal soldiers, all of whom were veterans of the Kulum War. Soldier Lumn Skake's mother had heard that the Kulum Emperor's captured soldiers were to be released to the personal custody of the soldier's mother from villagers who had a wireless communication unit. Skake's mother was

searching for her son in the village square when Bntoa walked into the village precincts accompanied by a crowd of fraternizing soldiers.

The party scene in the Wotiq village center square celebrating the return of their captured sons was most satisfactory for the seven hundred black and grey armor clad Federal soldiers who provided armed escorts for the released prisoners-of-war, as well as their TokTok civilian volunteer escorts. The Federal troops witnessed much crying and wailing from hundreds of pairs of mothers and sons as older women and young men searched for each other inside the dancing mob colorfully clad in holiday finery. Some mothers did not find their sons. Bntoa found Tatha Skake, the mother, before Lumn did. Bntoa did not speak to her former tormentor; she simply bowed to Tatha after placing Lumn's right hand inside his mother's before walking away with husband.

Bntoa and husband's personal escort during this exercise was a tall and un-helmeted Tsitsistas woman Federal soldier with loose fire red hair, white skin, and deep blue eyes. Her black and grey armor displayed awards for bravery. On their walk back to Bntoa's TokTok camp, who should appear, but Bntoa's erstwhile owner and husband, Rax Farke. He had waited in the Wotiq village center to look for Bntoa in the Federal Army. Bntoa hesitated for a moment when she saw him because Rax Farke held up a new leather whip in his strong dark brown right hand while marching straight toward Bntoa. His facial affect was contorted into a snarl.

Bntoa was easily seen by everyone in the crowd, she was wearing her body-covering grey/white mottled Shaman hunting suit with its bright white hood, which clearly designated her as a Shaman of the Temple. Rax Farke moved forcefully toward his former enslaved consort through the close throng of colorful revelers dancing willy-nilly in the wide dirt street. By the

time Farke was able to approach Bntoa and husband through the crowded village square he was closely surrounded by inebriated townsmen and not-so-sober Federal soldiers. All Kulum eyes eventually turned to watch the unfolding drama because they all knew Farke and Bntoa.

Farke tried to rush forward inside the crowd to strike Bntoa's upturned calm brown face over the heads of not only husband, but some onlookers. His actions were accompanied by cheers and jeers from his fellow villagers. Bntoa's escorting soldier swung her electric plasma weapon around when she realized what was happening and had her finger on the actuator of her 15b, ready to fire. Bntoa raised her right arm as if to block Farke's whip. Bntoa simultaneously touched the soldier's 15b with her left hand to attract the soldier's attention. She said the Kulum word for "No" and shook her thick black locks and brown head with her mouth set in a smile.

When the soldier looked from Bntoa to monitor Farke, she saw that Bntoa had turned his whip into very nice new leather bootlaces. Shaman Bntoa had not only unlaced his boots, she had removed the old laces from his boots altogether. Kulum-style boots require laces to be worn tightly around frogs; otherwise the wearer's feet come out of the open tongue. A smiling and gossiping Bntoa and husband walked past a stumbling Farke, who was standing in ankle deep dirt and mud inside the cheering dancing crowd without acknowledging him.