

Act 1, scene 2: the president and his advisors confer after hearing news of a possible coup

(The President stands up, descends the stairs from the podium and crouches next to his spiritual advisors.)

The first spiritual advisor: Excellency, President, do not despair. Your power is guarded by the ancestors. May your honour be our honour. Last night, I woke and saw the way. The solution seems difficult because a human life must be taken at the end of the rebellion. That's all... Just a matter of a life. Or two.

BATELA: (Smiles broadly and walks back to his seat) I would far rather lose a citizen of my State than my power.

The second spiritual advisor: Yes Excellency, President, not everyone is fit to control a State or a people. Authority is a gift that the ancestors have given us and we must respect it. If death is necessary, so be it. Your life has been filled with happiness and success. The coffin will be a bed of triumph... President, I have spoken.