

BALANCE

(Two entities observed a soul as he spent time with his family. The first, essence as dark as mahogany and the second with a vibrant aura.)

IKU: He is different, not like my recent souls that have crossed in between.

AIYE: *(smiling as if she just found out a new secret.)* How? Everyone that has come to you recently were all the same. What is special about him?

IKU: You know what I mean. *(Sighs and opens what seems to be her palms. A gray cloud formed and it played the recent events of the soul's life.)* He is about to die and he knows it, it's been three years since he got tainted with *aisan*. He leaves this realm soon and he is not fazed.

AIYE: Humans, they are fascinating are they not? Yes, *Aisan* is our brother but they summon him more than any other deity. They are addicted to the euphoric feelings he gives them. Yes, the commoners do not always invite him to their homes but the ones that live in castles get bored with their mundane routine and start to stick their noses where they don't belong. *(Floats over the family that can't see her or her twin, she smiles down on them as they expressed their satisfaction with her essence.)* Iku, now I see what you mean. Are you surprised because he is finally ready to meet you? He is a humble man.

IKU: Humility is just inverted pride. He should not be accepting of me so easily.

AIYE: I am life, I am painful, and nothing is permanent with me. As much as humans are simple, they are also complex. But one thing is for sure, they still love me. *(She dances around.)*

IKU: You are right, nothing is permanent with you. *(With a sly smile on her face.)* They may love you but they crave me like gold and sugar. With me, there is absolution and rest, stillness and tranquility. *(Sudden realisation dawns on her.)* He is different because he actually has a soul, he has eaten and drunk everything the Orishas have provided in their raw state, just like his ancestors did. He is looking forward to meeting me because he has seen all and is ready to rest.

AIYE: Eh, eh, don't rub it on my face. *(Smiles and starts to hum a melody.)* I am glad you see yourself as you are, Iku. Humans only think about the positive aspects of me and the negatives of you. They forget that we balance each other out. Without life, there is no death, and without death, there is no life.

(There was a sudden commotion from the table, the man's face was next to his plate and his wife was screaming, children were wailing. Aiye is nowhere to be seen. IKU sighs and puts a cloak as black as midnight on the shoulders of her new member.)

IKU: Are you ready?

SOUL: (*with a bright smile.*) Yes, I have been for a while now. E seun o.