

## Scene 6

Setting: Ehtamwa's camp.

Cast: Charles, Seno, Ehtamwa

(All are sitting around the campfire.)

(Lights up)

Charles

Ehtamwa, you ever hear of a fish called Big Neck?

(Ehtamwa fills his pipe and lights it. Taking his time)

Ehtamwa

I know that you talk of the fish called Big Neck who roams the waters toward the rising sun. But before this, a brave and noble warrior traveled these forests, walking for days to lead his people into battle. Moanahonga was the Great Walker. Because of his bravery the people named him their Chief and called him Big Neck. Moanahonga fought many battles against those who would take the lands of the Red-earth people, but in the course of time, the settlers took over their land.

Seno

Tamwa, you spin a right tidy yarn. You sho that fella Big Neck was real, or you jus' pullin' my leg?

Ehtamwa

Yes, my friend, the Great Walker lived. He once journeyed here, to honor the place of our ancestors buried on this hill, where the spirits of our fathers cross over the great sun bridge.

But, tell me this my friend. How is it that a fish as big as a young brave, moves in your waters?

Seno

Well I ain't seen 'em myself, but one thing fo' sure; that ol' varmint ol' Stump Walton know he for real. 'Cause o' Big Neck, he walkin' 'round wit' one arm. Matter of fac' me 'n boss Prater seen Stump leavin' the courthouse las' week, takin' Luttie Lee south to sell her off.

Boss Stranton say Luttie too old to earn her keep. So Stump tell 'em he know uh place down 'roun' Jeff City take her to slop they hogs. I swear, Stump Walton jus' out'n out mean. Serve 'em right that fish chew off his arm. (To Charles)

You know how white folk be sayin' how colored folk not smart as them?

(Charles nods agreement)

Well tell me this, who in they right min', gon' climb in the river 'n stick they hand in a dark hole; an' when who-know-what chomp down on it, they break water wit' that varmint hangin' on they arm; whoopin' an' a hollerin' like he done strike gold.

Charles

Seno, you done answer yo' own question, when you say, 'in they right min'.