

Segment 16: Twimfina and Baba Switch

(Twimfina, wearing backpack, waits on dirt road in front of schoolyard)

TWIMFINA

(singing)

ARE THERE QUESTIONS? YES AND NO
 ARE THERE ANSWERS? YES AND NO
 IS THERE ANYTHING I KNOW?
 YES AND NO AND YES AND NO

ONCE THERE WAS A TIME
 WHEN ANSWERS ALL WERE MINE
 WHEN 'ONE PLUS ONE' WAS ALWAYS 'TWO'
 AND WHAT I LEARNED WAS ALWAYS TRUE

BUT NOW I NEVER KNOW
 AND ANSWERS COME OUT SLOW
 WHEN EV'RYTHING'S SO RELATIVE
 THE ANSWERS ARE TOO HARD TO GIVE

AM I SOMEONE? YES AND NO
 AM I NO ONE? YES AND NO
 AM I COMING? WILL I GO?
 YES AND NO AND YES AND NO

NOT SO LONG AGO
 I FELT SO 'IN CONTROL'
 CUZ I COULD MAKE THINGS WILT OR FLOWER
 EV'RYTHING WAS IN MY POWER

I COULD SMILE BECAUSE
 I KNEW JUST WHO I WAS
 NOW EV'RY EARTHLY REVOLUTION
 PULLS ME DOWN INTO CONFUSION

BRING BACK HAPPINESS TO ME!
 WARM ME LIKE I USED TO BE!
 GIVE ME PURPOSE AND A GOAL!
 FILL MY SAILS UP 'TIL THEY'RE
 FULL!, FULL!, FULL!, FULL!

AM I SAILING? YES AND NO
 OR JUST FAILING? YES AND NO
 MOVE THE WORLD OR MOVE MY TOE?
 YES AND NO AND YES AND NO



Score on page 178

DO I LOVE HIM? YES AND NO
 SHOULD GET MARRIED? YES AND NO
 SHOULD GET BURIED? YES AND NO
 SHOULD I LIVE-UP OR JUST GIVE-UP?
 YES AND NO AND YES AND NO.

BABA

(arrives home with his tricycle cart)

Twimfina! I have a surprise for you and Guru!

(lifts small bag from cart, hands it to Twimfina)

Apples! From America! I don't think Guru's ever had one before!

(holds one up and chuckles)

Just like me – a little bruised-up, but none the worse for wear.

TWIMFINA

(worried voice)

Baba, you didn't meet Guru on the way back?

BABA

No, it's Saturday. He always stays at the Jeeno Library until it closes.

(looks at watch)

He should be on his way home pretty soon though.

TWIMFINA

Baba, I heard a rumor today that the G.G.G. are looking for you. Please go to their meeting tonight – if only to keep yourself safe.

BABA

(kindly voice)

No, Twimfina. I've let men with guns control me for way too long. That part of my life is over.

TWIMFINA

(resigned voice)

I kind of knew you would say that.

(Twimfina takes off her backpack and unzips it.)

Baba, I have a deep, deep, deep request to make.

BABA

Three deeps?

TWIMFINA

I've been given free passage to America. I want you to go instead.

(Twimfina hands her travel documents to Baba)

Take these – please. They'll get you to St. Louis.

BABA

I don't understand...

TWIMFINA

Baba, you're a hunted man. You've got to get out of here. Please! Go teach Enemian at my old high school.

BABA

Twimfina, I...

TWIMFINA

(interrupting)

Baba, the world needs you there much more than they need me. You have experience. You could live upstairs in my old room in the Teachers' Commune and then teach Enemian downstairs to people who really, really need to learn it. I'll stay here and teach English.

BABA

But my son...

TWIMFINA

Guru will be fine. Please give me a chance with him. We make a good team, he and I.

BABA

But I have no identification, no passport, no money...

TWIMFINA

I've got money in here and some traveling stuff. You won't need a passport. Once you get out of Enemia you'll be taking military transport. They'll keep you safe all the way back to St. Louis.

BABA

Military transport? American military?

TWIMFINA

Life is funny, isn't it?

(takes off her sweatshirt and offers it to Baba)

Here, you'll have to wear this fluorescent yellow sweatshirt. It's the only way my parents will notice you at Lambert Field.

BABA

(takes off jacket, sets it on the cart, accepts sweatshirt from Twimfina and puts it on)

What's this candle on the front?

TWIMFINA

It's our school mascot. Candle High. It's supposed to remind us to be "candlescent" - to live our lives like a candle - giving off warmth and light to others and leaving nothing behind at the end.

BABA

(grabs his jacket and offers it to Twimfina)

It's hardly a fair exchange, but you can have this crusty old thing. I wouldn't call it "candlescent", but at least it'll protect you from welding sparks.

TWIMFINA

Baba, you're my model for candescence.
(hands backpack to Baba) And here, you'll be needing this too.

BABA

And you'll be needing my tools, Twimfina. There's so much that I haven't taught you yet about welding. Ask Toolie for help. He's the one who taught me.

TWIMFINA

Thank you, Baba. I'll make good use of them. We'll definitely need the income. And Baba, when you run into Guru on your way back, please give him the news reassuringly. He looks up to you so much.

BABA

And I to him.

TWIMFINA

(stepping forward, she hugs and kisses Baba)
 Don't worry, I'll take care of Guru. In the meantime, Baba, let's you and me change the world.

BABA

(chuckles)
 I don't know about that. But thank you, Twimfina. Thank you for my son.

(Twimfina exits with tricycle cart; Baba begins walking back towards Jeeno; music begins)

BABA

(singing)
 I COME FROM EARTH TO TAKE MY TURN
 AND TO THE EARTH I WILL RETURN
 I COME FROM EARTH TO TAKE MY TURN
 AND TO THE EARTH I WILL RETURN, I WILL RETURN
 BUT FEEL IT MY DUTY TO DO SO WITH BEAUTY

OUT OF THIS MUD, OUT OF THIS CRUD
 OUT OF THIS SCUM, BEAUTY WILL COME
 STILL AT THE GATE, STUCK IN THE MIRE
 SPINNING MY TIRE, NOW I AM LATE

BUT THIS I KNOW, I CAN STILL CHANGE, I CAN STILL GROW

THIS MUDDY WASTE WILL BE REPLACED
 FALLOW NO MO.....RE, LET THE MUD RO.....AR
 OUT OF THIS MUD, OUT OF THIS CRUD
 OUT OF THIS BODY AND OUT OF THIS BLOOD
 OUT OF THIS SCUM, BEFORE I'M DONE...
 BEAUTY WILL COME.



Score on page 182