

GIVE & TAKE:
THE TRIBE AGAINST THE GODS

EPISODE 8: REBIRTH

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1 INT. UNDERWORLD - MIN-JUN'S OFFICE - DAWN

The office is almost empty.

Drawers hang open. Files are gone. The wall safe stands bare.

DONG-WOOK sits behind Min-jun's desk.

In Min-jun's chair.

He tests the weight of it with both hands on the arms.

The door opens.

Min-jun enters.

Dong-wook starts to rise.

MIN-JUN

Don't.

Dong-wook stays seated.

Min-jun looks around the room.

Years of command reduced to furniture.

DONG-WOOK

I wasn't sure you'd come back.

MIN-JUN

Neither was I.

DONG-WOOK

Your accounts are transferred.

MIN-JUN

Good.

DONG-WOOK

The clubs. Gambling. Recycling. The
warehouses.

MIN-JUN

Yours.

Dong-wook studies him.

DONG-WOOK

You built all this.

MIN-JUN

Yes.

DONG-WOOK

And you're giving it away.

MIN-JUN

No.

A beat.

MIN-JUN

I'm leaving it.

Dong-wook leans back.

He likes the distinction less than the chair.

DONG-WOOK

You know what they'll say.

MIN-JUN

I don't care.

DONG-WOOK

That's new.

Min-jun looks at him.

MIN-JUN

So is this.

2 INT. UNDERWORLD - MIN-JUN'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Dong-wook opens a drawer.

Inside: Min-jun's pistol.

He places it on the desk.

DONG-WOOK

Take it.

MIN-JUN

No.

DONG-WOOK

You don't know where you're going.

MIN-JUN

That's why I'm asking.

Dong-wook almost laughs.

DONG-WOOK

You?

MIN-JUN

Yes.

DONG-WOOK

Asking women where you're allowed to go.

MIN-JUN

Apparently.

Dong-wook watches him carefully now.

DONG-WOOK

You're really leaving it?

MIN-JUN

I already did.

DONG-WOOK

For a child?

MIN-JUN

For my son.

DONG-WOOK

And Bong-cha?

Min-jun takes his coat from the chair opposite the desk.

MIN-JUN

She didn't ask me to come.

That lands.

DONG-WOOK

Then why go?

MIN-JUN

Because he is there.

Min-jun turns toward the door.

DONG-WOOK

And if they don't let you in?

Min-jun stops.

MIN-JUN

Then I wait outside.

He leaves.

Dong-wook looks at the empty doorway.

Then at the chair beneath him.

He settles deeper into it.

3 EXT. GANGHWA - MORNING

A SERIES OF IMAGES.

The Old Tower stands quiet.

Not abandoned.

Emptied with purpose.

A communal kitchen with shelves stripped clean.

A clinic room with hooks where bags once hung.

A nursery floor marked by pale rectangles where mats have been removed.

CUT TO:

A farmhouse.

Women unload medicine from a small truck.

CUT TO:

A fishing village house.

Children sleep three to a room while older women cook.

CUT TO:

A women's repair shop.

Crates of records disappear beneath floorboards.

CUT TO:

A rural greenhouse.

Tower seedlings now grow beside local crops.

CUT TO:

A small apartment.

Two pregnant women eat breakfast while an elder checks a handwritten supply list.

CUT TO:

A roadside building.

A black hood is painted beside a doorway.

Then covered by a hanging basket.
 Nothing announces command.
 Nothing marks a capital.
 The Tribe is everywhere.
 And there's nothing and nowhere to seize.

4 INT. TEMPORARY TRIBE HOUSE - MORNING

A modest room in a rural house.
 No council chamber.
 Shoes crowd the entrance.
 Children can be heard in another room.
 AERA, BITNA, BONG-CHA and YUN-HEE sit in a loose circle with six LOCAL WOMEN.
 A phone rests in the center on speaker.

WOMAN'S VOICE

North farm has enough rice for six days.
 Another phone vibrates.

BITNA

Clinic Three?

LOCAL WOMAN

Moved before dawn. No losses.
 Aera makes a note.

BONG-CHA

And the children from the east floor?

LOCAL WOMAN

With their mothers and grandmothers.

YUN-HEE

Then they're exactly where children should be.
 Bitna marks the map.
 It is not a map of defenses anymore.
 It is a map of households.

AERA

When do we bring everyone back?

Silence.

Bong-cha looks at her.

BONG-CHA

Back where?

Aera looks toward the distant Tower through the window.

BONG-CHA

The Tower was useful.

A beat.

BONG-CHA

It doesn't have to become our palace.

Bitna looks at the map again.

BITNA

Then the question isn't when we return.

AERA

No.

She understands.

AERA

It's what we return to.

5 EXT. GANGHWA ROAD / VARIOUS - DAY

Min-jun walks.

No car.

No men.

No visible weapon.

He reaches a small clinic.

A WOMAN blocks the door.

MIN-JUN

I'm looking for Jun-soo.

WOMAN

I know.

MIN-JUN

Is he here?

WOMAN

No.

MIN-JUN

Do you know where he is?

WOMAN

Yes.

Min-jun waits.

She does not continue.

MIN-JUN

Will you tell me?

WOMAN

No.

CUT TO:

A farm gate.

Another woman.

MIN-JUN

Jun-soo.

SECOND WOMAN

Safe.

MIN-JUN

Where?

SECOND WOMAN

Safe.

The gate closes.

CUT TO:

A village road.

A CHILD recognizes him.

CHILD

You're Jun-soo's father.

Min-jun crouches.

MIN-JUN

Yes.

CHILD

He has your eyebrows.

The child's MOTHER appears.

MOTHER

Inside.

The child runs off.

Min-jun stands.

MIN-JUN

Please.

The Mother studies him.

MOTHER

Being his father tells me who you are.

A beat.

MOTHER

It does not tell me what you're allowed to
know.

She goes inside.

Min-jun remains outside the gate.

6 INT. CHUN-DEUNG'S MUNICIPAL OFFICE - DAY

Half the desks are empty.

Boxes sit beneath chairs.

An AIDE removes files from a cabinet.

CHUN-DEUNG enters.

CHUN-DEUNG

Why is no one answering?

The Aide does not stop packing.

CHUN-DEUNG

I asked you a question.

AIDE

The district office suspended your emergency
authority.

Chun-deung stares at him.

CHUN-DEUNG

They cannot suspend me.

AIDE

They did.

CHUN-DEUNG

Call Incheon.

AIDE

They won't take the call.

CHUN-DEUNG

Then call Seoul.

The Aide finally looks at him.

AIDE

They already called us.

He holds up a document.

CHUN-DEUNG

What is that?

AIDE

Records request.

CHUN-DEUNG

For what?

AIDE

Accounts. Contracts. Security payments.

A beat.

AIDE

Everything.

Chun-deung walks to the window.

CHUN-DEUNG

They obeyed me yesterday.

AIDE

Yes.

CHUN-DEUNG

They'll obey me tomorrow.

No answer.

Chun-deung turns.

CHUN-DEUNG

Thunder.

Nothing.

He closes his eyes.

CHUN-DEUNG

Thunder.

The fluorescent lights hum.

That is all.

The Aide lifts his box.

AIDE

I should go.

Chun-deung watches him leave.

For the first time, no one asks permission.

7 EXT. HARBOR - DAY

Kang-dae stands before a line of fishing boats.

Engines silent.

JAE-HYUN and several FISHERMEN face him.

KANG-DAE

Launch.

No one moves.

KANG-DAE

I said launch.

Jae-hyun removes the insignia from his jacket.

Drops it onto a crate.

JAE-HYUN

No.

Kang-dae stares at him.

KANG-DAE

Who feeds your family?

JAE-HYUN

My wife.
A few men almost smile.
Kang-dae's face darkens.

KANG-DAE

Who owns these boats?

FISHERMAN

Not you anymore.
Women stand along the market edge.
Fish sellers.
Dock workers.
Former club women.
No one hides.
Kang-dae turns toward the water.

KANG-DAE

Come.
The sea moves naturally.
Wind.
Tide.
Nothing more.

KANG-DAE

Come to me.
A gull screams overhead.
Jae-hyun watches him.

JAE-HYUN

It's just water.
Kang-dae turns sharply.
But everyone has already begun walking away.
The harbor continues without him.

8 INT. TEMPORARY TRIBE HOUSE - AFTERNOON

The Circle has grown. Women from several dispersed sites sit shoulder to shoulder. Bitna stands. She removes the black band from her wrist. Places it in the center of the Circle.

BITNA

I resign from defense command.

A murmur.

AERA

Bitna—

BITNA

No, Aera. Let me speak.

Aera stops.

BITNA

I exceeded the authority the Circle gave me.

A beat.

She looks around the Circle.

BITNA

I was not authorized.

Silence.

BITNA

If our rules only apply when we agree with
them, they are not rules.

A woman raises shimmering fingers.

Another.

Then another.

Bitna looks at the black band on the floor.

BITNA

I will serve wherever the Circle puts me.

She sits. Not disgraced.

BITNA

Accountability is not punishment.

A beat.

BITNA

It's our rule.

9 INT. TEMPORARY TRIBE HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Aera looks at the black band.

Then at the WOMEN around her.

AERA

There is something else.

She stands.

AERA

During the siege, you gave me temporary
coordinating authority.

LOCAL WOMAN

With limits.

AERA

Yes.

A WOMAN

And recall.

AERA

Yes.

Yun-hee watches her closely.

AERA

The siege is over.

Aera removes a folded document from inside her coat.

Places it beside Bitna's band.

AERA

So is the authority.

A woman across the circle looks surprised.

WOMAN

No one asked you to return it yet.

AERA

That is why I am returning it now.

Silence.

AERA

Emergency power that waits to be taken back is
not temporary.

Yun-hee gives a tiny approving grunt.

Aera looks around.
Then sits.
Not at the front.
Between two women.
One shifts slightly to make room.
No ceremony.
The Circle continues.

10 EXT. SAFE HOUSE ROOFTOP - DUSK

The island spreads below them.
Small lights appearing across Ganghwa.
Not one center.
Many.
Aera stands beside Bitna.
Bitna rubs her hands against the cold.
Aera notices.

AERA

You still surprised by the cold?

BITNA

Every time.

Aera smiles.

AERA

You chose mortality before the siege.

BITNA

Yes.

AERA

Why?

Bitna looks toward the scattered Tribe lights.

BITNA

Because I could not ask everyone else to live
under rules while keeping myself beyond them.

AERA

You could have kept your divinity.

BITNA

Yes.

AERA

And chose not to.

BITNA

Yes.

AERA

Chun-deung didn't choose mortality.

BITNA

No.

AERA

Kang-dae didn't.

BITNA

No.

AERA

Min-jun?

BITNA

No.

A beat.

BITNA

They lost what other people stopped giving them.

Another beat.

BITNA

And when they tried to take it back, people deserted them.

Aera looks at Bitna.

BITNA

I gave up my divinity before anyone had to take it from me.

Wind moves across the roof.

Bitna shivers.

Aera takes her hand.

AERA

Still cold.

BITNA

Still mortal.

They stand together as lights continue appearing across Ganghwa.

DISSOLVE TO:

11 EXT. GANGHWA - DAWN THREE YEARS LATER

The scattered lights remain.

But now they have multiplied.

A delivery van marked OUR COMMON GOOD moves between them.

Children cross a courtyard carrying schoolbags.

Women unload medicine at a clinic.

A repaired apartment block wakes floor by floor.

A hand-painted sign:

NEW TOWER.

Across Ganghwa, others:

HARBOR TOWER.

NORTH TOWER.

MARSH TOWER.

Not copies.

Connected communities.

CUT TO:

12 INT. NEW TOWER - LOWER HALL - MORNING

New Tower is established now. Busy. Repaired. Lived in.

A wall map shows the growing network of Towers, farms, clinics, workshops and maternal households across Ganghwa.

Aera stands beside a room-allocation board.

AERA

Family from Harbor Tower needs three rooms. Clinic staff nearest the stairwell. Elders—

A YOUNG WOMAN raises a hand.

YOUNG WOMAN

Block.

Aera stops.

The room quiets.

YOUNG WOMAN

My mother can climb stairs.

She points to another woman seated nearby with a cane.

YOUNG WOMAN

She can't.

Aera looks at the chart.

AERA

You're right.

She hands over the chalk.

AERA

Show me.

The Young Woman redraws the assignments.

Aera watches.

Does not correct her.

BITNA

Each Tower is a hub.

BONG-CHA

Not a capital.

A few women nod.

The new chart fills in around need, not status.

13 INT. NEW TOWER - WORKSHOP - LATER

A repaired storefront door rests on sawhorses.

A WOMAN in her forties runs a hand over the fresh wood.

WOMAN

I rebuilt this place.

BITNA

You did.

WOMAN

Then it's mine.

Another woman looks up from sorting receipts.

SECOND WOMAN

The roof came from the common fund.

WOMAN

I did the work.

SECOND WOMAN

And six women fed your children while you did it.

The Woman bristles.

WOMAN

So what? I own nothing?

AERA

You control the work.

Everyone looks at her.

AERA

You don't control everyone's share of what made the work possible.

The Woman thinks.

BONG-CHA

Run it.

A beat.

BONG-CHA

You decide how the work is done.

Another beat.

BONG-CHA

What it earns goes into the common fund.

The Woman looks at the repaired door.

WOMAN

And if I need something?

BITNA

You ask.

WOMAN

Like everyone else.

BITNA

Like everyone else.

A beat.

WOMAN

So I steward the work.

BONG-CHA

Yes.

WOMAN

But I don't own the wealth it creates.

AERA

No one does.

14 INT. NEW TOWER - CLINIC OFFICE - AFTERNOON

A cramped desk.

Forms everywhere.

A MIDWIFE slaps one down.

MIDWIFE

Rejected.

Bong-cha picks it up.

BONG-CHA

Why?

MIDWIFE

No father listed.

YUN-HEE

Of course.

The Midwife drops another form.

MIDWIFE

And this one.

Another.

MIDWIFE

And this one.

Three mothers stand nearby.

One holds a newborn.

MOTHER

They said the application is incomplete.

Bong-cha looks at the forms.

Then at Jun-soo asleep against her shoulder.

BONG-CHA

Fine.

Bitna looks at her.

BITNA

Fine?

BONG-CHA

They want a father.

YUN-HEE

Men do like filling in empty boxes.

BONG-CHA

Then we give them one.

BITNA

Whose name?

Bong-cha looks toward the hall.

BONG-CHA

Min-jun.

Silence.

One mother laughs once.

Not because it's funny.

MOTHER

Absolutely not.

BONG-CHA

Not ownership.

She puts the form on the table.

BONG-CHA

Not custody.

Another form.

BONG-CHA

Not lineage.

Another.

BONG-CHA

A signature.

BITNA

And obligation.

BONG-CHA

Exactly.

The mothers listen now.

BONG-CHA

If the old world requires a father, we give it one man who serves all the children and owns none of them.

YUN-HEE

Some men are going to love this.

BITNA

Until they ask to be fathers.

BONG-CHA

Then they can prove it.

A beat.

BONG-CHA

And pay for it.

No one laughs.

But several women smile.

15 INT. NEW TOWER - RESIDENTIAL CORRIDOR - EVENING

A WOMAN stands with the SEED EXCHANGE COORDINATOR.

COORDINATOR

Tomorrow morning?

WOMAN

Yes. That's the right time.

COORDINATOR

We'll deliver it to your room.

WOMAN

Good.

The Coordinator makes a note.

WOMAN

If I have a child, the birth subsidy goes
into the common fund?

COORDINATOR

Yes. All birth subsidies do.

They move off.

Down the corridor, ANOTHER WOMAN approaches with a MAN.

They are laughing.

The first woman smiles at her.

WOMAN

Busy night?

SECOND WOMAN

Hopefully.

She opens her door.

WOMAN

No baby for you?

SECOND WOMAN

Never.

A beat.

SECOND WOMAN

But good sex every now and then is greatly
appreciated.

The man grins.

MAN

I feel appreciated already.

She pulls him inside.

The door closes.

The first woman watches them go, amused.

Then continues toward her room with the Coordinator.

16 EXT. NEW TOWER GATE - NIGHT

Min-jun stands outside.

Alone.

No car.

No guards.

No weapon.

The gate remains closed.

A WOMAN watches him through the bars.

MIN-JUN

I'm here for Jun-soo.

WOMAN

We know.

MIN-JUN

May I see him?

WOMAN

That's not my decision.

Min-jun waits.

Time passes.

Finally Bong-cha appears inside the gate.

Jun-soo is not with her.

Min-jun steps forward.

Stops himself before touching the bars.

MIN-JUN

Is he well?

BONG-CHA

Yes.

Relief crosses his face before he can hide it.

MIN-JUN

Can I see him?

Bong-cha studies him.

BONG-CHA

You left the Underworld.

MIN-JUN

Yes.

BONG-CHA

You gave Dong-wook the chair.

MIN-JUN

He wanted it.

BONG-CHA

And you don't?

Min-jun looks at the New Tower behind her.

MIN-JUN

Not anymore.

A long beat.

BONG-CHA

You don't enter as my husband.

MIN-JUN

I know.

BONG-CHA

You don't enter as a lord.

MIN-JUN

I know.

BONG-CHA

You don't enter because you're his father.

That hurts.

He accepts it.

MIN-JUN

Then how?

Bong-cha unlocks the gate.

BONG-CHA

By asking.

A beat.

MIN-JUN

May I come in?

Bong-cha opens the gate just wide enough.

BONG-CHA

For tonight.

Min-jun steps through.

The gate closes behind him.

17 INT. NEW TOWER - COMMUNAL KITCHEN - MORNING

Min-jun stands at a sink.

Sleeves rolled.

Washing bowls.

Stone Lion carries in another stack.

He sets them beside Min-jun.

MIN-JUN

How many?

STONE LION

More.

Min-jun looks at the mountain of bowls.

STONE LION

Children eat every day.

MIN-JUN

I've noticed.

Stone Lion almost smiles.

A small BOY approaches carrying a dirty cup.

He hands it to Min-jun.

BOY

This too.

MIN-JUN

Thank you.

The boy runs off.
Min-jun puts the cup in the water.
No one watches him.
No one praises him.
He keeps washing.

18 INT. NEW TOWER - CHILDCARE ROOM - LATER

Jun-soo sits on the floor building something from wooden blocks.
Min-jun stops in the doorway.
Doesn't enter.
Bong-cha sits nearby repairing a child's coat.
She sees him.
A beat.

BONG-CHA

You can come in.

Min-jun enters slowly.
Jun-soo looks up.
Studies him.

MIN-JUN

Hello.

Jun-soo holds up one block.

JUN-SOO

Horse.

It does not resemble a horse.
Min-jun crouches.

MIN-JUN

Obviously.

Jun-soo hands it to him.
Min-jun takes it carefully.

JUN-SOO

You make one.

Min-jun sits on the floor.
He starts building.
Bong-cha watches.

Not softened.

Watching.

Jun-soo knocks Min-jun's first attempt over.

JUN-SOO

Wrong.

MIN-JUN

I see that.

He starts again.

19 INT. NEW TOWER - CIRCLE ROOM - AFTERNOON

The Circle is full.

Min-jun sits outside it.

Not excluded.

Not inside.

Bong-cha holds several rejected birth forms.

BONG-CHA

The outside system still requires a father.

A WOMAN

Then let it require one.

BONG-CHA

They can refuse healthcare.

School registration.

Benefits.

Travel documents.

She lays the forms down.

BONG-CHA

Children should not have to wait for the old
world to improve.

Bitna looks toward Min-jun.

BITNA

And you propose him.

BONG-CHA

Yes.

Murmurs.

MOTHER

As father to whose child?

BONG-CHA

Every Tribe child.

A beat.

BONG-CHA

The ones already here. The ones born from now on.

A beat.

BONG-CHA

On paper, Min-jun is the father.

She looks around the Circle.

BONG-CHA

No custody.

No lineage.

No authority.

No automatic access.

BITNA

But where the outside system requires a father—

BONG-CHA

Healthcare. School. Travel documents.

Government forms.

YUN-HEE

He signs.

BONG-CHA

He signs.

BITNA

And where the law attaches an obligation?

BONG-CHA

He carries it.

YUN-HEE

One father. Hundreds of children.
She looks toward Min-jun.

YUN-HEE

You wanted a kingdom.
Min-jun says nothing.

YUN-HEE

Congratulations.
A few women laugh.
Bitna does not.

YUN-HEE

Any other concerns?

WOMAN

My son's father beat me for six years.
A beat.

WOMAN

I don't want any rule that gives a man a road
back to a child because he can prove biology.

BITNA

If a biological father wants recognition?

BONG-CHA

DNA. Then we pursue every financial obligation
available to the child.

BITNA

DNA can create a financial obligation. Not a
right.

Shimmering fingers rise.
Not all.
Questions continue.
Min-jun listens.
He does not vote.

20 INT. NEW TOWER - ADMINISTRATION ROOM - DAY

A nervous YOUNG MAN sits across from Bong-cha and Airiseu.
A WOMAN beside them holds a little girl.

YOUNG MAN

She's mine.

WOMAN

You never said that before.

YOUNG MAN

I do now.

Bong-cha slides a paper toward him.

BONG-CHA

DNA test.

He looks at it.

YOUNG MAN

That's it?

AIRISEU

No.

She places another document beside it.

AIRISEU

If you're confirmed, we file for support.

Another.

AIRISEU

Medical expenses.

Another.

AIRISEU

Childcare contribution.

Another.

AIRISEU

Past support where available.

The Young Man stares at the growing pile.

YOUNG MAN

I just want to see her.

The Woman looks at him.

WOMAN

Then start by supporting her.

A beat.

The Young Man looks at the child.

Then signs the testing form.

21 INT. NEW TOWER - COMMUNICATIONS ROOM - EVENING

Several screens.

Several locations.

No central chair.

Yun-hee facilitates today.

Not Bitna.

Not Aera.

A woman from the FARM appears on one monitor.

FARM WOMAN

We need the generator.

HARBOR WOMAN

So do we.

YUN-HEE

There is one generator.

Silence.

HARBOR WOMAN

Our insulin refrigeration fails without it.

The Farm Woman thinks.

FARM WOMAN

Then Harbor gets it.

A beat.

FARM WOMAN

We can move irrigation to daylight hours.

YUN-HEE

Good. Now the pipe fittings for New Tower.

Hands shimmer on several screens.

Aera sits against the wall taking notes.
A young woman leads the allocation discussion.
Aera starts to speak.
Stops.
Waits.
The young woman notices.

YOUNG WOMAN

Aera?

AERA

You had the floor.

The young woman continues.

22 EXT. NEW TOWER COURTYARD - DAY

Men work beside women.
Stone Lion repairs a broken cart.
Another MAN cleans a drain.
A THIRD MAN stares at a bucket and brush.

THIRD MAN

I don't clean toilets.

Stone Lion keeps working.

STONE LION

Then today will be educational.

THIRD MAN

I was security.

STONE LION

So was I.

The man looks toward Min-jun.
Min-jun carries a sack of laundry.

THIRD MAN

He was Lord of the Underworld.

STONE LION

And now he's carrying sheets.

Min-jun passes.

MIN-JUN

Heavy sheets.

He keeps walking.

The Third Man looks at the toilet brush.

Then picks it up.

23 EXT. NEW TOWER COURTYARD - DUSK

A small gathering.

No stage.

No altar.

A repaired section of wall.

Names are being written there.

The women lost during the siege.

HYE-WON among them.

Ji-a stands before the wall.

Chae-won beside her.

Neither speaks for a long time.

Finally Ji-a places a small narcissus beneath Hye-won's name.

Ji-A

She was afraid.

A beat.

Ji-A

She went anyway.

Chae-won looks at the name.

CHAE-WON

She always hated children.

Ji-a almost smiles.

CHAE-WON

Too loud.

Too sticky.

A small child nearby hears this.

CHILD

I'm not sticky.

Chae-won looks down.

CHAE-WON

Not currently.

A few quiet laughs.

Then silence again.

Bong-cha steps forward with Jun-soo.

She touches Hye-won's name.

BONG-CHA

She bought them time.

Bitna stands behind the others.

No uniform.

No command band.

BITNA

Then we use it well.

No prayer.

No divine blessing.

The names remain on the wall.

24 INT. NEW TOWER - CIRCLE ROOM - NIGHT

A disagreement.

Two women speak at once.

WOMAN

We need one decision.

SECOND WOMAN

Then let Aera decide.

Silence.

Everyone looks at Aera.

Aera looks back.

SECOND WOMAN

You founded this.

AERA

Yes.

SECOND WOMAN

So decide.

Aera shakes her head.

AERA

No.

The woman is surprised.

AERA

I can speak.

A beat.

AERA

I do not get the last word just because I came first.

She raises two fingers.

AERA

May I?

The facilitator nods.

AERA

I think New Tower gets the money.

A woman across the Circle reacts.

AERA

Their boiler is failing. There are fourteen children there, and winter will not wait for us to finish arguing.

She looks around the Circle.

AERA

That is my position.

She sits back.

The facilitator turns to the next woman.

FACILITATOR

Opposition?

The Circle continues without treating it as an order.

25 EXT. ROOFTOP GARDEN - MORNING

Bong-cha waters seedlings.

Jun-soo follows with a tiny cup, drowning one plant.

BONG-CHA

Less.

He pours less.

Aera approaches.

AERA

They're asking who comes after me.

Bong-cha keeps watering.

BONG-CHA

After you go where?

AERA

Some of them think it should be you.

Bong-cha laughs once.

BONG-CHA

No.

AERA

I thought you'd say that.

BONG-CHA

No throne.

No succession.

No divine family running the Tribe.

Aera nods.

BONG-CHA

I'll argue.

I'll vote.

I'll raise my son.

I'll be wrong sometimes.

She hands Jun-soo more water.

BONG-CHA

That's enough authority.

Aera looks at her daughter.

Proud.

And relieved.

26 EXT. NEW TOWER GATE - AFTERNOON

A WOMAN stands outside with two children.

Beside her, a MAN carrying one bag.

The gate opens.

A Tribe woman steps out.

TRIBE WOMAN

Who needs a room?

WOMAN

I do.

She gestures to the children.

WOMAN

They do.

The Tribe Woman nods.

Then looks at the Man.

MAN

I want to come too.

The Woman stiffens slightly.

MAN

Not with her.

He looks at the Tribe Woman.

MAN

I mean...

He struggles to find the language.

MAN

For myself.

The Tribe Woman studies him.

TRIBE WOMAN

Then you apply for yourself.

MAN

I can?

TRIBE WOMAN

Yes.

WOMAN

He gets his own room?

TRIBE WOMAN

If he's accepted.

The Man nods.

MAN

Fine.

A beat.

MAN

How do I apply?

The Tribe Woman opens the gate wider.

TRIBE WOMAN

Come ask in Circle.

They enter separately.

27 EXT. GANGHWA - NIGHT

The New Tower glows.

But it is no longer alone.

Across Ganghwa:

A farmhouse window lights.

Then another.

A clinic.

A workshop.

A harbor apartment.

A greenhouse.

A small maternal household.

Lights appearing across the island.

Not one city.

Not one fortress.

A network.

CUT TO:

28 INT. NEW TOWER - CIRCLE ROOM - SAME

Women sit in the familiar circle.

Men sit outside, farther back.
Children move in and out.
Min-jun sits on the floor beside Jun-soo.
Not at Bong-cha's side.
Not apart from them.
Useful.
Present.
Bitna sits in the circle of women.
No command band on her arm.
Aera enters late carrying a bowl.
There is no special place waiting for her.
A woman shifts.
Makes room.
Aera sits.
Yun-hee looks around.

YUN-HEE

Are we done?

A CHILD looks around the Circle.

CHILD

With what?

YUN-HEE

Fixing society.

The child thinks.

CHILD

No.

YUN-HEE

Damn.

A beat.

CHILD

But dinner's ready.

Yun-hee looks around the Circle.

Shimmering fingers rise.

YUN-HEE

Civilization survives another day.
Outside, lights continue appearing across Ganghwa.

WOMEN

For Our Common Good.

A beat.

WOMEN
(again)

Our Common Good.

FADE OUT.