

New Path Outline

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Character List

Nefernaten (Siddhartha)
Beset (Govinda)
Akhenaten (Father)
Nefertiti (Mother)
Meketaten (Sister that dies)
Beniti (The Ferryman)
Hasani (Kamala)
Adeo (Kamaswami)
Horus (The Sublime One)

Story Outline

New Path of the Buddha Ancient Egypt 1330 B.C.

Nefernaten's sister dies, causing her to doubt Aten, the God her parents have been teaching her to worship her entire life.

She becomes very dissatisfied with her life, even though she is daughter of the wealthy pharaoh. Nefernaten is very beautiful and her father has always given her the finest possessions and teachers, but she is still overcome by grief and sorrow in her life. She feels lost.

Her parents are especially distraught by the loss of their favorite daughter, Meketaten.

One day, Nefernaten and her best friend Beset sneak out of the palace and head up the Nile to the next town called Beni Hasan. She sees that people are worshiping other Gods in addition to Aten and feels as though she needs to find her own answers.

Nefernaten returns to the palace in Amarna and asks for her Father's permission to go out and explore the world.

Akhenaten is confused and frustrated as to why Nefernaten would want to leave even though she has everything in the world that she would want. Akhenaten denies her request saying, "I've already lost one daughter, and I refuse to lose another. You will stay in the safety of the palace."

Nefernaten goes into the garden in the back of the palace and refuses to leave. She doesn't come in to eat and will not drink water until her parents allow her to go. Nefertiti and Akhenaten are enraged. How was their kingdom not enough?

Nefernaten's protesting has left her parched and famished in the garden. Akhenaten calls to Aten, the sun God, and asks for help in making this decision. Aten shows Akhenaten that if he wants his daughter to be happy, he must let her go.

Akhenaten gives Nefernaten permission to leave the palace.

She leaves the palace with a bag full of belongings and her best friend Beset.

Nefernaten and Beset walk up the Nile until they reach the next town.

They walk into Beni Hasan and see beautiful vases and sculptures being made by the craftsmen.

Nefernaten and Beset go up and talk to the people who tell them that their way to happiness is not relying completely on the Gods, but finding and expressing yourself through art.

They welcome Beset and Neferaten and they promise to teach them how to create this beautiful art.

Neferaten catches on really quickly and is extremely good at creating the art. Her art begins to sell faster than anyone else's.

Beset is also very talented but not quite as good at Neferaten.

Beset finds that she loves doing this art, but Neferaten isn't fully satisfied yet.

Neferaten begins to see that although the craftspeople are happy and gifted, they are not able to experience life to the fullest by only doing art.

One day the town gets a visit from the greatest artist of all who has been traveling the world and collecting art.

Neferaten sees that something is different about this artist and goes over to talk to him.

The artist's name is Horus. Neferaten and Horus have a long conversation where they share life stories.

Neferaten has never seen anyone so content with their life. She wishes to feel the same way as Horus.

Horus now teaches artists how to broaden their artwork and to think outside of the box. Although Neferaten can see that he's at peace with himself, she is unwilling to participate in his teachings. She tells him that she wants to find her own path and journey.

With this she leaves Beset under Horus's care and continues on her journey to Hermopolis, a city between Amarna and Beni Hasan. She is offered a ride over the river by a kind fishing woman named Beniti.

There she meets a soldier patrolling the river, named Hasani. She is instantly drawn to his good looks and strong muscles. The feeling is not mutual. Hasani is not attracted to Neferaten because she looks dirty and poor.

Hasani tells Neferaten that he only courts women who are beautiful and rich. However, he feels bad for her so he takes her back to his father, Adeo's, house. There Adeo learns that Neferaten knows how to read, write, and draw so he decides to take her under his wing.

Adeo provides Neferaten with new riches, turning her into a successful scribe. After she has cleaned up her looks and earned some money she revisits Hasani. He is instantly attracted to her, now seeing her true beauty.

They start a relationship and become lovers. Neferaten becomes a very popular scribe and is very busy at work. During this time Neferaten gives birth to a baby girl. However, she is devoted to her work so Hasani takes on the mother role.

Neferaten becomes obsessed with short term fixes and hierarchy status. While at a party near the river she finds herself so dissatisfied with herself and her life that she attempts to drink herself to death.

She realizes that she is not living the life that she wants to lead. Neferaten flashes back to when she was young and her family was happy and whole. She remembers the happiness that she felt and longs to feel that way again.

Neferaten falls into a deep sleep and wakes to find Beset sleeping next to her. They share a few words before they part their separate ways.

She once again attempts to cross the river, only to be offered a ride by the same fishing woman, Beniti.

Beniti offers her a place to stay in her house in Beni Hasan. She tells her to listen to the river and to learn from it. The two women begin to look like one another.

Hasani and Lil Nef are traveling a long distance to see the artwork in town. However, Hasani is now much older and suffers from heat stroke. Beniti finds them along the river and brings them back to the house.

Nefernaten instantly recognizes the pair and feels a deep love for her daughter.

It's too late for Hasani, he dies from a heat stroke.

Lil Nef is distraught and takes her anger out on her mother. She doesn't do her chores and she trashes the house.

Nefernaten tries to not yell or hit her daughter. Rather she continues to be nice to her.

Beniti tries to convince Nefernaten to let Lil Nef go back into town and go to school. Nefernaten can't bear the thought of leaving her daughter again.

One morning the two women discover that Lil Nef has left.

Beniti dies, however, nobody notices because Nefernaten takes her place.

Beset once again is traveling by the river, when she sees that Nefernaten has reached enlightenment.

Chapter Breakdown	
Chapter 1 Princess Nefernaten	Permission from Akhenaten
Chapter 2 The Craftsmen	Refuge with the artists
Chapter 3 Horus	The enlightened one
Chapter 4 The Nile	On her own
Chapter 5 Hasani	Let's get physical
Chapter 6 The Scribe	Writing for the riches
Chapter 7 Rich in Sorrow	Drowning in money
Chapter 8 The Realization	A different life
Chapter 9 The Fishing Woman	Learning from the River
Chapter 10 Lil Nef	Love conquers all
Chapter 11 Loss or Gain?	Live and let go
Chapter 12 Beset	She has reached enlightenment