

Kole: Destruction of a White Dragon

By
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EXT. A SUNNY VALLEY - DAY

KOLE (8) playing in the field with another boy, NICK (9) Kole reveals to his playmate that he's holding a little figurine of a woman. A Japanese wood carving.

NICK

Let me see!

Nick grabs the tiny woman out of Koles hands without incident.

KOLE

Careful with that. Belongs to my mom.
She Bought it in Japan while I was a
baby.

Nick, innocently enough, starts playing with the wooden figure on the ground, when he has the woman come up against a rock. Without much force at all, he taps the wooden craft on the rock and he breaks it.

NICK

Whoops.

Nick grins with a look of profound ignorance, even for a small child.

KOLE

I told you to be careful with it!

Nick scoffs dismissively.

NICK

Cheap, made in Asia, crap. Haha!

A blind rage overcomes Kole and he socks the other boy in his face.

CUT TO:

INT. COLES BEDROOM - DAY

An expensive looking, modern, Japanese style bedroom, with walls decorated with posters and wall scrolls of RYUK from DEATH NOTE and other anime/manga characters, as well as iconic stars of martial arts films like GORDON LIU, BRUCE LEE, etc.

A MITSUBISHI TV is displaying the famous, late sixties anime, SPEED RACER, in all it's vintage glory.

KOLE (18), sleepily laying in his bed wakes up to the sounds of SPEED RACER. We see he has been working on illustrating a manga style comic-book. The notebooks and sketchpads lay on the floor, depicting a man committing suicide by *Seppuku* (disemboweling self)

ANNOUNCER (O.C.) (O.S.)
 ... Speed is in the most desperate
 race of his life. Will he finish it?
 Or will it finish him? See the next
 episode of Speed Racer!

Superimpose: **10 YEARS LATER**

Kole puts on a long, black, Chinese style, gown. He walks out of his room.

He goes into his KITCHEN

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

A note is clearly visible on the refrigerator from his MOM

MOM
 Dear, Kole. On business in Taiwan.
 Will send text when I can activate my
 phone here. Until then, take care.
 Love, Mom.

Kole prepares a meal consisting of rice, vermicelli noodles, and grilled veggies. He then eats it.

Meditates in his living room, while incense are burning.

EXT. LITTLE TOKYO HISTORIC DISTRICT - DAY

Kole walks in a crowd of people, wearing his gown, looking quite unusual. He bumps into someone. Not wanting to make eye contact, he bows, walks on but he is stopped. He see's the black military style jacket, combat boots and baggy pants adorned by *bosozoku* - *the reckless ones* or Japanese biker culture. This one being MIKE USUGURAI (19). He is accompanied by TRIxie AMAYA (18) and NIKKI AKARI (17), both clad in black leather and biker attire as well. Parked on the sidewalk are their KAWASAKI MOTORCYCLES.

MIKE
 What are you supposed to be? A White
 Chinaman?

NIKKI

Are you looking to die? Wearing that
shit? Henken!

TRIXIE

Mike, Nikki, I think he wants to
fight. Mamoru.

KOLE

I don't think I understand.

MIKE

Well, that's okay. I'll explain to
you. Since you must be new. This is
Little Tokyo. We're the SoCal Dragons!
We drive fast and we kick ass!

TRIXIE

That's right, Shirley Shaolin Temple.
We defend our turf at all cost. Either
with karate-

NIKKI

- or steel!

Nikki brandishes a katana, the size of a dagger.

KOLE

Fine, then. Let's see if you can kick
my ass. Your karate versus my Shaolin
kung fu. No swords.

Mike and the two others laugh at him, while Kole gets in his
fight stance.

MIKE

Karate is the superior fighting style.
Kung Fu is very weak. Sickly Chinamen,
teaching impotent strikes, to perform
for imbeciles.

NIKKI

White monk!

She flashes Kole the SO-CAL DRAGONS logo on the back of her
leather, biker jacket.

NIKKI

Face the dragon!

She spins around, lashes out at him.

TRIXIE

No! He's mine!

Trixie and Cole start fighting, trading hit for hit. Kole holds Trixie off with his kung fu until Trixie gains the upper hand, delivering a swift karate chop to his ribs, breaking a few of them in the process. As Kole writhes in pain, clenching his ribs, she grabs him by the hair, tilts his head back and karate chops him in the throat.

Kole falls limp to the ground, clenching his ribs with one hand and holding his throat with the other.

CHOI (21), comes swooping in like a bird, leaping in the way of Mike, Nikki and Trixie on their warpath to Kole. Choi wears the same attire as the rest of the Dragons.

CHOI

What's going on here, Mike?

MIKE

Trixie, Nikki and I were demonstrating for this try hard, the art of karate.

CHOI

Yeah? That may be the case.

Choi jumps up in the air and kicks Mike, connecting a perfect round kick to the head. Despite only doing it lightly, Mike is still knocked down to the ground. Choi helps Kole up off the ground. Shakes Koles hand, who holds his throat in pain.

CHOI

Choi Soo Pak.

KOLE

Kole. Kole Kirby.

Choi looks at Mike while he's on the ground, in a daze. Looks back at Cole.

CHOI

Taekwondo. High kicks. Very strong strikes.

Mike gets up off the ground, pissed off.

CHOI

Superior to karate.

MIKE
You only think that because you're
Korean!

CHOI
Half Korean.

Suddenly police sirens are heard encroaching.

MIKE
The police! Let's ride!

The Dragons all go to their Kawasaki motorcycles. Choi grabs Cole by the shoulder.

CHOI
Let's go.

KOLE
What?!

CHOI
You heard me. Hop on.

KOLE
What if I don't want to?

CHOI
Oh, no. Last I checked you consented to fight, which then makes it a street fight, which means you consented to a street fight, street fighting, which, if I'm not mistaken is illegal in the state of California, so therefore you broke the law too.

KOLE
So, what? That makes me with you guys?

CHOI
Yes!

Choi pulls him onto the back of his motorcycle and the two of them zoom off.

The gang flees the scene, fleeing the police on their motorcycles. They are weaving and drifting fast through Little Tokyo. They come along side a chain link fence which is fencing off the LA Riverbed. A whole in the fence allows them entrance on their motorcycles into the riverbed.

EXT. LA RIVERBED - DAY

Now they're riding their motorcycles in the riverbed. They all convene on a location. What appears to be an abandoned warehouse, bordering the LA riverbed and the fence.

INT. WAREHOUSE GARAGE - DAY

Kole and the Dragons enter the garage on their bikes. We are showcased to what the Dragons have stored in this secret storage garage, a series of custom Japanese race cars. All heavily modified low-riders, with exhaust pipes, chin spoilers, external radiators and numerous other bosozoku style modifications, making them appear more aggressive.

Choi, Mike Usugari, Trixie Amaya and Nikki Akari all get off their Kawasaki motorcycles and gather around a table. They all proceed to take shots of SAKE. Kole looks at them as they drink.

CHOI

So you wish to be your true self? What are we to you? Some entity? The East? You have a bias in favor towards us? Or perhaps you think we are a silly people, you can toy with?

KOLE

You guys drink and then you race in cars?

MIKE

It is part of our Shokotan lifestyle.

KOLE

I obviously don't speak Japanese.

MIKE

Not so obviously. You culturally appropriating piece of shit.

TRIXIE

Shokotan. The low-riders.

KOLE

Whatever.

CHOI

No, not whatever. You say you want to be like us?

KOLE

No, not like you.

CHOI

Well dude, you'd be stupid not too.
Nikki. Go get a jacket.

NIKKI

What are you doing, Choi? He's zero
percent Asian, Pacific Islander.

KOLE

You don't know that.

CHOI

Just go get a jacket.

MIKE

Seriously, what the fuck are you
thinking? You can't be considering
letting him-

CHOI

Get bent, Mike. Nikki, go get the
jacket.

Nikki walks off to go get the jacket.

KOLE

I'm not like you. I'm a humble one.

MIKE

We are the reckless. Wild. Running
Free. Choi, he doesn't belong.

CHOI

Kole, are you a blackbelt?

KOLE

In Shaolin.

CHOI

Not Taekwondo.

MIKE

Or Karate.

Nikki comes back with a jacket, handing it to Choi.

CHOI

I'm giving you the right to earn this

and become a Dragon.

He holds the jacket aloft.

KOLE

I knew you were gonna say that.

CHOI

To start with, you'll have to gain entry into our ranks by either studying karate, judo, jujitsu or any of the Japanese martial arts. Or alternatively, Taekwondo, taekkyeon, or any of the indigenous martial arts of Korea.

KOLE

Where can I learn taekwondo?

CHOI

I teach taekwondo, in Koreatown. Be at my studio tomorrow. Once you've become a blackbelt, then your initiation into the SoCal Dragons can truly begin.

KOLE

Okay, I'll be there.

CHOI

Does anyone have a problem with this new arrangement?

Choi looks at the rest of the Dragons, who all say nothing.

CHOI

Okay, good. Be at 3256 Wilshire boulevard in Koreatown.

KOLE

What else do I have to do other than learn taekwondo?

The rest of the Dragons all look confused and annoyed.

CHOI

You will learn the joys of true freedom. The ability to face danger and conquer it.

MIKE

Yeah, if you don't succumb to your

fears, dressman.

KOLE

I don't fear anything.

CUT TO:

INT. TAEKWONDO STUDIO - KOREATOWN, LOS ANGELES - THE NEXT DAY

Kole is in taekwondo uniform, taking a lesson from Choi.

CHOI

Are you ready to begin learning the
art of hand and foot?

KOLE

Yes.

Choi gets into a fight stance and demonstrates a form. Kole attempts to follow along with his strikes in an attempt to match him.

CUT TO:

INT. TAEKWONDO STUDIO - KOREATOWN, LOS ANGELES - DAY

Kole is now breaking boards with his hands. He is becoming more aggressive. The speed of his strikes is greater than before.

CUT TO:

INT. TAEKWONDO STUDIO - KOREATOWN, LOS ANGELES - DAY

Kole and Choi are now sparring together. We can clearly see the passage of time and Koles taekwondo skills improving.

They are sparring, evenly matched. Kole is incorporating elements of kung fu into his taekwondo, while Choi mixes his style with karate.

CUT TO:

INT. TAEKWONDO STUDIO - KOREATOWN, LOS ANGELES - DAY

Kole and Choi once again doing their form, only now Kole is keeping up much more, staying synced up with Choi, doing the form perfectly.

BACK TO:

INT. TAEKWONDO STUDIO - KOREATOWN, LOS ANGELES - DAY

The two of them are once again sparring. Kole is doing really well but Choi gains the upper hand and delivers a backhand strike to Kole, incapacitating him. The sparring comes to an end. Kole is laid out flat and Choi helps him up.

CHOI

You were doing so well. What happened?

KOLE

I don't know. I guess I can't do it.
Not like you.

CHOI

Why do you try to do as I would? Why not do as you would do. Do what I do in your own way. I know you emulate my people. Not only aesthetically but who we are. Our integrity. Our dedication to freedom and justice. We are very similar, you and I, but you are not the same as me. You are not the same as us.

KOLE

My whole life I wished to enrich my life by surrounding myself in your culture. I write and illustrate a manga style series, with characters I've drawn and created. My life long goal has been to publish it. I think my love for Asia came from my mom. She's a business woman who often works in other countries. She goes to Asia quite often. She was pregnant with me when she went to Japan one time. She raised me herself and I always admired her strength and resilience. Her being so successful has always motivated me.

CHOI

Ah, so another role model is your mother. Not only do you look up to Asians, you also have some admiration for your own people. You look up to and admire your mother. Who else?

KOLE

Who else what?

CHOI

Who else are some of your role models?

KOLE

Jackie Chan, Park Chan Wook, Toshiro Mifune-

CHOI

No, not Asians. Your own people.

KOLE

Hmm, you know what? The one white guy I'd wanna be like the most, would have to be James Dean.

CHOI

James Dean? Good. Because ultimately, we must be ourselves. That's all we can do, all we can be.

KOLE

What are you saying?

CHOI

That you don't have to do this, Kole. You don't have to go through this initiation. You don't need to get into the SoCal Dragons. We are friends. We fight together but we do not yet ride together. That just because you're now learning taekwondo, does not mean you are yet a dragon. We are yet to see if you have what it takes.

KOLE

Don't tell me what I need to do, Okay? Oh, I definitely have to go through with it and you know why? I have a theory about Japanese heroes, Japanese storytelling in general, particularly anime and manga. There seems to always be a male protagonist, who's dedicated to being the best. Ash Ketchum, Son Goku, L and Light Yagami; they all have victory as a priority and are determined to be the best of them all at what they do. Well, I see myself as that character. The hero. Determined to be the best of them all.

CHOI

Hahaha, you are a noble spirit, white dragon. I think you have a narrow view. That's okay, though, for you.

KOLE

How so?

CHOI

There's an old Korean proverb.

KOLE

What's that?

CHOI

There's no limit to what a man can do, so long as he has the will to do it. So essentially, where there's a will there's a way.

INT. WAREHOUSE GARAGE - NIGHT

Choi, Mike, Nikki and Trixie are all gathered around their cars and are drinking Sake. Kole is dressed now in bosozoku style. He takes shots of Sake with the gang.

CHOI

Drink up. It's your big night.

MIKE

Your dreams finally coming to fruition, white dragon!

TRIXIE

After tonight you'll finally get the coveted, leather jacket.

She shows off her black leather SoCal Dragons jacket.

KOLE

Leather? But I'm vegan.

Kole is offered more sake and takes another shot.

TRIXIE

Haha, vegan? Very funny, Kole. Now, time for the next stage of your initiation.

Trixie starts really aggressively kissing Kole. The others look on encouragingly. She's making out with him and pushing

him towards a 1972 NISSAN SKYLINE. The two of them get in while making out, while the rest of the Dragons cheer them on. They remain unseen in the car as they make love.

They come out of the car afterward, looking refreshed.

CHOI

Good for you, Kole. Now the next part of your initiation must commence. Come on let's take a look at these cars.

Kole looks along the rows of cars.

KOLE

What's that?

CHOI

Choose any of these cars.

Kole gestures to himself.

KOLE

For me?

Choi and the other Dragons nod, yes.

KOLE

You shouldn't have.

Kole looks at all the custom cars that are in a row in the garage. He goes down the row one by one, inspecting each car, deciding which one he will take.

He decides on the 1972 NISSAN SKYLINE gets inside. Trixie gets into the passenger seat. In another car Mike and Nikki get inside. Both cars start and rev up the engines. Kole rolls down the window to talk to Choi.

KOLE

Wow, she's a real beauty and I have to say, it has some sentimental value to me now.

CHOI

Oh yeah? You like the Nissan Skyline? Real shokotan. Here, turn her off. There's still some business to attend to before you take her out.

Kole turns off the car. He and Trixie get out of the car. Choi takes them to the table where the alcohol is.

CHOI

Alright, time to clear the table, boy.

Choi motions to the table, signifying Kole to drink. Kole looks at the table and row after row of alcoholic drinks.

KOLE

Nah, I don't know if I want to.

CHOI

You got to.

KOLE

But-

CHOI

That's how this works. This is what we've always done to test our vigor.

KOLE

Okay.

Kole starts downing SAPPORO BEERS.

CHOI

Alright, are you ready to race?

KOLE

You want me to race? But I'm so fucked up. I took all those shots of sake and downed all these Sapporo's.

CHOI

You need to race in the state your in. It's part of your initiation.

KOLE

The state I'm in? Like the state of California?

TRIXIE

Come on, Kole. Let's get in the car.

She tugs him along while walking to the car.

KOLE

Do I really have to do this?

CHOI

Yes!

Kole and Trixie are sitting in the car once again. Still parked next to them are Mike and Nikki.

TRIXIE

It's okay, Kole. We always drive when we're fucked up. It's part of the dragons way and part of our bosozoku lifestyle. I know it can be frightful but I promise you, if you can survive the dragons path, well you will marvel at what wonders you shall see.

KOLE

Wonders? Well, I definitely don't want to squander this opportunity. I'll meet any challenge you Dragons ask of me.

Kole sticks the keys in the ignition and starts up the Nissan Skyline.

Choi goes over to the garage doors and pulls them open. He then stands in front of the racers as they are revving up their engines. Choi holds up his hands.

CHOI

Kole you have to win this race to be considered apart of the SoCal Dragons. Got it? On your mark... get set... Go!

The two cars speed hurdling off, exiting the parking garage.

EXT. LA RIVERBED - NIGHT

Mike and Kole are speeding through the LA riverbed. The two cars are neck and neck. Both drivers are clearly intoxicated and can't maintain for long. They begin weaving and zig-zagging. Mikes car is drifting off worse than Koles car. Kole and Trixie are able to maintain with relative ease and they pass Mike and Nikki in their car. Kole turns around to look to see Mikes car, to make sure that they are okay.

KOLE

Are they okay?

While Kole isn't looking ahead, Kole crashes the Nissan Skyline alongside the wall of the riverbed. The car bounces off the walls and spins around for a moment before flipping on it's side.

Mike and Nikki pull up to the the wrecked Nissan Skyline and

get out. They stand frozen still. Horrified. Just then Koles arm crashes through the glass out smashing the window of the Nissan, flipped on its side. With his arm her pulls himself up and crawls out. Mike and Nikki peer inside the wrecked car to see Trixie. She has died in the crash.

Mike and Nikki turn to Kole, with quiet rage.

MIKE

You killed her.

KOLE

No! I didn't mean to! It wasn't my fault-!

Mike and Nikki start to advance towards Kole. He quickly gets away from them, creating a significant distance.

Suddenly Kole finds himself running in the riverbed to get away from Mike and Nikki.

Soon they are following his trail in their car while Kole is still on foot. Presumably Choi has now joined with them on the search for Kole.

A distraught Kole evades them, having seen them again. They have their brights shining but Kole crouches hidden behind a wall that he peers behind as they pass him in their car.

Kole finally makes it out of the riverbed.

EXT. KOLES APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT

Kole is weeping as he makes it back to his apartment building, the outside of which looks rundown and poorly managed. He makes his way through one of the broken doors to get inside his place.

INT. KOLES APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT

Kole walks up the stairwell to get to his place. He is sobbing profusely but determined none the less, to do what he has returned to do.

CUT TO:

INT. KOLES BEDROOM - NIGHT

Kole opens the door to his room and picks up his Katana that he keeps mounted on his wall.

CUT TO:

EXT. KOLES APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT

Kole is now sitting on the rooftop of his building, holding his sword, sitting up on his knees. He then performs *Seppuku*, or Japanese ritual suicide by cutting open his abdomen, disemboweling himself.

He bleeds to death on the rooftop from the wound he's inflicted on himself. He looks up at the moon. With his last gasps of breath and the last bit of energy he can muster, he walks to the edge of the roof, looking up at the moon. He then lets himself go limp and he falls. Bleeding to death, as he plummets downward off the roof and lands on the cement.

It begins to rain. Drops of water are flicking off of Kole as he lay limply on the ground.

CUT TO:

INT. KOLES BEDROOM - NIGHT

MOM opens up the door to her sons bedroom. She notices the door was open. Her sons katana sword is missing from its wall mount. The TV SET has been left on, playing SPEED RACER.

MOM

Kole, I'm home. Kole? Where are you son? I'm back from my business trip in Taiwan.

ANNOUNCER (O.C.) (O.S.)

(singing)

Here he comes, here comes Speed Racer,
he's a demon on wheels...

KOLE

(distorted voice)

Hello, mom.

MOM

Sweetie, is that you? Is everything alright.

A shadowy figure vaguely resembling the outline of Kole sits in the darkness of the bedroom, out of reach from the glare of the TV set. The figure looks at his mom in the dark through a pair of piercing, inhuman, red eyes.

MOM

What's going on, Kole? You seem so strange. Your eyes? Well, they're bright red and your voice? You don't sound well. Did you start smoking or something? Are you smoking pot?

KOLE

(distorted)

All the better to see you with, mommy.

The figure sits up and walks towards the mom, who assumes it's her son, Kole.

MOM

Let me take a good look at you. Are you feeling alright?

The shadowy figure who resembles Kole but with red eyes, shape-shifts before the mothers eyes into a shadowy TRIxie AMAYA, with glowing red eyes.

MOM

(screams)

Ahhh! Who are you? What are you? Oh my god!

TRIXIE

(distorted)

Exactly.

MOM

Where is my son. He was just here, You were-

TRIXIE

Your son is going to pay.

MOM

I don't know where my son is. I thought you were him.

TRIXIE

No. It is only me. I'm waiting for Kole and when he gets here, I'm going to reap his soul.

Wings are heard flapping outside the bedroom window.

CHAPTER II - SHINIGAMI