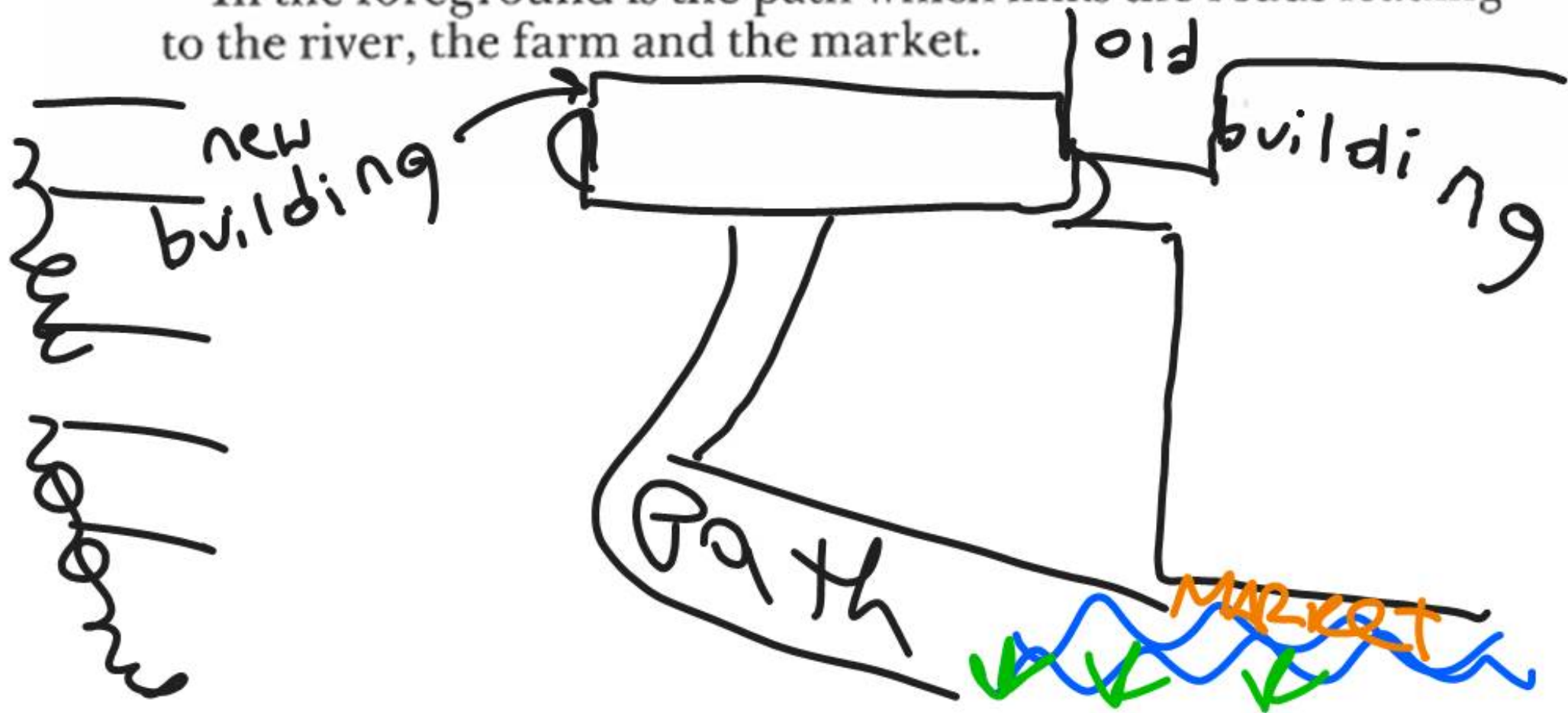


The action takes place in the courtyard of the newest wing of the Odumna Clan house. It is enclosed on the right by a wall of the old building and both at the centre and on the left by the walls of the new wing. At the right-hand corner a door links the courtyard with a passage that leads into the much bigger courtyard of the old house. In the middle of the left wall there is a door leading into the new rooms. A terrace runs round the two sides of the new sector.

In the foreground is the path which links the roads leading to the river, the farm and the market.



Courtyard: place of the class

Miner: nature & food

Market: place where food is sold  
exchange of money

# Prelude

I identity → # of identities, multiple nature

I am the Bird of the Wayside—  
The sudden scampering in the undergrowth,  
Or the trunkless head  
Of the shadow in the corner.  
I am an asthmatic old hag  
Eternally breaking the nuts  
Whose soup, alas,  
Nourished a bundle of whitened bones—  
Or a pair of women, your neighbours  
Chattering their lives away.

side of the road Peripheral, marginal

I can furnish you with reasons why  
This and that and other things  
Happened. But stranger,  
What would you have me say  
About the Odumna Clan?...

us, readers

Look around you,  
For the mouth must not tell everything.  
Sometimes the eye can see  
And the ear should hear.  
Yonder house is larger than  
Any in the town—  
Old as the names  
Oburumankuma, Odapadjan, Osun.  
They multiply faster than fowls  
And they acquire gold  
As if it were corn grains—  
But if in the making of  
One Scholar

stage direction ⇒ theatre: seeing & hearing  
Introduction: family, clan

Much is gone  
You stranger do not know.  
Just you listen to their horn-blower:

making reference to stage

'We came from left  
We came from right  
We came from left  
We came from right

nature will not hurt us

The **twig** shall not pierce our eyes

Nor the rivers prevail o'er us.

We are of the vanguard -> we go first

We are running forward, forward, forward...'