

EVIL PRICK

Written by

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Based on, The Gospel, from a Horror writer's viewpoint

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EXT. MOUNTAINOUS LANDSCAPE - DAY

From above, rolling hills stretch for miles under the blazing sun. Below, a beach comes into view.

EXT. BEACH - DAY

The virgin sands lead to a large canopy with people sitting under it. As it flips in the breeze, the image of the CROWN OF THORNS is clearly seen, printed across the fabric.

INT. TENT - DAY

A group of thirty young people reflecting diversity, look like monks in purple robes. They sit silently.

They look in unison as dark-haired, muscular LONGINUS (40's) strides to the podium in the front. Everything about him screams, military. His uniform has the Crown of Thorns on the back.

Scruffy beard and dark piercing eyes, his Italian features command attention. He looks over the crowd.

LONGINUS

You've made it. Congratulations.
My name is Longinus. Welcome to
the Brotherhood. Now the real work
begins.

In the front row, KATIE (Teen) makes a quick eyebrow furl and tucks her red hair under her robe.

LONGINUS (CONT'D)

Robes off.

All stand and remove their purple robes, underneath are combat uniforms similar to Longinus. The troops are physically fit.

Longinus motions to the back of the tent. Two women with scabbards of swords on their backs, step forward.

Long-haired, jaw dropping, REBECCA (20's) goes to the left side. Dark-skinned, her eye mascara makes her look Egyptian.

HANNAH (30's), her short brown hair, tinged with gray is a tall, sturdy woman who has a no-nonsense look. From their scabbards, they pass out swords with elaborate designs. The tips are metal and wood.

Longinus holds the sword above him.

LONGINUS (CONT'D)

Warriors. This blade is for the
hearts of the demons who hunt us.
We will fight them and we will win.

The crowd roars with excitement. From the back, two men step forward. YOSEF (Teen) olive-skinned, with black curly hair that droops across his forehead, smiles proudly.

DONICUS, (30's) a dark-skinned Ethiopian, gives Yosef a stern look that makes him re-focus. They pick up fifteen boxes off a table each.

Yosef takes the left side and they pass out the boxes. Katie smiles at Yosef, he smiles back.

Longinus opens a box near him. He pulls out a futuristic gun. He holds it high.

LONGINUS (CONT'D)

Warriors. Prepare your photon
guns.

They open the boxes. Inside is the same iconic gun that Longinus has. In the side compartment, bullets glow.

Each one loads their clips and holds their weapons high to match Longinus who looks fierce and determined.

Hannah whispers to Longinus as the soldiers cheer. His eyes get big. He whispers back, then looks contemplatively at his soldiers.

Meanwhile, Hannah gathers Donicus and a tall, bearded man, who looks Greek, BARTIMAEUS, (40's) and quietly move toward bushes just outside the tent.

LONGINUS (CONT'D)

In our battle, they have more power
and we are outnumbered. But ...
Are we outsmarted?

In a flash, Longinus grabs his sword and quickly flings it over his head. It rips a hole in the tent and zooms skyward.

The soldiers look confused but Longinus projects full confidence in his action as he smiles.

All see the sword glisten in the sunlight as it's point heads towards mother earth, just outside the tent. The tip slices through a bush and penetrates deeply into the ground.

EXT. TENT - DAY

A horrid SCREAM is heard that sounds otherworldly and evil. Dark red, almost black blood, bubbles up from near a bush where blade meets sand.

Donicus and Bartimaeus rush over to the shrubbery and pull the top of it in an effort to uproot it.

They strain muscles and struggle before it starts to give. Longinus quickly goes over to them.

As they pull, rather than a root, the shape of a head comes into view. Soldiers are startled. The scream of the 'thing' gets LOUDER. With mouth open, fangs are seen.

The more that it's extracted, we see a form similar to human, but dark red. Longinus yanks his sword from the bush and winds up. WHACK.

With one swing, the deformed head is decapitated. Blood squirts. The new soldiers freak.

Hannah aims at the torso and shoots it twice with the photon gun. The blast is super bright from the barrel.

The slugs glow through the skin of the monster and grows larger. Soon the glow overcomes the entire body and it starts to dissolve.

The monster starts to burn from the inside, then flake apart and turn to ash before their eyes. All that now remains is a skull and a pile of dark dandruff.

HANNAH

That was a spy. They know we are here.

Utter shock is on the faces of the new soldiers. Bartimaeus calls to the back of the tent.

BARTIMAEUS

Hey Russ. It's time. Tell them what we are fighting for so we'll be ready when they come.

LAZARUS (30's) steps from the curtains in the back of the tent with confidence. He stops and looks at those in the tent and outside it. A light skinned, black man, his dark eyebrows bring attention to his striking glare.

Seeing the still smoking skull, he dashes over to his comrades who vanquished the intruder. The fangs stand out from the rest of the teeth.

Nearby, a burnt and injured butterfly struggles. Lazarus gently scoops it up in one hand and strolls to the podium.

INT. TENT - DAY

With the butterfly in one palm, he covers it with the other hand. A FLASH OF LIGHT is seen between his fingers.

When he removes his hand, the mangled and burned butterfly -- is now whole and perfect. An audible GASP is heard from the audience. It tries its wings, then flies away into the sky.

LAZARUS

Our mission is life. Abundant
life. How fragile it is. How
precious it is. My name is
Lazarus. I know both life -- and
death.

All eyes are focused on the man at the podium.

LAZARUS (CONT'D)

Our society is over two thousand
years old and yes ... I am one of
its founders.

Mumbles are heard in the crowd as questioning faces are seen.

LAZARUS (CONT'D)

All of our officers are founding
members and have been in this fight
to save humanity as long as I have.

Bartimaeus, Hannah, Donicus, Longinus, Rebecca, and Yosef nod to the soldiers. Lazarus starts to stroll as he lectures.

LAZARUS (CONT'D)

You may ask, well how can that be?
You may ask, what in the name of God
was just killed? You may ask, why
am I here and what am I fighting
for? I say to you -- all, will now
be revealed.

DISSOLVE TO:

FLASHBACK

EXT. SKYLINE OF ANCIENT BETHLEHEM - NIGHT

A village stands out against the darkness of the desert. It is illuminated from above, by a star.

INT. MANGER - NIGHT

A large crowd of peasants and shepherds is seen through the opening of the barn. A newborn is hugged and tended to by his mother in the quiet of the night.

LAZARUS (V.O.)

Two thousand years ago, a baby was born. He was later known as Jesus or Christ, but his birth name was Yeshua.

EXT. SKYLINE OF ANCIENT JERUSALEM - NIGHT

The city is brightly lit. Especially one palace. MUSIC can be heard from a distance.

INT. PALACE - NIGHT

Marble floors and shiny gold artwork convey opulence, as do the well-dressed guests, covered in jewelry. The MUSIC, LOUDER now, is supplied by brightly clothed entertainers.

A mother sits on a golden throne, with a newborn in her arms. Smiling guests bow, bear gifts, then vacate for the next worshippers to step forward.

Nearby the mother, the father, CAIAPHAS (30'S) looks on, wide grin on his face. His gold inlaid, glittery robes, hint to his high ranking.

LAZARUS (V.O.)

At the same time, across the desert ... Another child was born. The son of High Priest Caiaphas. He bore the same name, Yeshua, as Christ. He was later known as, Ye.

EXT. GALILEE STREETS - DAY

Men and women in Biblical era attire hustle through dusty streets, alongside of livestock.

SUPER - ANCIENT PALESTINE - THIRTY YEARS LATER

EXT. WEDDING RECEPTION BUILDING - DAY

A reluctant, but well-dressed Lazarus, is pulled towards the house by his sisters MARY (20's) and MARTHA (20's). The shore of the Sea of Galilee is not far away.

LAZARUS

I'm wasting my time at a wedding.
You two socialize. I should run
the store. Make some money.

MARTHA

Don't be silly. At least toast and
stay a while with me and Mary
before we go.

LAZARUS

I don't even have a gift for them.

MARY

Martha and I donated some vases and
water vessels to them.

He stops in his tracks.

LAZARUS

Sis, you gave away our pottery?

MARY

The good stuff too. How did our
brother get so selfish and cheap?

LAZARUS

I work hard from dawn to sunset to
get this store going, everyday. We
have to make a living. That's it.
I'm not going in.

Just then, two attractive young ladies pass him on the way inside. They smile back and forth. The sisters notice.

MARY

Well, I guess we'll see you at
home. We are going inside now.

LAZARUS

On second thought, maybe at least a
toast. A show of community
support, right?

Mary smiles at Martha.

MARY

Good choice. Follow me.

EXT. WEDDING RECEPTION BUILDING - NIGHT

TRADITIONAL MUSIC flows from inside the house as people start to leave. Lazarus exits with two men, all appear drunk as they giggle and stumble around outside.

The more modestly dressed one with long, greasy hair is JUDAS (20's) Tall and wirey, he stumbles over a rock and almost falls. The other two laugh at him.

JUDAS

Not funny.

LAZARUS

No, the funny part is that if you fell, we'd leave you there till the morning.

The older man, YE, the SON OF CAIAPHAS, (30'S), sports a long beard that stands out against his fine robes and jewels. An air of self-superiority exudes from him.

YE

Morning? I'm sleeping till noon. Sorry, Judas. If the roosters don't wake you, you might be there a while.

LAZARUS

As a merchant, I've been all over the world. That wine we had tonight, was by far, the best.

YE

Yeah, what was that all about? I saw the empty pots filled with water, then later, red wine is poured out.

JUDAS

I saw it too. That Nazareth guy, he has some good magic.

YE

Probably a trick. I doubt the vessels were empty.

LAZARUS

They were empty. No trick. I made the pots myself. I know.

The men share puzzled looks.

JUDAS

Whatever happened, I'm glad to see some old faces from Jerusalem again. How's the pottery business doing, Lazarus?

LAZARUS

Great. We just opened a store up here in Galilee. The one in Bethany is making good money. Sorry to hear your dad died.

JUDAS

Damn Romans. I hate them all.

Judas kicks a rock in anger.

YE

Was a sad day indeed. Not easy to be a High Priest at the funeral of a family friend. I hope my father and I did him justice.

LAZARUS

My old friend. Number two at the temple of Jerusalem, wow.

YE

I'm trying to talk my father into retirement so I can be number one. He's a stubborn old man.

Stepping through the door is CHRIST (30). An ordinary looking man of ordinary height whose dark skin contrasts against his white robes. Something is different about him.

As he walks closer, his eyes seem to glow brighter than normal and his stare gives a piercing effect. Lazarus sees him and calls out ...

LAZARUS

Hey, there's my favorite wine maker. Come on over, brother. We owe you some love for that.

Christ smiles at their silliness and walks over.

CHRIST

Happy that you liked it. I see you were not shy about keeping your glass full.

LAZARUS

My name is Lazarus, from Bethany.

They shake hands warmly.

CHRIST

I am Yeshua from Nazareth, but I stayed in Egypt also.

YE

My name is Yeshua too. My father is Caiaphas, the High Priest of the Jerusalem temple. How do you do it? The wine. I want to know.

Christ turns to him.

JUDAS

Teach me first. He is already rich and powerful.

Lazarus steps between them, humor in his voice and mannerisms.

LAZARUS

Leave him be. You city people, so pushy. See, with my pottery ... And his wine magic? Hey, we could OWN Judea if we want to.

CHRIST

I'm not--

LAZARUS

It's just that we don't want to. Tell them, brother.

Christ looks at him strangely, then laughs with the others.

CHRIST

The gift of humor. The world needs more of that.

A strange sounding WAILING is heard approaching them. They turn to the side and see a teen in a soiled loincloth stumbling as he convulses his way down the street.

Growls, moans and sneers are his words as he foams from the mouth and contorts his body.

YE

You want funny? This guy is hilarious.

Closer, it is now seen the teen is Yosef, but he looks possessed. He bends over and grabs something. It is a live rat. He sinks his teeth into it and spits out its head.

CHRIST

No. He is a tortured soul.

As women pass by, he chases them for a few steps and laughs ghoulishly as they sprint away towards the shore.

Yosef twists his body in ways that are not humanly possible as he moans. Suddenly he stops and starts to breathe heavy.

With his back facing the men, the possessed Yosef, ratchets his head around on his shoulders, inch by inch, so that he faces them but his body is still turned away.

Drool drips from his mouth as wild eyes focus on Christ.

Judas jumps and slides behind a tree for safety. Yosef looks Christ up and down. The voice, raspy with a strange REVERBERATION.

YOSEF

What do you want with us, Yeshua of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are -- the Holy One of God!

CHRIST

And what is your name, demon?

Limping closer to the men, Yosef looks even scarier.

YOSEF

Legion, for we are many.

His body jerks violently as he approaches, but an unsettling smile persists on his face. The son of Caiaphas pulls out his dagger with a shaky hand. Fear embraces his face.

YE

G-g-get back.

YOSEF

Do not send us away. Send us into the pigs instead.

Unflinching, Christ closes his eyes. Yosef collapses to the ground and convulses violently. A YELLOW MIST rises from his body and hovers for a moment.

When Christ opens his eyes, the mist turns into many tiny yellow sparks.

Yosef goes limp. In a flash, the sparks zoom through the air and hit the pigs in a corral across the street.

The pigs SQUEAL as it penetrates them. The squeals turn to GROWLS as their eyes turn yellow.

Suddenly they turn active as they jump around, salivate and attack each other. Fangs dig into meat and blood squirts.

The fence breaks and the possessed pigs dash to a cliff overlooking the Sea of Galilee. One by one they fall.

The SQUEALS AND GROWLS get more intense after they hit the water and SPLASH AROUND. As they drown, the volume weakens.

Finally silence. All eyes look to Christ. He goes to a groggy Yosef, gently rubs his forehead. Yosef looks up at him with human eyes now. He seems confused.

YOSEF (CONT'D)

Where am I? Who are you?

LAZARUS

I don't know how much exorcisms cost, but I think you owe that man, MOUNTAINS of money.

His humor breaks the tension and even Christ smiles.

CHRIST

You have been healed, brother.
Rise.

The Messiah put his hand out and helps Yosef to his feet. He shivers as he stands and Christ removes his cloak and puts it over the teen's shoulders.

The two walk away from the amazed crowd of onlookers.

YE

I need to have that power.
Somehow. I will get it.

EXT. SHORELINE - DAY

Lazarus, Judas and Ye finish binding a crate. Several others, securely fastened, are nearby. Many merchants and consumers mill around. A potter's apron is still on Lazarus.

YE

All done. The boat will be here shortly. Thanks again for selling me the pottery. My father will be pleased.

JUDAS

So do you think those jars will
make wine when you pour water in
them back in Jerusalem?

YE

I will take them to the temple to
find out.

LAZARUS

Too bad you can't bring the
Nazarene. I think you're missing
the main ingredient.

JUDAS

That was amazing last night. Such
miracles. He should go to
Jerusalem with us. With his
powers, he could become High Priest
quite quickly.

Ye cuts his eyes at Judas, anger and jealousy on his face.

YE

I don't think so.

As Lazarus turns to the side, he sees a throng of people
approaching. Christ is in the middle of the crowd.

LAZARUS

Look. Here he comes now. Look at
all of those followers. If he's
going to Jerusalem, you'll need
four boats for all of them.

The other two spin and see their favorite wine-maker
surrounded by adoring locals.

A man with a bandage tied across his face, uses his out-
stretched arms to guide himself through the crowd. It is
obvious, Bartimaeus is blind.

People shove him out of the way as they seek to walk closer
to Christ.

CROWD

Out of the way ... Quiet ... Go
away, beggar.

BARTIMAEUS

Son of David, have mercy on me!

Christ stops. He looks over to the bandaged man.

CHRIST

What do you want me to do for you?

BARTIMAEUS

Lord, I want to be able to see.

The body of Bartimaeus trembles as Christ touches his head. He slowly unties the bandage around the blind man's face.

Two dry sockets that ooze pus are where eyeballs should be. Many in the crowd turn away in disgust. Not Christ.

CROWD

We was born like that ... No one
can cure him ... Yuk.

Stooping down, Christ picks up some dirt from the Earth into his palm. Standing up, he spits into the soil several times. Townspeople around him flash surprised looks. Now, like mud, he forms two balls.

LAZARUS

Hey, he's a potter like me.

Christ places the mixture over where his eyes should be. After holding it a while, he removes his hands. The mud starts to glow.

Suddenly small spiders start to exit through the mud and run across his face. People in the crowd back up in fear. Christ guides the blind man to a small, fresh water pool.

CHRIST

Wash your face in the water.

Bartimaeus follows his orders and rinses until all the spiders and mud are gone. The cloudy water instantly restores to fresh and clean.

Eyelids have replaced the rotted hole. Bartimaeus flutters his eyes open.

His jaw hangs open in amazement as he tries to process his new blessing of sight. His eyes fix upon Christ.

Tears flow. He hugs his healer and falls to his knees. The crowd is stunned, then starts to applaud.

BARTIMAEUS

I can see. I can SEE! Praise God.
But ... How?

CHRIST

When I am in the world, I am the
Light of the World.

LAZARUS

Did you see that?

JUDAS

Incredible. He might really be the
Messiah.

YE

I must tell my father at once. He
is not like the others. With those
powers, he could build a new temple
in Galilee and drive us under.

LAZARUS

You're not going to try and stop
him are you?

The eyes of Lazarus study the regal visitor intensely.

YE

Why would you say that brother?

EXT. JERUSALEM TEMPLE - DAY

The huge, intricately crafted building sparkles in the
sunshine. A diverse population mills through the courtyard.

INT. JERUSALEM TEMPLE - DAY

Ye talks to a man running the money-changer table. He hands
Ye a small sack. The regally dressed man jiggles it and
COINS CLANKING TOGETHER are heard. He smiles and walks away.

He strolls into the exquisitely decorated room of marble
floors and an elaborate throne. Sitting there is High
Priest, CAIAPHAS (60) - his dad.

CAIAPHAS

You're late, son.

YE

Had to collect my portion from the
money-changers, sorry. How have
you been? Knees getting better?

CAIAPHAS

Constant pain. I will manage.

He rubs his ailing joints.

YE

You should consider that offer I made.

CAIAPHAS

Silence. I have no intention of retiring now. Son, you are more power hungry than I ever imagined to be.

The son moves closer, unwavering eye contact.

YE

Have you heard of the Nazarene who performs miracles yet? I just saw it with my own eyes. The threat is real.

CAIAPHAS

Are his eyes set on taking over the temple?

Caiaphas sits forward, now intrigued.

YE

Absolutely. Not only that, but as he stirs larger crowds, the Romans will take notice and probably destroy everything our people have built. It needs aggressive action.

CAIAPHAS

I will have my people look into it.

Anger sweeps the son as he invades the personal space of the High Priest.

YE

No, let me handle it. After I eliminate the threat, I will prove to you that I am ready to take over and then--

CAIAPHAS

Enough. Begone. I am in charge, not you, and I have no plans to step aside. We are done here.

The father motions for the son to leave. He backs away in frustration, then spins around to face him.

YE

Mark my words, father. This Nazarene will be the cause of your kingdom being turned to ashes. We must deal with him harshly or at least compete with the miracles.

EXT. STREETS OF JERUSALEM - DAY

Sulking and unhappy, the son of the High Priest walks the stone laden avenue, lost in thoughts. Many people pass him, unnoticed. Then a familiar voice.

JUDAS (O.S.)

Hey, brother. You alright? You look down.

He tilts his head up to see Judas. His countenance changes, but a smile cannot be summoned.

YE

Judas. Good to see you. Long day.

JUDAS

What's wrong?

He rubs his hand through his hair and lets out a big exhale.

YE

The temple is doomed. That Nazarene will surely take over unless his miracles are matched. Went to the Essenes for help just now. And--

JUDAS

It didn't go so well, right? I hear they are not fond of the High Priests. Too friendly with Rome.

YE

We keep Rome from swallowing Jerusalem up, whole. Unless our priests can compete with the Nazarene, we will lose the people and lose the city.

JUDAS

But what if he used those powers to destroy Rome? Good idea, huh? I was planning to join them so he can be persuaded to do so.

YE

I don't think you can manipulate a man like that. I'd rather have my own powers and not rely on the power of your persuasion.

Judas rolls his eyes and exhales loudly.

JUDAS

Just watch me, you non-believer. So you need someone to learn magic from? I met a man once. Floated in the air in front of me.

The eyes of agonized priest explode with excitement. He grabs the shoulder of Judas and pleads to him.

YE

Yes, that is what I seek. Who is this man and where can I find him?

EXT. DESERT - NIGHT

A clear starry night is above the arid landscape below. Upon his camel, Ye travels across the sand.

EXT. HOME OF KOSMOS - NIGHT

Set in the foothills, the dwelling would be easy to overlook. It looks like a Greek home, with wide columns at the entrance.

Ye sees that there are no lights on. Looks abandoned. He hangs his head in disappointment.

He turns the camel around to leave. The HOWLS AND YELPS OF COYOTES AND JACKALS suddenly start. They pierce through the silent desert and seem to surround him.

Fear on his face, his sword is pulled as sweat runs down his forehead.

Eyes big, he scans his perimeter. Looking back at the house, it is now lit up inside and two burning torches are on the porch, illuminating the area.

Confusion envelopes his face. A woman like he has never seen before steps forward.

Yellow hair? Blue eyes? She wears a gown that flutters around her frame in the desert breeze. ALBIA, (20's) shouts to him. A sword in her hand.

ALBIA

Who goes there? What business do you have here?

YE

I have come to see the man named Kosmos. My friend Judas told me to seek his counsel.

A moment of silence, then ...

ALBIA

Tie your camel close to the house and follow me.

INT. HOME OF KOSMOS - NIGHT

Albia walks ahead of him through a marbled foyer. He looks around and sees countless artworks from around the world and everything seems trimmed in gold.

ALBIA

What is your name so that I can tell my master?

YE

My name is Yeshua, a rabbi, son of Caiaphas the High Priest of Jerusalem.

INT. KOSMOS PARLOR - NIGHT

They enter a candle lit room, still gold trimmed. She motions for him to sit on a fur covered bench.

ALBIA

Please have seat. I will petition him to see you.

YE

Yes, thank you.

She leaves and he scans his surroundings as curiosity covers his face. Nearby is a life-sized Golden Calf. Highly polished, it glows from the candlelight.

He stands, goes to it and admires the detail work. Soon Ye caresses the metallic skin of the young bovine. He smiles widely. From the corner of his eye, he sees a man staring.

KOSMOS, (early 30's), wears the most elegant robes ever seen. Design influence from around the world.

His large nose looks like it has been broken several times. Bald headed, it seems his skin has a red hue.'

KOSMOS

I see that you admire the Golden Calf of your ancestors. My name is, Kosmos. These are my things. Please continue, Rabbi.

YE

Thank you, sir. It is quite magnificent. This can't be pure gold, right?

KOSMOS

Wrong. Not only is it pure gold, but it is quite ancient as well.

The visitor shakes his head in disbelief, Kosmos walks towards him.

YE

Such a wonderful home, filled with such treasures. May I ask how you do so well for yourself?

KOSMOS

You may ask, but your question will not be answered. Come, have some wine. I understand that you have come for my counsel?

Kosmos pours out two drinks as his guest takes a seat on the fur covered bench. They sit together and sip the beverage.

YE

This wine reminds me of some I had at a wedding recently. A bit more bitter, but I like it.

KOSMOS

Good. Albia told me that you were sent by Judas. Smart young man. I have plans for him.

YE

The girl is Albia? I never saw a woman who looked like that. Where is she from?

There is an ancient looking map on the wall. He points to the British Isles.

KOSMOS

She is a slave from there. A far away kingdom called Albion. Most of them have pale skin and yellow hair. Anyway, how can I counsel you, Rabbi?

YE

Judas said he saw you levitate above the earth. I want to learn such things.

Kosmos has a hearty laugh.

KOSMOS

Why? You are a Rabbi. One of the few positions of power available under Rome.

YE

There is one who has the power to heal and change water into wine. We have the same name, but he is a pauper from Nazareth.

After clearing his throat, Kosmos drains his goblet.

KOSMOS

I have met the man that you speak of. Before he was a Rabbi. There is no greater fool walking the earth. He is on a meaningless mission that will result in his death.

YE

I have seen him do miracles. I fear he will take over the temple and the High Priest position I have longed for.

KOSMOS

Your temple is doomed, worry not about it. The man you speak of has intentions that reach far beyond this land.

YE

I don't understand.

Kosmos stands and motions for him to join.

KOSMOS

Join me at the table. We will see
what he is up to.

They take seats at an elaborately decorated table. In the middle is something covered by a sheet.

Kosmos removes the covering to reveal a geode stone that has been cleaved down the middle. The side facing them is super smooth and shiny.

Kosmos puts one hand on it and closes his eyes. He stretches his other hand out for the Rabbi to hold.

When he makes contact, the rock flat face starts to change. It seems like a thousand sparks occur within it.

INSERT - GEODE SCREEN

A scene forms on the rock. Blurry figures become clear. One of them is Christ. Also nighttime, he is seen walking down the avenue with many around him. Two familiar faces are seen in the crowd, ... Lazarus and Judas.

Coming in his direction are ten forms, shrouded by the darkness. As the moon illuminates them, they seem to walk like zombies.

A closer look reinforces that fact. Rotted skin hangs off faces. Mangled limbs show sores and scabs.

As they get closer to Christ, his followers stop. Fear covers their faces. Christ continues to walk. PETER, (20's), the biggest and most muscular in the group, pulls his sword.

PETER

I will cut them down where they
stand.

CHRIST

Peter, no. Not needed.

LAZARUS

Sir, those are lepers. Their
horrid disease can spread to all
that go near them.

CHRIST

Fear not.

Deformed and limping, they stop a distance away from Christ. Lazarus nervously looks on.

Rebecca, the leper with long hair is presumed female, but gender is not apparent because of her physical deformities and the rags worn.

REBECCA

Master, have pity on us!

She falls to her knees weeping. As Christ looks at the suffering of all, his face shows he is touched.

He bends down so he is eye to eye with Rebecca, He smiles, then gently caresses her crying face.

Instantaneously, scabs and scales start to fall off and wounds heal. The nine others see the same miracle happen to them. Rebecca rises and brushes the hair from her face. She is stunningly gorgeous. She checks her arms, all healed.

CHRIST

Go, show yourselves to the priests.

Joyous, the ex-lepers revel in their new look and reveal their bodies to each other and the crowd.

There is much elation and tears of joy as townsfolk are amazed. The ten start to go to the priests as they were told.

Rebecca goes with the pack, then suddenly sprints back to Christ and hugs him as tears flow.

REBECCA

Thank you, Rabbi. I thank you from the heart. I am Samaritan. You didn't have to do this for me.

CHRIST

Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner? Rise and go; your faith has made you well.

With lips trembling, she dislodges from the hug and looks Christ in the eye. She waves good-bye and dashes off to catch up with the others. Lazarus walks up to Christ.

LAZARUS

Nice work. She turned out beautiful. Where were you when I was dating ugly girls?

Christ looks over to him, smiles and shakes his head.

CHRIST

You. My friend, are too much.

LAZARUS

My sisters and I are headed back to Bethany. Passover is soon. Stop by and have supper with us.

CHRIST

I look forward to it.

The geode screen starts to lose the images then goes blank.

END INSERT

The mouth of the visitor hangs open, astonished. Kosmos covers the rock again.

YE

How-how did you do that? Is all that true?

KOSMOS

True and sad. What a waste of powers. The poor, the broken, the hopeless. How can they benefit him?

YE

You're right. If he can heal, heal kings and merchants that can reward him handsomely. At least get sex if they can't pay in gold.

KOSMOS

I like how you think. I see in your eyes the potential for untold riches, an army of your own and, yes, immortality.

The son of Caiaphas is stunned. Surprise on his face.

YE

Really? Wow. That's what I want. But how?

Kosmos gets up from the table and leans into his visitor's face, smiling.

KOSMOS

Do you trust me? I can give you that power, but I must be your master, for all of your days. You must serve me and me alone.

Without hesitation, he excitedly answers.

YE

Yes! Yes, I agree master.

Laughing, Kosmos gives him an energetic hug. His visitor shows shock from the affection.

Kosmos then grabs the goblet his guest was drinking from and puts it on the table. From his robe, he removes an ancient looking dagger.

Ye watches in awe as Kosmos brings the blade to his face. The host sticks out his huge tongue as far as possible.

He takes the blade and slices it down the middle. Not even a flinch. Blood flows. He catches it in the his guest's goblet.

The split tongue makes him look like a serpent. Sides of the tongue move independently. The blood makes the wine change color. Now the voice of Kosmos is deeper and REVERBERATES.

KOSMOS

Drink it down. All of it.

Immediately, the High Priest in-waiting slams down the lurid drink with determination on his face.

As we see Kosmos from the back, something seems to move under his robes. A scaly tail slips out from the robe for a second.

A nauseous look comes over the Rabbi. Suddenly he starts to convulse and foam at the mouth. He SCREAMS in incredible pain over and over again. His eyes change color suddenly.

EXT. HOME OF KOSMOS - NIGHT

A full moon dominates the desert sky. The SCREAMS inside the dwelling are still heard. Dark clouds pass across the lunar orb and it gets darker. At that moment, the SCREAMING STOPS.

EXT. STREETS OF CAPERNAUM - DAY

Around the corner comes Christ, Lazarus and many others who seem excited to be around the Nazarene. Mary and Martha are also there. All seem in good spirits, especially Lazarus.

LAZARUS

So that story about a rich man entering the kingdom of heaven and the camel squeezing through the eye of the needle was for me, right?

CHRIST

Only you would know.

LAZARUS

Since I met you at that wedding, I see that I don't know too much about anything.

The Rabbi chuckles.

CHRIST

I love how you can make me laugh.

A wink from Lazarus brings a smile. Up ahead are Roman soldiers.

They turn to see the approaching crowd, signal each other, then get in formation. They cross the street so they block the procession.

LAZARUS

They always have to harass a brother for nothing. Half the time one of us ends up dead, even if unarmed. I'll protect you with my life. Count on it.

Christ looks surprised from his friend's pronouncement.

The man in the uniform that shows he is the ranking Centurion OFFICER (40's), orders them to stop, with a hand gesture. Lazarus and the others look nervous.

OFFICER

Are you the Rabbi from Nazareth? I have been looking for you.

Sweating, Lazarus puts his hand on his dagger so the soldiers don't see. He step up to the taller Officer. The other soldiers pull their swords.

LAZARUS

Officer, please, this is a peaceful man. There is no reason to do him harm.

The Officer signals his men to re-sheath their weapons.

OFFICER

I didn't come here to talk to YOU.

He steps past Lazarus and closer to Christ.

OFFICER (CONT'D)

Lord, my servant, Donicus, is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented.

Lazarus exhales. Relief shows on his face.

CHRIST

I will come and heal him.

OFFICER

I am not worthy that you should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed. For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one - Do this - and he does it.

Christ blinks several times and looks astonished.

CHRIST

Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel! Go your way; and as you have believed, so let it be done for you.

The Officer bows to him, smiles, then spins around to face his troops. He points in the opposite direction. They march away in formation.

LAZARUS

Brother, I don't know which is more amazing. You, healing from a distance, or Romans finally not leaving a dead body in the street.

All around, including Christ laughs.

A sickly looking woman, Hannah, tries to get closer to Christ but the crowd will not let her. After several tries, she gets on her knees and crawls through the admirers.

When she gets close to Christ, she reaches out her hand and touches the fringes of his garment. Her body jerks and her eyes get wide. The eyes of Christ shows he is aware.

CHRIST

Who touched my clothes?

Hannah stands, runs to him and falls at his feet, trembling.

HANNAH

Lord, I have been bleeding for twelve years and have suffered a great deal. I thought, if I could just touch your clothes, I will be healed. Immediately the bleeding stopped. Thank you, thank you..

CHRIST

Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering.

When she stands, her clothes are no longer blood-stained, but now clean. Tears of joy overcome her and she dashes away.

LAZARUS

My brother can not only heal the body -- but clean your laundry too. We blessed or what?

Joyous laughter overtakes the crowd, especially the Nazarene.

EXT. HOME OF KOSMOS - NIGHT

Ye strolls outside as the hand of Kosmos grips his shoulder in a fatherly way.

KOSMOS

Enjoy your new powers. This will be your first dinner as an immortal. Savor it.

Smiling, Ye levitates into the night sky. Spinning in circles, he laughs, intoxicated with joy.

YE

I will savor every moment.

EXT. WILDERNESS - NIGHT

A chariot driven centurion, powers through the countryside. Up ahead in the road, appears a man. The chariot continues.

Now closer, we see it is Ye. Suddenly he jumps skyward. The centurion, looks around, confused, he's not seen.

THUD. He twists to locate the source of the sound. Standing right behind him is Kosmos's protege. Ye smiles and ominous fangs show.

The horses whinny. Before the soldier can react, he is bitten in the neck.

The soldier struggles to get free. He pulls his dagger and stabs at the hungry vampire, but no effect.

His eyes roll backwards in his head as the creature feasts. The dagger falls from his hands.

EXT. ROMAN GARRISON - DAY

The horse drawn chariot slowly trots up to the fort. The sentry looks at it funny, then gets closer.

The head of the soldier is impaled on a sword. The headless body in the middle of the chariot. He stops the horse and waves others to look.

EXT. STREETS OF CAPERNAUM - NIGHT

A crowd is gathered around Christ. Judas looks around himself, then sneaks away from the preoccupied on-lookers.

EXT. ALLEY - NIGHT

Looking paranoid, Judas checks around himself again, Not a soul is around. He pulls a bag from his robe. Judas pours out the contents into his hands.

He puts one coin in his pocket, then one back into the bag. Coin after coin, the thief grins.

JUDAS

One for you, one for me. Ha,
Matthew isn't the only tax
collector among us.

YE (O.C.)

Thief, yes. Tax? No.

Judas spins around quickly and ends up dropping some coins. He is face to face with Ye. His eyes look different now.

JUDAS

Hey, where did you come from? No one was here.

YE

Friend, steal from the Nazarene all you wish. I kinda like that.

Judas bends down and picks up the spilled coins.

JUDAS

Stealing? Me? No, I was just, um, separating the money so--

YE

Save it. Why do you follow this man?

JUDAS

I will convince him to drive off the Romans and free our people.

YE

How is that working?

JUDAS

Takes time. What are you doing here?

YE

I wanted to thank you for the introduction to Kosmos. Look, it worked.

He raises himself a foot in the air and hovers. Awestruck, Judas looks on, jaw on the floor.

JUDAS

What? How?

YE

My powers now rival your Messiah. If you want to defeat Rome, join me instead. Let me show you how I do it. Be right back.

Suddenly the hovering man disappears. Judas looks around, confused, then goes back to pocketing coins. THUD. A loud crunch is heard behind him, followed by MOANING.

He turns to see a centurion, prostrate, dazed and bleeding. Floating above him, the son of Caiaphas.

JUDAS

What in the name of Moses have you done? He'll have us killed.

YE

You want to defeat Rome. Yet you are afraid of a singular soldier? This is how we will deal with them.

The vampire dives, face first for the Roman's neck. Judas sees the huge fangs as they penetrate the jugular.

The soldier twitches a while as the SLURPING sound of his blood being drained is heard. Judas backs up against the wall.

When finished, Ye smiles at Judas as blood drips from his mouth.

The son of the High Priest, pokes his fingers into the two insertion points on the neck. He rips the head from the shoulders in a single motion.

Ye holds the head close to Judas, who turns to the side and vomits. The vampire laughs, then tosses the decapitated head over several buildings. Judas trembles in fear.

JUDAS

Please don't kill me. Have mercy.

YE

Harm you? No, I will help you, When the time is right, you will join me and we will watch Rome be crushed. Shortly, we will meet at the temple for the next phase.

JUDAS

I don't understand.

YE

You will.

Again, the vampire vanishes. Breathing hard, Judas looks at the headless corpse of the soldier and dashes out of the alley, fear and amazement in his eyes.

INT. POTTERY STORE - DAY

A smiling customer leaves with a vase as Lazarus, Martha and Mary wave good-bye.

MARTHA

The sales leading up to this
Passover have been tremendous.

MARY

It's great. I'm surprised your
brother isn't more excited.

Lazarus has a far away look, then turns back to them and smiles. He hesitates before answering.

LAZARUS

You know how I have been spending
time with Christ? I truly think he
may be the Messiah. He asked me
once to lay down my riches and
follow him.

MARY

I remember.

LAZARUS

Well, I think now might be that
time. Would you be mad?

MARTHA

Of course not. If you can help
him, please do.

They all hug and smile.

LAZARUS

I don't think he needs my help,
honestly. I'm sure I'll receive
more than I could ever give.

MARTHA

You have our full support.

Lazarus smiles from ear to ear.

LAZARUS

Thank you. I'll close the store
for the night and meet you for
dinner, sound good?

The sisters hug him again as they exit the store.

INT. POTTERY STORE - NIGHT

Lazarus blows out some candles on the way to the door. He stops to admire the rows of fine ceramics that was his life.

LAZARUS

I have to leave you my friends.
You have served me well. Now, I
must serve a higher purpose.

A KNOCK at the door startles Lazarus. He goes to the door, then hesitates. He stops.

LAZARUS (CONT'D)

We are closed, friend. Come back
tomorrow.

More KNOCKS. Lazarus exhales and rolls his eyes. He goes to the door and opens it. Standing before him is Kosmos in elegant garments.

LAZARUS (CONT'D)

My apologies, sir. We have closed
for the evening. Tomorrow --

KOSMOS

Please, sir. Hear me out. Bandits
attacked me, took all of my money.

LAZARUS

That's horrible. Come in, brother.
Are you injured?

Kosmos picks up a box near his feet and walks inside.

KOSMOS

Thank you for your kindness.

Lazarus motions for him to take a seat on a stool. Kosmos smiles as Lazarus pulls over a seat for himself.

KOSMOS (CONT'D)

Not injured, but it was an ordeal.
They took everything. I was able
to hide this. I need to sell it so
I can leave this cursed town.

LAZARUS

I see. Well, guess I can try to
help. What do you have?

Kosmos grins as he opens the box and starts to pull out an ancient looking ceramic vase. The artwork on it is exquisite and it is trimmed in gold, as is the lid.

KOSMOS

Like it? This water vase is from the palace of Queen Jezebel herself. It's priceless.

With huge eyes, Lazarus inspects the precious piece.

LAZARUS

Oh my. Breath-taking. So beautiful. Look at those markings. Yes, I think it is authentic.

KOSMOS

Is it possible to purchase it from me? I need the money badly. If you think the outside is pretty, just inspect the inside.

Lazarus smiles back to him. The grin on Kosmos looks a bit sinister.

LAZARUS

Alright. Can't wait to see it.

KOSMOS

It's dark. You may have to get close to it.

Lazarus nods and moves close to the ancient jug. He gently lifts the lid.

Suddenly a viper snake launches itself at him. The fangs sink into his shoulder before he can react.

Lazarus wrestles the snake and finally pulls it off his body. He starts to stumble. He looks to Kosmos, who is laughing.

KOSMOS (CONT'D)

Surprise! That never gets old.

The body of Lazarus hits the floor. He starts to convulse. Kosmos picks up the snake, kisses it and puts it back into Jezebel's jar.

LATER

Mary, Martha and a SERVANT BOY (Teen) enter the store.

MARTHA

We probably passed him on the way over here. You know that boy is never late for dinner.

MARY

Why isn't it dark in here? Maybe
he's in the--

They all look down and see Lazarus at the same moment. They both SCREAM. They both go to their knees. Lazarus turns his head and blinks at them. A single tear runs.

MARTHA

He's still alive. Lazarus, what
happened?

No words come. The effects of the venom can be seen on him. Mary turns to the servant.

MARY

Quick. Get Yeshua, the Nazarene.
He is where John baptized the
people, near the Jordan River.

MARTHA

Take the horse and whatever you
need. Please, go quickly.

SERVANT BOY

Yes ma'am.

EXT. BANKS OF THE RIVER JORDAN - DAY

Christ leaves a gathering of followers that had surrounded him. He walks closer to the shore.

PETER

Is all alright, Rabbi?

CHRIST

I just need a moment to myself.
Can you keep the others away?

Peter nods back dutifully. Christ walks a bit farther, then sits on a rock. He gazes across the glittering water.

FLASHBACK

Christ stands in the water next to JOHN THE BAPTIST, who looks out of place in his primitive attire.

John steadies his back as he is reclined into the water. Fully submerged, the sun seems to come out and shine brighter than ever.

As John brings him back to standing position, his white garments seem to glow. Christ looks over himself, then cranes his head to the heavens above.

BACK TO SCENE

Christ notices a shadow in front of him. It is Peter. Concern is on his face.

PETER

Master, I apologize. A servant is here from the house of Lazarus. He has urgent news.

The Servant Boy stands next to the horse. Christ beckons him over. He dashes.

SERVANT BOY

Lord, the one you love is sick. My master, Lazarus, looks like he could die at any moment.

After rubbing his hands together and a deep exhale ...

CHRIST

This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it.

The Servant Boy looks at Peter, confused. Peter studies Christ, whose attention goes back to the Jordan river.

PETER

Tell Mary and Martha we will be there soon.

The Servant Boy bows to them both.

SERVANT BOY

Yes, sir. Thank you.

He runs to his steed and gallops off. Christ watches him leave, then closes his eyes.

SUPER - FOUR DAYS LATER

EXT. OUTSKIRTS OF BETHANY - DAY

In the shade of several trees, Christ and the disciples take a water break. Peter gives Judas the side-eye as he walks over to the Nazarene. He points down the road.

PETER

Rabbi, is that his sister?

Sprinting with tears in her eyes is Martha. When she reaches them, she hugs Christ tight then falls to his feet, weeping.

MARTHA

Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.

CHRIST

Your brother will rise again.

She hangs her head.

MARTHA

I know. He will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.

Christ stands, then gently lifts her to his feet and looks deeply into her eyes.

CHRIST

I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me - will never die. Do you believe this?

She hugs him again as tears flow.

MARTHA

Yes, Lord. I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world. I must tell my sister you are here.

Martha stands, gently touches his face and smiles. She turns and walks with haste, back to her house.

PETER

Sad news. He was a good man.

On the road, a man on horseback gets closer to the encampment. Both the horse and rider are heavily decorated. Jewels and gold twinkle in the sunlight.

The horse slows down when near them. The rider turns and smiles at Christ. It is Kosmos.

Peter pulls his sword. After their eyes meet, Kosmos gallops away, full speed.

PETER (CONT'D)

Know him? What was that about?

CHRIST

My time draws near.

As they look ahead of them, not only is Mary with Martha, but also all who came to mourn the passing of Lazarus. Overtaken with grief, Mary runs to him and falls to his feet.

MARY

Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.

Christ looks at the pain in the eyes of Mary and the other mourners. Emotion is in his voice.

CHRIST

Where have you laid him?

MARY

Come and see, Lord. It is not far.

Mary gets up, wipes her tears, then sees tears fall from his face too. They hug, then she takes Christ by the hand as she leads him there. All others follow as the sun starts to set on the horizon.

EXT. THE TOMBS - NIGHT

Men light torches and set them in the side of a mountain, near its cave. A large boulder covers its entrance.

An owl HOOTS from a nearby tree. A breeze blows dead leaves by them. Christ strides to the mouth of the cave, then closes his eyes.

CHRIST

Take away the stone.

Martha stands next to Christ and speaks in a low voice.

MARTHA

But, Lord, by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days.

CHRIST

Sister. Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?

His disciples quickly move to the boulder. It takes all twelve men, but they roll it out of its position.

The dark interior of the cave stares back at the Nazarene. He tilts his head towards the heavens.

CHRIST (CONT'D)

Father, I thank you, that you have heard me. I know that you always hear me, but I say this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.

Christ stretches his arm out towards the cave. The wind blows harder. In a mighty voice that reverberates off of the mountain and resounds into the cave ...

CHRIST (CONT'D)

LAZARUS, COME OUT!

A quick spark is seen in the darkness of the cave. Then silence. Then a sound is heard from inside. THUMP, THUMP, THUMP. It gets louder with each thud.

Suddenly a large group of bats fly outside at the same time. All the people duck, except Christ. His eyes are focused on the cave.

Judas takes a torch and goes closer to the entrance. THUMP, THUMP, THUMP.

Judas peers in. His eyes get wide and his body trembles. He drops the torch and runs SCREAMING. He stops running when he is safely behind Christ. He breathes heavy.

PETER

What? What did you see?

After one last THUMP, all turn to see a figure standing at the entrance. Burial cloths are loose, but he is still bound at the feet.

Martha faints. Many gasp. Others back-up in fear. Christ smiles widely.

CHRIST

Take off the grave clothes and let him go.

JUDAS

I-I ain't going near that thing.

Peter rolls his eyes and goes over to the mummy-like figure. Mary tends to her sister and sends the Servant Boy to help remove the burial cloths.

As the bandages are removed from his face, Lazarus blinks to adjust his eyes.

The first face he sees is Christ. The Messiah smiles back to him, then they hug in joy.

INT. HOME OF LAZARUS - NIGHT

A grand Passover meal enough to feed thirty people has been devoured. Pans and dishes, mostly empty, clutter tables.

Lazarus sits next to Christ and the two share a laugh. All others around enjoy the humor also.

LAZARUS

... So I open my eyes and what do I see? The Messiah here pointing at me like I just stole his chicken.

The room full of people laugh hard.

LAZARUS (CONT'D)

If I could've ran, I would have. Did all I could not to pee on my burial cloths.

Christ laugh so hard a tear runs down his cheek. Lazarus sees it and gives a loving elbow nudge to the Rabbi.

LAZARUS (CONT'D)

But seriously, this man did the impossible, proving that he is who he says he is. Lets show some love and gratitude.

Lazarus stands, hold his glass high. Others follow.

LAZARUS (CONT'D)

To a long life, more laughter, deep appreciation and thanks. My brother, my Rabbi and our Messiah. Yeshua of Nazareth.

Goblets are drained in the toast. Christ nods humbly. Mary walks in from another room with an ornately decorated jar. She stops in front of Christ and breaks the seal.

MARY

I can't make you laugh like my brother, but I want to show you, just how much you are loved. I've been saving this for something special. Like you.

Now, standing behind him, she pours some onto his woolly hair and massages his scalp. Christ closes his eyes and enjoys.

PETER

Wow, Mary. That smells good.

MARY

Only the best. For the best.

After she finished the scalp, she moves in front of him and removes his sandals. She pours the perfumed oil on his feet and rubs them. Judas has a sour look on his face.

JUDAS

Why wasn't this ointment sold for three hundred shillings, and given to the poor? To what purpose is this waste?

LAZARUS

This is my house, Judas. My sister can do what she wants. Not your business, ... Old buddy.

Lazarus stares down his old friend, no smile, as a rift in their relationship is seen.

CHRIST

Why trouble this woman? She has done a beautiful thing for me. For the poor, you will have always with you. Anytime, you can do them good: but me, you will not always have.

Looking Christ up and down, he is confused.

LAZARUS

What do you mean Rabbi? Stay here as long as you want.

Christ smiles to him, but no humor is involved.

CHRIST

She has done what she could and anointed my body beforehand ... For my burial.

(MORE)

CHRIST (CONT'D)

Whenever this gospel shall be preached throughout the whole world, what this woman has done shall be spoken of as a memorial of her.

Mary smiles up at him, tear in her eyes. She then dries his feet with her very own hair. Lazarus sees her tears.

LAZARUS

Thanks, Judas. We were in full celebration and you poison it with your nonsense. Even got the Rabbi here, talking about dying.

JUDAS

I was just--

LAZARUS

Enough. I don't know who you are anymore.

Judas is hurt, gets up and goes outdoors. Others follow, but none are apostles.

EXT. HOME OF LAZARUS - NIGHT

The men gather around Judas. A sinister look is on his face.

JUDAS

Tell Caiaphas what you have seen here. He cares not about the people anymore. Only himself. I will seek counsel with them tomorrow.

They nod back, light torches and walk towards Jerusalem.

EXT. JERUSALEM TEMPLE - NIGHT

The men who were at Bethany, speak before Caiaphas and his son. The High Priest rubs his long beard.

CAIAPHAS

This is most disturbing. Thank you all. I have to think deeply on this matter.

Caiaphas waves them off. He is left standing with his son.

YE

Me? I think we ought to have him killed. He is a threat to our way of life and our nation's existence.

CAIAPHAS

But people say he performs miracles. A dead man back to life?

Hanging his head, Caiaphas looks confused and agonized.

YE

Dad, let's go inside. I have a plan that will save us all.

They walk inside as the son grins devilishly.

EXT. HOME OF LAZARUS - DAY

Christ and Lazarus walk ahead of his disciples and other followers. Judas still seems upset about the night before. The pottery merchant looks disappointed.

LAZARUS

Let them try and kill me. So what. Bring me back in front of all Jerusalem, so they know what I know. The temple is yours.

CHRIST

I do not desire the temple. It's better if you stay here. Protect your sisters. You will know the right time to see me again. Later, I will return the visit.

The group walks farther.

LAZARUS

I'm not scared.

CHRIST

I did not say you were.

Two disciples scurry up to Christ dragging along a young donkey. They beam as they bring it to him.

PETER

Here he is. Right where you said he'd be.

Some disciples put their robes on the back of the donkey to cushion the ride. Lazarus adds his garment last.

LAZARUS

Why not a horse? A mighty steed to help project your power and authority?

Turning to him, Christ smiles back.

CHRIST

It is a prophecy I must fulfill. One of many. Horses are used for war. Donkeys are used for peace time. Planting. Understand?

LAZARUS

Uh, not really, but I trust you.

Christ stops and gives him a tight hug with misty eyes. He hesitates before letting go.

CHRIST

Your faith is strong. We will see each other shortly, beloved.

Lazarus waves goodbye to Christ and his caravan of followers. He stands in the road watching until they have cleared a hill. He wipes a tear, then heads back to his house.

EXT. STREETS OF JERUSALEM - NIGHT

Judas points to a fine robe at the merchant's stand. The smiling merchant hands it to him. Judas puts it on and admires himself in it.

He looks around himself quickly, then gives the merchant some coins.

He marches down the avenue, full of himself. Suddenly an arm is wrapped around his waist and he is yanked skyward. His eyes, panicked.

EXT. ROOFTOP - NIGHT

Above the city, a landscape of lighted homes. As soon as his feet touch down on top of the dwelling, Judas spins around. Before him, grins Ye. His eyes glow and blood is around his mouth. He's not happy.

YE

You! How could you allow him to destroy my tables at the temple?

Judas backs up in fear.

JUDAS

I, well, how could I stop him?

Still angry, the vampire kicks a bucket and it goes so far, it lands out of sight. Breathing heavy, frowning, he turns.

YE

I will stop him. You will help me.

The eyes burn into Judas. He swallows hard.

JUDAS

Yes. Of course.

YE

Come with me to my father's house.
We must plan his capture. Let me
finish dinner first.

In the corner of the roof, a Roman soldier with a bloody neck tries to crawl away. He is picked up by his rib cage as the vampire feasts on his neck. Judas, turns away, disgusted.

EXT. TEMPLE - NIGHT

Various Rabbis leave through the gate. The last to leave are Judas and the undercover vampire.

YE

We are clear, are we not?

Looking around his surroundings, Judas almost whispers as he responds to him.

JUDAS

Yes. I must go now. See you in a
few hours.

YE

I'll be watching.

EXT. HOUSE OF MALCHUS - NIGHT

A DOG races up to an isolated house, then slows down. It goes behind a tree. On the other side of the tree, we see the dog has transformed into Ye. He strolls to the front of the house.

MALCHUS (40's) , built like a gladiator, sweats as he loads up a wagon. Children run around him. He sees Ye and waves.

MALCHUS

Rabbi? What are you doing out this time of night?

YE

I have a special job for you.

MALCHUS

Soon as I load this wagon, I'm gone. Moving to Damascus. My dad has fallen ill.

YE

Sorry to lose you, Malchus. You were our best palace guard. Safe travels, my friend.

They hug and Ye walks back the way he came. Out of their sights, he ducks behind the tree again. This time, he comes out as Malchus on the others side. He smiles, turns into a bat, then flies away.

EXT. ALLEY - NIGHT

Crouched in the shadows, Judas guzzles wine, straight from the bottle. Some dribblers down the front of his garments. He could care less, More is gulped. He acts stressed.

As he looks down, a pair of feet in sandals stand in front of him. He looks up. Ye sneers down at him.

YE

Did you do it yet?

Judas takes another swig and looks away.

JUDAS

I've been thinking--

Ye slaps the wine away from the drunkard. It shatters against the opposite wall of the alley.

YE

No one asked you to 'think'.

Judas is picked with one hand, by the scruff of his collar. Fear is in the eyes of the wine drinker.

YE (CONT'D)

Get it done. Do I myself clear?

JUDAS

Yes sir.

The grasp is released and Judas topples to the ground.

YE

Good, if it goes well, I may give you some of my powers. I might need an assistant. I'll walk you to the palace guards.

EXT. STREETS OF JERUSALEM - NIGHT

Judas and Ye walk down the deserted twilight street. The traitor looks nervous.

JUDAS

What if his men attack me?

YE

You will have armed guards.

JUDAS

I doubt they will risk their lives for me. You don't know, Peter. I'm a dead man.

With closed eyes, Judas rubs his face with his hands and groans loudly.

When he looks back over to his escort, his eyes get big. Malchus now walks beside him. Judas stops, stunned.

JUDAS (CONT'D)

What? How?

YE/MALCHUS

No need to worry about Peter or any of the others. I have powers too. Hurry along. No time to waste.

Judas rushes to catch up with his friend in disguise.

EXT. GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE - NIGHT

The moonlight reveals almost a dozen prostrate bodies, asleep. In a nearby clearing, Christ sits alone. Eyes closed, a PURPLE GLOW seems to emanate from the top of his head and covers his body.

CHRIST (V.O.)

Father, thank you for letting me glorify your name. This journey. The memories.

SERIES OF SHOTS

Faces of Lazarus, Mary, Martha, Peter, John the Baptist, Bartimeaus, Rebecca, Yosef, Hannah, giggling babies, sunsets.

BACK TO SCENE

Christ takes a deep breath and lets it out quickly. With tension etched into his eyebrows, he tilts his head to the heavens as he agonizes. The purple aura around him, starts to fade.

The sound of LAUGHTER causes him to open his eyes. Before him, in the most fancy garments of the time, stands Kosmos. A large smile dons his face. He half-giggles his words.

KOSMOS

My friend, my friend. Is this the end?

CHRIST

Be gone.

KOSMOS

You knew I had to try one more time. You're like a long lost brother to me. Hate to see you make a mistake like this.

Christ stares him down.

CHRIST

I am not your brother. Nothing I have done or will do is a mistake.

EXT. STATION OF THE PALACE GUARDS - NIGHT

Ye/Malchus and Judas stroll up to the troops who mill around outside. When they see Malchus, they stand at attention. He turns to Judas.

MALCHUS

I will do the talking.

The imposter addresses his battalion.

MALCHUS (CONT'D)

Our mission tonight is to arrest a mad man claiming to be another messiah. This is Judas, he will point him out.

The traitor flashes an uneasy smile.

EXT. GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE - NIGHT

Christ stares at the starry night above, then cuts his eyes to the side and sees Kosmos studying him.

CHRIST
Why are you still here?

KOSMOS
Let me remind you. All those that you love will be hunted down, tortured and killed. All of them. And for what? This lost species?

Kosmos gets up and moves in front of him.

KOSMOS (CONT'D)
One of your CHOSEN already turned against you, easily. He saw your miracles, looked in your eyes, felt your love, heard your truth.

He stoops so he is eye to eye with Christ.

KOSMOS (CONT'D)
Yet, thirty pieces of silver and a handful of lies is enough to get him to cause -- your rather humiliating death.

Christ turns away.

KOSMOS (CONT'D)
What about those who never met you? How strong will their faith and loyalty be? I know mankind.

Kosmos maneuvers to get in his line of sight again.

KOSMOS (CONT'D)
They will twist your words so they can make money from it. Twist what you look like and even change your name, Yeshua.

Christ gives a deep exhale and looks past him, to the heavens.

KOSMOS (CONT'D)

You know it's true. They will
desecrate all you will suffer for,
so they can control the masses,
exploit each other and even kill in
your name.

EXT. STREETS OF JERUSALEM - NIGHT

Judas leads Malchus and troops. As they march, folks who are
roadside, point to Judas and whisper. Disapproving looks are
given. Judas flips his cloak over his head.

INT. POTTERY STORE - NIGHT

Lazarus stands, eyes captured by a ball of clay. He smiles,
lights more candles and sits down, The artist starts to mold
with his hands, lost in the moment.

EXT. GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE - NIGHT

Kosmos extends his hand to Christ.

KOSMOS

We can just walk away right now.

Christ turns his whole body to the side.

CHRIST

You are wasting my time. Be gone,

KOSMOS

Oh, still not getting through?
Let's try this.

Kosmos spins, when he faces Christ again, he is the splitting
image of the savior. Now twice the amount of gold. The
outer garments are glittery, as is his crown. Golden and
inlaid with rare gems.

KOSMOS (CONT'D)

This is how you should look, my
friend. And this is how you could
live.

Gorgeous women from all races walk out from the woods in sexy
clothes in line with each's culture. They walk near Christ
and writhe seductively.

KOSMOS (CONT'D)

A different woman every night if
you like. The best of the best.
You have the power to take Rome and
all it controls for your own.

The women kiss and hug the fake Christ. He lustfully kisses
back a few.

KOSMOS (CONT'D)

Now, this is the life, Start your
kingdom on Earth and have your
soldiers enforce your laws.
Everyone is happy, right?

EXT. STREETS OF JERUSALEM - NIGHT

The troops stop where the road meets a wooded area. Judas
seems afraid as his eyes dart back and forth. He tugs the
cloak of fake Malchus.

JUDAS

You will protect me, right?

Malchus nods. When Judas is not looking, he rolls his eyes.

EXT. GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE - NIGHT

Kosmos, still impersonating an imperial Christ, dances in a
raunchy way with the half naked women. Christ turns away.

Kosmos sighs, then snaps his fingers. The women go back to
the woods and fade from view. He blows them a kiss.

KOSMOS

Whew, you don't know what you're
missing, my friend. Alright, lets
go deeper, shall we?

Kosmos rubs his chin in deep thought.

KOSMOS (CONT'D)

What else could you have if you
walk away today? How about a
family?

A beautiful woman emerges from the woods, portraying his WIFE
(30's). Four CHILDREN (4 TO 12) giggle and play around her.
They see Kosmos playing Christ and run up to him.

CHILDREN

Papa, papa. We love you.

The wife walks up and caresses his chest. She kisses him sweetly and smiles.

WIFE

I do too.

Kosmos picks up the smallest one, holds it in one arm and hugs his wife with the other. He smiles wide. Christ starts to sweat.

KOSMOS

You have not experienced life yet. A family? You'd love it. Cute aren't they? This one has your eyes.

Christ steals a quick glance.

KOSMOS (CONT'D)

Even just postpone it ten years. Would that matter so much? You're only thirty-three. At least wait until you get your first gray hair.

Kosmos strokes his jet black locks.

KOSMOS (CONT'D)

Think of how much more that you could teach. How many more could become true believers.

INT. POTTERY STORE - NIGHT

Lazarus continues to work the clay. It is in the shape of a small jar now.

EXT. WILDERNESS - NIGHT

The troopers march through the woods. A sign pointing to the garden is ahead.

EXT. GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE - NIGHT

Christ watches the children play, it affects him, tears run.

KOSMOS

Would you willingly put one of these cute children through what you will go through? Make them a human sacrifice, and for what?

Hanging his head, Christ wipes tears away.

KOSMOS (CONT'D)
 God doesn't make sense. 2000 years
 from now, humans will still rape,
 enslave, and slaughter each other.

Kosmos and his fake family move closer to Christ.

KOSMOS (CONT'D)
 If you're lucky, you MIGHT find a
 handful of followers who truly
 follow your example. Again, my
 friend. It's not worth it.

The sweat on Christ, now turns to droplets of blood.

INT. POTTERY STORE - NIGHT

Now at a table, Lazarus uses a metal tool to form decorations on the exterior of the small jar. Next, a large kiln is fired up by Lazarus. Martha walks in.

MARTHA
 I thought you were done with the
 business.

LAZARUS
 Making one last piece for Christ.
 It's not everyday that someone
 brings you back from the dead,
 right?

He playfully winks and beams at her.

LAZARUS (CONT'D)
 I'll fill it with perfumed nard.
 He liked that.

EXT. GATES OF THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE - NIGHT

The troopers stand at the entrance. A decorative metal fence, in front of them. Malchus opens it and lets everyone through. His smile is wide.

EXT. GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE - NIGHT

Christ leers at Kosmos as blood drips from his pores.

CHRIST

Not worthy? You are not in a position to judge my mission. How can they not be worthy when my father dwells in each and every soul?

He stares into the eyes of the fake savior.

CHRIST (CONT'D)

When man prays to God, It brings him joy to experience his creation through millions of different lives.

Christ, emotional, puts his hand over his heart.

CHRIST (CONT'D)

It warms his heart to see although man has free will and many temptations, some have decided to do his bidding to love and help one another.

Pointing to the heavens, Christ gets louder.

CHRIST (CONT'D)

Despite the horrible record. When man has faith in God, it generates God's faith and trust in them. If God has trust in man, he can invest in him also. It creates a oneness. My way, is the only way to save humans from themselves.

KOSMOS

Build your kingdom with these weak earthlings so I can watch it crumble. Look around. Humans follow me. I can't believe you are so stupid.

Christ jumps to his feet and gets in the face of the imposter. Twin images, inches apart.

CHRIST

Be gone.

With a step back and a wave of his hand. A mighty wind comes from nowhere and the illusion of the Christ look-alike, starts to rip way from body of Kosmos. Not only clothes, but also skin.

When the wind stops, he resembles a peeled grape. Bloody and without skin, only the muscular structure remains. Kosmos looks down at himself and then grins, with no lips.

KOSMOS

How cute. A new outfit? A little breezy though. You will pay dearly for this. I can't wait to watch.

The two opposing supernatural forces, stare each other down.

Immediately, skin and hair grows back. Soon, Kosmos is back to normal and sports the same outfit he wore when he first arrived in the garden.

KOSMOS (CONT'D)

I try to help you and you treat me like this? So disappointing.

CHRIST

All you can deliver is illusions. You are division, isolation, materialism, greed, wasted lifetimes, cowardice, lies, false reality and shameless ego.

KOSMOS

I force no one. They have chosen my way.

CHRIST

You use fear to motive people, I use hope. I am willing to self-sacrifice, so others find hope and strength from my example.

KOSMOS

Ah, yes. Your precious few.

CHRIST

Yes. I'm doing this to inspire the few, so they can stand up to you and your wickedness. Not worth it for the few? Your game is weak. It won't take many to destroy you.

Kosmos cackles with laughter as he paces in front of Christ.

KOSMOS

You drank too much Passover wine, Rabbi. You placed your bet on a losing team. Run while you still can. This species doesn't know the love you speak of and never will.

CHRIST

God is pure love, the most powerful entity in this dimension. They will someday realize that the love that I speak of is already built into the soul.

The evil one waves him off with a hand gesture.

KOSMOS

I will make love a thing that they run away from. Make it a sign of weakness, something to be mocked, kindness to be exploited. The only love they will have is the lust for power, greed and selfishness.

CHRIST

It's never too late for them to turn against your ways and fight you and your lies. I gladly will spill my blood to see the day love wins. And it will.

INT. POTTERY STORE - NIGHT

The newly finished, ornamental jar sparkles as Lazarus holds it up to the lantern's light. Martha admires it and lets out a squeal of delight.

MARTHA

That's the most beautiful piece you have ever made. Look at that. Let's go to the house and fill it with nard perfume. He'll love it.

Proud of his work, the craftsman's satisfaction is shown on his face.

LAZARUS

I'll bring it to him tomorrow.

He takes one more moment of adoration, then extinguishes the source of light.

EXT. GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE - NIGHT

Frustrated, Kosmos paces in front of Christ, who ignores him and looks to the sky.

KOSMOS

You don't have much more time, my friend. You can do this later. Don't be a fool.

CHRIST

You're the fool. That's why you were expelled from heaven.

It is seen on the face of Kosmos that Christ hit a raw nerve. Rage makes his body tremble.

KOSMOS

I come here to save your life and you speak to me like that?

The eyeballs of Kosmos turn black. His mouth scowls.

KOSMOS (CONT'D)

Don't you know who I am?

With eyes locked on Christ, chunks of flesh start to fall off of his body as he contorts violently.

Horns and a tail start to sprout from him. His skin looks blistered and burned. Now on hoofs, he towers three feet above Christ.

Chest heaving in anger, steam and spittle are released as he breathes through jagged teeth. He looks to Christ for a reaction, but none is forthcoming.

Christ calmly parts his garments to reveal his chest. It seems to glow. The smile on his face exudes confidence.

CHRIST

The question is ... Do you know who I AM?

A blinding flash of white light shoots from his chest. Kosmos covers his face. The light beam hits the devil and his body explodes.

Only embers are left, floating, then falling to earth as ashes.

Christ goes to his knees and prays hard as veins bulge and blood oozes out of his sweat glands.

CHRIST (CONT'D)

Father, for you, all things are possible; remove this cup from me.

The rock he prays on starts to glow. It spreads onto Christ and engulfs his entire body, the retracts in seconds.

KOSMOS (O.S.)
 This is not over my friend.
 Remember me when you taste the lash
 and when you are hung high.

Opening his eyes, Christ looks up at a twinkling star.

CHRIST
 Not what I want, but what you want.

EXT. ENTRY TO THE GARDEN - NIGHT

Judas, fake Malchus and the palace guards stop in their tracks as they see the bright flash of light from somewhere in the garden. Mouths hang open.

JUDAS
 Did you see that?

MALCHUS
 Must be lightning. Nothing to
 worry about. Let's go.

JUDAS
 But there's not a cloud in the sky.

Malchus shoves Judas forward.

MALCHUS
 I said, let's go.

They enter a clearing and see the disciples spread out on the ground and fast asleep. The sound of clunky body armor stirs Peter. He looks up to see soldiers.

CHRIST (O.C.)
 Are you still sleeping? Look, the
 hour has come, and the Son of Man
 is delivered into the hands of
 sinners. Here comes my betrayer.

Peter looks over to see Christ with blood stains on his garments. He immediately grips his sword.

Judas hides himself behind Malchus. As the other disciples awaken, the eyes of Christ lock onto Judas.

CHRIST (CONT'D)
 Do what you came for, friend.

Judas trembles as he steps forward. He goes to Christ, avoiding eye contact, then kisses his cheek.

JUDAS
Greetings, Rabbi.

As Judas scurries back to safety, the physically larger Malchus grabs Christ by the collar and yanks him closer.

As another soldier tries to bind his hands with rope, Peter lunges through the crowd with his sword.

He strikes the head of Malchus, slicing his ear off. Blood squirts as the soldier screams. Peter takes a battle stance as the other palace guards look on in shock.

CHRIST
Put your weapon back in its place.
All who draw the sword will die by
the sword.

Christ picks up the dusty ear, blows the dirt off and reattaches it to Malchus. The bleeding and pain stops immediately. But Malchus still sneers at him.

Blood drips from the sword as Peter stands, dumbfounded.

CHRIST (CONT'D)
The Scriptures must be fulfilled
that say it must happen in this
way. Understand?

The hands of the Nazarene are bound and the palace guards march the arrested Messiah out of the garden.

PETER
No. NO! This can't be.

He drops the sword and collapses to his knees. Peter weeps bitterly as he uses the sword to stab the garden's soil, over and over again. Tears flow.

EXT. PALACE - NIGHT

Christ, face swollen, is roughly led away from the building and taken down the road. Priests and elders watch from the porch then disperse.

Behind them, Malchus emerges and strides the other way.

Judas peeks his head out from the alley, looks around and motions for his friend to join him. Malchus smiles.

EXT. ALLEY - NIGHT

Shaking, Judas is stressed and scared. Malchus comforts him with an arm around the shoulder and they dip deeper out of sight. The grin on the face of Malchus grows larger.

MALCHUS

You did a great job, my friend. Do not worry. I will reward you as promised.

JUDAS

They'll kill me. Especially, Peter. Everyone hates me. I hate myself. I can't take it.

Judas falls to his knees in tears. Malchus tips his head upwards so he looks in his eyes.

MALCHUS

Trust me. I will give you a life you never could dream of.

In front of the eyes of Judas, MALCHUS MORPHS BACK INTO HIS UNALTERED SELF AS YE. Judas backs away from him.

JUDAS

This is all too much. Too much. I can't take it.

Judas screams as he runs into the street like a madman.

EXT. ROWBOAT - NIGHT

Thick fog covers the surface of the water. A young centurion squints his eyes as he tries to navigate the waters. The sound of WILD ANIMALS pierce the night. Eyes big, sweating.

Suddenly, something knocks the boat. It rocks. The soldier braces himself. Slowly, he looks around himself. Heavy exhale, nothing there. He continues to row, until ...

... Something wet lands on his hand. Bird shit? No birds are out now. As he examines his left hand, a bat lands on his right hand, It bites, draws blood then flies away as the soldier swats at it and screams.

He wipes the blood on his garments then with panic in his eyes, he rows in double-time. Ahead, something black is seen in the fog, A column of bats zooms towards him. The soldier hears THE BEATING WINGS of the multitude as they converge.

Eyes closed, he ducks down and covers his head until the sound of the beasts vanishes. Covered in sweat, he looks up, The bats are gone. The temp drops, he shudders, gathers clothes tighter. A big exhale shows STEAMY BREATH.

He looks at his breath, confused. The rowing starts again. From behind him, another stream of hot breath blows over his shoulder. Terror on his face. Slowly he turns to the side.

Ye is on-board. A bat on each shoulder like pets. He smiles and winks at the horrified soldier.

YE

Moonlight and a rowboat. How romantic. All we need is wine.

Suddenly, Ye vanishes. The bats attack the soldier. He stands and tries to fight them off, arms thrashing. They leave. His chest heaves as he breathes.

YE (O.C.) (CONT'D)

Italian wine.

Eyes bulge as his body trembles. He sees Ye, inches from him. Fangs glimmer. Before the soldier can respond, Ye bites into his neck. He squirms, but soon starts to go limp.

As Ye feasts, a whirlpool appears next to the boat. Curious, he stops feeding. He sticks two fingers in the bite marks to stop blood flow and looks at the churning water, closer.

Out of the eye of the whirlpool, Kosmos emerges. He levitates above the river in his kingly outfit until the waters calm again. Kosmos floats down and lands on the surface of the waters without sinking. He walks towards Ye.

KOSMOS

Congratulations, my friend. You did it. On behalf of my kingdom, I thank you. In a matter of hours, the Nazarene will be dead.

Ye wipes blood off of his mouth and grins through red teeth.

YE

My master. A thousand thanks.

Now close to the boat, Kosmos extends his hand to him. Ye kisses his ring. Kosmos beams.

KOSMOS

Finish your meal. A party in your honor, awaits you.

As Ye removes his fingers from the soldier's throat, warm blood squirts into his mouth in a steady stream. Now drained, he rips off the corpse's head and flings it.

YE

I didn't know that you could walk on water, like-like him. Can you teach me, master?

Kosmos holds his arms out and beckons him forward.

KOSMOS

Come.

Ye steps out of the boat, eyes locked on Kosmos. He does not sink. Several more steps are taken. Ye is lit up with delight as he strolls across the water.

YE

Wow.

KOSMOS

Just don't look down.

Unable to control the impulse, the eyes of Ye, look towards his feet. Immediately he starts to sink. Kosmos catches him and pulls him up as he laughs.

YE

My apologies, master.

KOSMOS

As time passes, I will teach you many things. But now, we party.

Kosmos extends his finger at the boat with the headless corpse in it. A lightning bolt shoots forth. The boat explodes into a fireball. Embers look like fireworks in the night sky. Ye, amazed.

As the skyline display, dissipates, the water beneath them starts swirling. The whirlpool reappears and both men disappear into it.

INT. THE TEMPLE OF KOSMOS - NIGHT

The men are transported to a large hall that seems to have an ancient Babylonian design. Ye looks around, amazed at the gold, the scores of beautiful women and decadent artwork.

KOSMOS

This is another of my homes. Like it? I consider this my base camp.

YE

I've never seen such a place.

All people there turn towards Kosmos and bow. One servant brings two carafes of wine to Kosmos.

KOSMOS

My people, please welcome a hero.
He has rid the earth of the stench
of Christ and his threat to the
natural order.

The crowd applauds. Ye acts humbled.

KOSMOS (CONT'D)

I demand that he be treated like
the royalty that he is.

Kosmos gives Ye one of the carafes and motions for him to follow. They stroll over to magnificent thrones. Kosmos takes the larger, more regal throne, He points to the small throne on his right side. Ye sits there.

Provocatively dressed women serve them grapes, bread and other foods.

YE

The women here are the most
gorgeous I've ever seen.

KOSMOS

Eat, drink, take a few over to the
room I have prepared for you. We
will meet back here later.

Ye grins so wide his face almost cracks.

EXT. HOME OF LAZARUS - DAY

Lazarus prepares his wagon in the bright morning sun. He gently puts the newly made jar of nard into a larger box, cushioned with hay. He climbs in, proceeds down the road.

INT. THE TEMPLE OF KOSMOS - NIGHT

Ye stumbles towards Kosmos, propped up by two women. The wine in his goblet spills a bit on the way over to him. Ye collapses into the smaller throne, wasted.

KOSMOS

My friend, all is well?

YE

To me, this is heaven. I cannot thank you enough.

KOSMOS

I'm pleased. Please, try this. It is from a far away kingdom. Will give you energy.

From a nearby stand, Kosmos brings forth a golden platter with white lines of powder on it. Kosmos demonstrates how to snort it. Ye follows the example. His eyes perk up.

YE

Wow. I feel so powerful.

KOSMOS

Good. I have a gift for you. To truly enjoy it, you might have to work up a sweat.

YE

Another woman?

KOSMOS

No, follow me.

Kosmos leads Ye to a dark room, lit up with torches.

EXT. ROAD TO JERUSALEM - DAY

As Lazarus travels, he passes several people on foot. Two women ahead look familiar to him. He slows the wagon.

LAZARUS

Excuse me, sisters. I think I've met you before, with Christ, the Nazarene.

The women are Hannah and Rebecca. They beam with happiness.

REBECCA

Yes, you were there when I was healed. I remember you. How have you been, brother?

LAZARUS

I'm better now. On my way to see if I can celebrate Passover with the healer himself.

HANNAH

We are going to Jerusalem for the same reason. He changed our lives.

Lazarus stops the wagon and motion for them to climb aboard.

LAZARUS

I couldn't think of a better way to enjoy the ride. Join me.

INT. TORCH LIT ROOM - NIGHT

Kosmos and Ye flank a seated, hooded man. Something is pulled from the pocket of Kosmos.

KOSMOS

Here is your reward.

A coin is flipped through the air IN SLOW MOTION and Ye catches it with one hand. The dazed guest looks at it.

YE

A Roman coin? Uh, thank you.

KOSMOS

Look at it again?

As he does, Kosmos pulls the hood off of the hooded man who seems to be waking up. A laurel is still on his head. Ye looks at the coin and back at the man. His jaw drops.

YE

This can't be. Isn't he dead?

KOSMOS

I hold his eternal soul. He's not dead. Not till I say so.

JULIUS CAESAR (50'S), looks around, confused.

JULIUS CAESAR

What is this? Release me at once. I will have your heads. Do you know who I am?

KOSMOS

Are you the man that defeated the Jews and took Judea for your own?

The emperor stares at them both with contempt.

JULIUS CAESAR

Yes. Easy victory. They were not warriors. Barely men. They died like dogs. Then I took everything.

KOSMOS

Whoa, did you hear that? How does that make you feel?

A clenched fist slams into Caesar's jaw. Red-eyed, sweat streaming, Ye stares down at the conqueror.

YE

Makes me feel like giving him a thousand more, just like that.

JULIUS CAESAR

You must be a Jewish dog. You punch like a wounded fish.

Ye unleashes another four shots to the face. Caesar shakes it off and smiles at him through bloody teeth. He then spits a red blob onto Ye.

JULIUS CAESAR (CONT'D)

Are you married? Go home, your husband must be worried about you.

Already breathing hard, Ye winds up again, but is stopped by Kosmos. He whispers to him.

KOSMOS

Maybe use your new powers.

At first a blank stare. Then comes a smile, punctuated by his long fangs. A back-hand slap sends the chair and its occupant, toppling over. Fear is in Caesar's eyes.

Punch after punch comes at a blinding rate. Bloody knuckles do their work as Ye's robes get redder and redder.

KOSMOS (CONT'D)

Impressive. Enjoy your reward?

The sound of RIPPING MEAT is heard. As Ye gets to his feet, he holds the decapitated head of Caesar high.

YE

Love it. Wish my dad saw this.

As arteries hang, blood drips from Caesar's throat.

EXT. ROAD TO JERUSALEM - DAY

The wagon and its inhabitants converse through thicker foot traffic. The women have a stunned and puzzled look on their faces. Lazarus grins.

HANNAH

Really? That's unbelievable.

REBECCA

All of that time? Why did he wait?
You must've smelled like rotted
meat by then.

LAZARUS

I think he keep me there to erase
any doubts that I was dead.
Thereby, the miracle would be even
more tremendous.

HANNAH

Praise his Holy name. I thought my
miracle of being healed was
something. But you? Wow.

Lazarus reaches behind him and pulls the jar from the box.
His riders look on in awe.

LAZARUS

I made this for him last night.
Filled it with nard. You like?

Both women ogle the masterpiece with adoration.

REBECCA

I didn't know you had such talent.

HANNAH

He deserves it. Wish I could make
something like that. That's great.

As she hands it back to Lazarus, Rebecca turns to him.

REBECCA

What about the man who tried to
kill you? He must be found and
brought to justice.

HANNAH

He must be stopped before doing it
to someone else.

LAZARUS

I truly don't know if I should kill him or thank him. Christ showed his most powerful sign that he was Holy and used me to do it.

HANNAH

At least slap him around some. If you don't, I will.

They chuckle. Rebecca points ahead.

REBECCA

Look, the gates of Jerusalem.

The pedestrians are much more dense and the wagon must slow. Near the gate, a crowd gathers around an artist who is painting. His hands are a blur as he paints quickly. A wide brim hat to keep off the sun, hides his face.

Finished, the painter turns the artwork so the people in front of him can see it. It is a portrait of the young couple a few feet away. The detailed work is masterful.

HANNAH

Look, another artist.

Lazarus seems intrigued and pulls his wagon closer.

The young couple pay the painter, then hug him. His hat falls off. Lazarus shows shock when he recognizes the man once known as Blind Bartimeaus. The couple walks away happy.

LAZARUS

Bartimeaus? Is that you?

The painter squints his eyes against the sun as he looks to the elevated driver.

BARTIMAEUS

It is I. Hey, I remember you. The friend of Christ. Good to see you.

He strolls towards the wagon, big smile.

LAZARUS

You were blind. Now you can do this? Praise God.

BARTIMAEUS

Come down, brother. It would be a pleasure to create a piece for you.

LAZARUS

Would love to later. We are on our way to see Christ now.

Bartimeaus drops his brushes. Walks closer.

BARTIMAEUS

Would it be possible to join you? I never got a chance to really thank him for healing my eyes and well, my entire life.

LAZARUS

Please, come on aboard.

EXT. STREETS OF JERUSALEM - DAY

The wagon winds through the ancient city as Bartimeaus shows the occupants his portfolio of paintings. All are impressed.

HANNAH

Such talent. I've never seen anything like it.

BARTIMAEUS

This is the one I want to give to Christ. Think he'll like it?

The portrait shows Christ laughing with a bright sun over his shoulder and a purple aura surrounding him.

LAZARUS

I only wish I could be that good. You have a gift, my brother.

BARTIMAEUS

A gift given to me. I wasn't born like this. It's a debt I must repay. This is just the start.

HANNAH

A market is just ahead. Let's get food so we can have a Passover meal with him.

LAZARUS

Good idea.

They stop the wagon outside the market and get out. Suddenly dark clouds rush in overhead and start to fill the sky. The group goes to a food stand. Lazarus pays for it and cradles the groceries in his arms.

EXT. MARKETPLACE - NIGHT

As they go to the next stand, it is even darker than before.

REBECCA

My goodness, looks like midnight.

Lazarus looks to the sky, curiously. Just then, someone runs into him. The bread sprawls onto the ground. Furious, he snatches the culprit by the robes. It is Yosef.

YOSEF

My apologies, sir.

LAZARUS

Hey, I know you. Christ healed you, right?

Yosef nods yes, then falls to his knees and weeps bitterly.

BARTIMAEUS

What's wrong, young man?

YOSEF

They are killing him. Why? Why?

The other look among themselves, confused.

LAZARUS

Killing who? I don't understand.

Tears flow as he gets to his feet. He looks Lazarus in the eyes and clutches his robes. Fear and confusion on his face.

YOSEF

Christ from Nazareth. The Romans, the priests. I can't let it happen.

The look of heartbreak and anger covers all faces.

LAZARUS

Christ is being killed? No, this cannot be. Where?

YOSEF

Follow me.

LAZARUS

We can take the wagon. Show us. We will help you stop them.

All dash to the wagon and hop in. Lazarus fights tears.

EXT. ROAD TO GOLGATHA - NIGHT

The self-appointed rescue squad, careens down the rugged street with excessive speed. Just off the road, they see a body, hung by the neck, swinging in the breeze. Straining to see the face, Lazarus slows down.

The body, spun by the wind faces them. It is Judas. Lazarus turns away in horror.

LAZARUS

Good Lord. That's Judas. One of the disciples.

REBECCA

Do you think they are hunting down his followers?

LAZARUS

I don't know. This could be dangerous. If anyone wants to turn back, do it now. I understand.

No one moves. Their eyes show determination.

LAZARUS (CONT'D)

Alright. Let's get there before it's too late.

With haste, the wagon again speeds down the road.

EXT. GOLGATHA - NIGHT

The wagon comes to a stop in the daytime darkness. The passengers leap out, distressed. Torches and candles have been lit by the group of people at the execution sight.

Two men are already on the cross, writhing in pain, but neither of them are Christ.

LAZARUS

Are you sure he is to be killed?

YOSEF

Yes, I saw Pontius Pilate condemn him with my own eyes.

The sound of men, shouting in anger diverts their attention to a pair of Romans nearby. One is a Roman official from Pilate's court. The other is the commanding officer Lazarus met with Christ in Capernaum.

The Roman official waves off the officer and joins soldiers closer to the crosses. Anger and sadness spreads across the officer's face. He quickly wipes a tear away and turns.

With eyes searching for an answer, Donicus studies the face of the officer, then drops his head in grief.

OFFICER

Donicus, I tried. There is nothing that I can do.

The Ethiopian falls to the dust in a ball, weeping. The officer kneels and rubs his shoulders for comfort. Lazarus goes to them.

LAZARUS

Excuse me, sir. I met you before, Capernaum, with Christ. Do you know where he is now?

The officer wipes more tears as he looks over Lazarus.

OFFICER

You. Yes. Capernaum. This is my servant that he healed.

He points to the inconsolable Donicus, still sobbing. He then points to a space in between the two crosses. Onlookers obscure the view.

OFFICER (CONT'D)

There. Look for yourself.

Lazarus nods appreciation to the soldier, then waves over his friends from the wagon, who come at once.

LAZARUS

Follow me.

Determined but frightful, Lazarus leads his crew through the crowd. Now near the front, Lazarus suddenly stops. His eyes spring open wide. He utters a guttural choking sound. When his companions look, they turn away in disgust.

The bloody, half nude body of the Nazarene healer -- looks half dead. A crown of thorns has been driven into his skull. Blood drips down his face.

On his back, facing the dark clouds above, his wrists have been tied to a wooden cross. A rugged soldier with a hammer and two spikes, kneels near the Rabbi.

Lazarus turns to his friends and sees the buckets of tears that flow.

As they hug, the sound of the SPIKE, HAMMERED INTO HIS WRIST, makes them cringe. Christ MOANS, LOUDLY. A moment later, the sickening SOUND, REPEATS.

Yosef lunges forward, but is restrained by Lazarus and Bartimeaus. He tries to wriggle free.

YOSEF

Let me go. He saved me. I must save him. Don't care if I die.

LAZARUS

Can't let that happen. Neither would he.

The cross is hoisted by soldiers onto the ghoulish skyline next to the two others. Blood gushes from the body of the Nazarene as he writhes in pain.

Another spike. As it is nailed to the cross, through his feet, squirting blood splashes onto the ground. Rebecca falls backwards as she passes out. The men catch her, then all go to their knees. They clasp hands.

LAZARUS (CONT'D)

Lord. I don't understand. How can this happen? If you kill us all for this, we deserve it.

Suddenly, a shower of LIGHTNING BOLTS burst from the dark clouds above. Some land on earth as EXPLOSIONS OF FIRE AND SPARKS are seen across the dark landscape.

LAZARUS (CONT'D)

Yes. We deserve it.

EXT. WOODED AREA - NIGHT

Ye, stretched out and asleep, near a tree, suddenly awakens. He sits up abruptly and looks around himself, confused. He uses the tree to get to his feet. LIGHTNING FLASHES. In that flash, he sees something on the other side of the tree.

He peers up as more bolts light the sky. He sees Judas, suspended from a noose. Ye rolls his eyes in disgust.

YE

You fool. I hope its not too late.

Using his new powers, Ye floats up to face Judas in the air. As he unloosens the knot, he looks into the distance and sees Christ on a cross as lightning flashes. He grins proudly.

YE (CONT'D)
We did it, my friend.

Ye clutches the limp body of Judas as they both hover. The head of Judas is tipped skyward as Ye sinks his FANGS INTO HIS FOLLOWER'S NECK. They SPIN as they descend to the earth.

Judas is laid out where Ye was sleeping. FOOTSTEP sounds cause Ye to quickly turnaround. Trudging toward him is Kosmos, with a dazed Roman soldier over his shoulder.

KOSMOS
Allow ne.

Kosmos tosses the soldier onto the ground, then bends down and touches the forehead of Judas. The former disciple starts to twitch, then breathes.

YE
My Lord. Thank you.

KOSMOS
You have served me well and earned many favors. What a glorious day.

He looks to the crosses on the horizon as lightning illuminates the hillside murder scene.

KOSMOS (CONT'D)
Go make sure he's dead. I'll take care of your friend and meet you at my temple. I even brought lunch.

The soldier moans, tries to sit up. Kosmos slams him down. Ye chuckles, then transforms into a hundred bats. The colony flies towards the crosses under spooky clouds.

EXT. GOLGATHA - NIGHT

The bats fly to a secluded corner of the killing fields and SWIRL AROUND LIKE A BLACK CYCLONE, The bats disappear and YE MATERIALIZES. He strides towards the crosses and the crowd.

He pushes through the spectators until he is at the front. Ye peers up to the elevated Christ and smirks. Lazarus sees him from the corner of his eye.

YE
I used to look up to you. Guess I still do, but in quite a different way, huh. Look at you ... Half naked, beaten up and executed like a common criminal.

Ye looks him up and down with disgust on his face.

YE (CONT'D)

You are an insult to the name we share, Yeshua. You had the power to take down Rome and free our people, and you blew it.

The volume of his voice intensifies.

YE (CONT'D)

And for what ... this? What a waste. What kind of leader are you? Horrible. Who wants to follow the footsteps that lead here?

Now performing for the crowd, he gets more animated.

YE (CONT'D)

If you're who you say you are, save yourself, now. Do something.

Christ's tormenter stares at him impatiently, then looks around theatrically. Nothing happens.

YE (CONT'D)

You're really just a fake, aren't you? Tell them!

Ye turns to the crowd as he tries to whip up blood-lust. Lazarus, visibly angry, gets up and storms over to him.

YE (CONT'D)

Traitor!

With that, Ye turns and spits on the condemned deity. Some in the crowd roar approval. As Ye spins back to them to bask in their adoration, Lazarus rocks his jaw with a left hook.

Ye reels and falls to the ground. Lazarus is not done but is held back by Bartimaeus and Yosef. Ye sneers at his assailant, then laughs.

YE (CONT'D)

The potter? My, my .. He has fooled you too? Sad. Once, you were a friend so I will let that go for now. You are not worth it.

Enraged, Lazarus struggles to get free. He growls and screams as he lunges over and over to rip Ye apart.

BARTIMAEUS

You better run, fool. We can't
hold him much longer.

YE

Violence? I thought he taught you
love? Wow, horrible teacher too.

LAZARUS

Killing a viper, is not violence.

Still sitting on the ground, Ye leans forward with anger.

YE

I could kill you now. All of you
..., but I kill kings, not
peasants. I have more powers than
you can imagine.

Ye suddenly levitates and stands up as veins bulge on his
forehead. Lazarus and the others are stunned. The crowd
moves away from him.

YE (CONT'D)

Heed my words. Jerusalem and
everyone in it is doomed anyway.

The crowd moves to the side as the infuriated Ye, marches off
into the darkness. Lazarus gathers himself.

LAZARUS

Did you see that?

Before his friends can answer, Longinus is led over to
Christ, spear in hand. The man's eyes are frosted over from
severe glaucoma and look spooky.

He taps the cross to get his bearings, then lunges the spear
upwards. It misses the body on the cross. Other soldiers
laugh as he tries over and over like a game of Pinata.

The Roman official comes to him, puts the point of the spear
near Christ's rib-cage, then steps back. Longinus steps into
the lunge and drives the lance into Christ's body. Blood
gushes down onto his head and body. Soldiers laugh harder.

Covered in red, Longinus slips and falls. As he struggles to
get up, he suddenly stops. He wipes the blood from his face.
Suddenly his eyes are no longer clouded. He looks shocked,
confused, as he brown eyes scan the area.

LONGINUS

What? No, no. I can see. I can
see. How?

Longinus looks up at the gaping wound he put in the side of Christ. He falls to his knees and collapses to the fetal position. He sobs from the depth of his soul.

LONGINUS (CONT'D)

Oh no. Please forgive me. You are real. What have I done?

LAZARUS

One last miracle.

Suddenly an earthquake rolls through. It's followed by another stronger tremor that knocks people off of their feet.

Using the cross to pull himself up, Longinus searches the faces of the crowd and soldiers.

LONGINUS

Don't you see? This was no ordinary man. We just murdered a god. We all did.

Several bolts of lightning surge at one time, just as another tremor rolls through. Cracks in the earth are seen.

LONGINUS (CONT'D)

I want no part of this.

He starts ripping off his Roman uniform and tosses the shreds into the swirling winds. Now, only in loincloth, he stretches himself up and kisses the bloody feet of Christ.

LONGINUS (CONT'D)

I am so sorry. So very sorry.

A bolt of lightning hits the ground, not far from them. The blast knocks him to the side as red sparks rain down over the entire gathering. A large bush catches on fire, then turns into an inferno, giving an eerie glow.

LONGINUS (CONT'D)

Fools! Beg forgiveness and run for your lives.

Longinus runs half naked into the desert. His fellow soldiers make a hasty retreat as the Roman official tries to catch up with them. Most of the crowd scatters away in fear.

Lazarus gives the jar of nard he made to Martha and Mary.

LAZARUS

Use this to prepare his body.

A rickety ladder is put it on the cross by Lazarus. He climbs it and stops when face to face with the mystical friend who brought him back to life. Tears flow.

He gently strokes his face with shaky hands as THUNDER ROARS overhead. Lazarus leans over to kiss his forehead, but the crown of thorns gets in the way.

LAZARUS (CONT'D)
Forgive me, my Lord.

One hand grips the crown to pull it off, but it has been hammered into Christ's scalp. His limp neck lets the head slump forward.

As Lazarus uses more strength to free Christ's head from the thorns, the sickening sound of them being extracted makes Lazarus fight back the urge to vomit. Fresh blood streams from the wounds where the crown was.

With the mock crown now in his hands, he stares at it with the hatred it deserves.

LAZARUS (CONT'D)
Begone!

Lazarus flings the torture device over his shoulder and into the darkness. Another tremor shakes the earth. Lazarus holds onto Christ so he doesn't fall. He then sobs uncontrollably as he lovingly hugs his savior.

The crown rolls and rolls in the darkness as the illuminated eyes of Ye focus on it. He leaps from his dark lair and chases the braided, bloodied thorns. Another tremor. The desert cracks open. A fissure appears.

The spike through Christ's wrist is resistant to the efforts of Lazarus to pry it loose. He looks to the side and sees Ye in full sprint, after the crown. They are both headed for the newly created crevice. Lazarus points to the scene.

All see the thorn headband roll into the fissure as clouds above discharge intermittent blasts of light. Ye launches himself over the ledge after it. Silence.

Suddenly, Ye's fist with the crown of thorns in its grip, thrusts up from the hole. The hand squeezes the spiked crown until the blood drips and the thorns puncture through the back of his hand. Ye's guttural laugh is heard.

More tremors. Ye pulls his arm below the surface, just as the crevice closes on itself. A puff of dust and sand marks where he disappears.

INT. HOME OF LAZARUS - DAY

The sound of ROOSTERS is heard as Lazarus sleeps soundly. A near empty wine bottle, nearby. We hear Martha and Mary in excited voices, enter the house and gets louder when they reach his room.

BEDROOM

The women enter, smiling and giddy. Head pounding from a hangover, he turns his face towards them, one eye pried open.

LAZARUS

What? Let me sleep.

MARTHA

No time to sleep. He's back. We saw him, Get up.

LAZARUS

Huh? Not funny. Go away.

MARY

It's true. I swear. No joke.
He's back. And he has a message
for you.

Puzzlement covers Lazarus and he sits straight up.

EXT. THE TOMBS - DAY

A hole in the side of a rocky hill stands unguarded. The massive stone has been rolled away. Lazarus smiles, then looks confused. Martha and Mary lead the way.

INT. THE TOMBS - DAY

Lazarus looks around in the cave. A bed is covered with a blanket, but no body is seen.

LAZARUS

I can't believe it. My God.
What's that smell?

Mary hands him the lid from the nard jar.

MARY

You should know. We used it to
preserve his body.

He takes the lid and holds it to his heart.

MARTHA

He said he will contact you. You better get ready.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Asleep in his bed, Lazarus follows a smile, with a tear.

DREAM SEQUENCE

Christ stands in on a boat on the Jordan river. He claps twice. One by one, seven fish jump into the boat.

CHRIST

I will meet all seven souls, at sunset on the banks of the Jordan.

BACK TO SCENE

EXT. BANKS OF THE RIVER JORDAN - DAY

Lazarus stops his wagon and his passengers, Rebecca and Hannah step down. Bartimeaus, Yosef and Donicus are already waiting for them. Lazarus joins them gleefully.

LAZARUS

Did we all have the same dream?

DONICUS

Yes. But how? I don't understand it. He is alive? I saw him die.

LAZARUS

He brought me back to life. Why not do the same for himself?

HANNAH

I hope it's all true. After he healed us and gave our lives back, it was unfair, just horrible to see him murdered like that.

YOSEF

A healer. A man of peace. It was beyond unfair.

BARTIMAEUS

The dream said seven of us. I only see six.

Longinus peeks over a boulder from his hiding spot. A disturbance is seen in the river. It heads towards them. Rebecca's eyes get wide and she backs up.

REBECCA

Good Lord. You see that?

Christ emerges from underwater. He walks across the water over to them. Totally dry when he reaches them. Shocked look in all faces.

CHRIST

Greetings in the name of the Most High. I called for seven. Longinus. Come forward.

Longinus steps out from hiding. He looks unshaven and ragged. No eye contact. His shame, evident.

LONGINUS

It was my spear that killed you. I am not worthy to be here. Or even to be alive.

Weeping from his core, Longinus nearly collapses. Christ hugs him as the soldier's body trembles and tears flow.

CHRIST

Now, you are clean.

All are amazed to see new clothes on him, beard gone. The other six rush over to Christ, joy fueled. He hugs them all.

CHRIST (CONT'D)

I have loved and missed you all.

LAZARUS

As have we. Why call us, Lord?

Christ smiles warmly, then turns to face the river. He stretches out his arms across the Jordan. A wall of water stands in front of him like a huge screen.

INSERT - WALL OF WATER

Sparkles and colors form into images of people. Ye is seen still alive as he puts the crown of thorns on his head with hell in the background. The thorns are pounded into his skull by his assistant, Judas.

As blood drips down his face, Ye looks like he couldn't be happier. The thorns light up as bright as his grin.

CHRIST (O.S.)

Ye will increase the evil in the world with this crown of torture. He will use it for mind control. You must somehow get the crown from him. Destroy it.

LAZARUS (O.S.)

But how?

CHRIST

It will take time. He dwells in another dimension, but to cause chaos, he must be in your world.

REBECCA

But Lord, your powers are far beyond ours. You can't do it?

CHRIST

When I return to this world, it causes a disturbance he is aware of. You all could surprise him.

BARTIMAEUS

But, we have no powers, Lord.

CHRIST

Not yet. Stand forward to receive your blessing.

Christ claps and the wall turns into rain, then it moves towards the seven new apostles. They get drenched, then seem to glow for a moment, then the bright aura fades.

LAZARUS

What? What was that?

He notices he is suddenly dry, as are the others.

CHRIST

Because I healed and baptized you, all are immortal now. You will gain new powers, based on your previous weaknesses.

HANNAH

Immortal? And we have powers now?

CHRIST

Learn how to use your new gifts because the foe is mighty. It will not be safe in Palestine.

(MORE)

CHRIST (CONT'D)

Ye will turn on his own people and
let the Romans destroy them.

LAZARUS

What an evil prick.

REBECCA

Since he wears the stolen crown of
thorns, that's good name for him.

YOSEF

Where shall we go, Lord?

CHRIST

Go to Ethiopia with Donicus and
learn to master your powers.
Humanity must be saved.

They all look to Donicus, he nods affirmatively.

DONICUS

Gladly, sir.

Lazarus looks at Christ, confused.

LAZARUS

But my Lord, humanity murdered you
on the cross, I saw it. I couldn't
stop them. We all deserve to be
wiped out.

CHRIST

Are you not part of humanity? My
Father is well pleased with you all
and loves you dearly.

Emotion is in Christ's voice.

CHRIST (CONT'D)

In each generation there are a few
that truly understand my mission
and try to put my intent, into
action. Those few are worth it.

LAZARUS

Worth the sacrifice that you made?
(beat)
Those few people, are worth it?

Christ strolls over to Lazarus, eyes locked on each other.
Facing Lazarus, he puts both hands on his shoulders.

CHRIST

Yes, my friend. They are well
worth it.

The smile of Christ seems to make his whole body glow.

LAZARUS

If it is your will ... It is our
duty. But how?

CHRIST

You must combine your forces to get
victory. I love you all and will
always be with you.

Christ walks into the wall of rain and smiles back. When the
water stops pouring down, his image dissolves away.

SUPER - ETHIOPIA

EXT. DESERT - DAY

All seven walk across the arid land from different
directions. They look exhausted as they converge at a well
in a small village.

LAZARUS (V.O.)

After reaching Ethiopia, we decided
to fast in the wilderness,
separately, to find our powers.

They all meet at the well and talk excitedly as they gulp
down water and wash faces.

LAZARUS (V.O.)

Yosef can transform into animals.

At the well, Yosef turns into a ram, then comically chases
Longinus, before he changes back.

LAZARUS (V.O.)

Longinus can see things far away,
even in other lands. In the dark
too. Hannah can make others bleed
and can sense things in her blood.

A snake scurries away from the well. Hannah points to it.
The viper bleeds from the mouth. Keels over on its side.

LAZARUS (V.O.)

Donicus can send himself anywhere
on the planet. Bartimaeus can see
in extreme detail up close and can
see through things.

Donicus vanishes for a moment, then reappears with something
in his hand. It's a snowball. All around are curious, touch
it. Recoil from the cold. Bartimeaus looks closely at it.
He seems each snowflake melt individually.

LAZARUS (V.O.)

Rebecca can transform skin color,
size, age, texture, hair -
everything.

An old, wrinkled hand picks up the snowball. Rebecca, now an
elderly woman with gray hair, bites the snowball and cackles
back through snagged teeth. The crew laughs too.

Lazarus walks over to the dead snake and reaches his hand
out. The snake trembles, now alive, it squirms away.

LAZARUS (V.O.)

I learned my own power too. I can
make things wither, - or bring
things back to life.

He looks to the sky and the bright sun. All is obliterated by
the light.

LAZARUS (V.O.)

What Christ proclaimed, came true,
Jerusalem was destroyed.

People of Judea run as the Roman army attacks. Homes burn.

LAZARUS (V.O.)

Since then, every war or genocide
attempt, Ye has been behind it.

SERIES OF SHOTS

1. Ye grins wide as his crown of thorns glows (Interspersed)
2. Crusaders stab palestine civilians with swords
3. Native Americans attacked in their sleep
4. African slaves, tied up and beaten - on plantation
5. Many bodies in mass graves in Germany

LAZARUS (V.O.)

To gain even more control over these homicidal maniacs, he uses a more direct root, to make them his slaves forever.

SERIES OF SHOTS

1. Osama bin Laden in bed. Ye appears in the room. Bites his neck while asleep. Two small punctures are seen on the terrorist's jugular as Ye vanishes.
2. Close-ups on the necks of Korea's Kim,
3. Russia's Putin,
4. China's Mao
5. America's Nixon show the same wound.

LAZARUS (V.O.)

That's why we call him, Evil Prick. Whether using the crown of thorns or his fangs, he has now enslaved the minds countless leaders -- many have nuclear bombs.

A post-apocalyptic landscape is seen.

LAZARUS (V.O.)

Evil Prick has a clear aim. To have humans kill each other off. Something his master, Satan has wanted since he was booted from heaven. Prepare yourself.

INT. TENT - DAY

The new recruits look overwhelmed by the information.

KATIE

(shocked)

So we are here to kill vampires?

LAZARUS

We are here to save humanity and the few souls who are true believers -- and destroy whatever is on the wrong side of the Lord.

LONGINUS

We will have to kill many in order
to get to the evil prick, himself.

LAZARUS

We need to get in and get out
before dark if we can. We should
move it out, soon.

EXT. DESERT - DAY

Sand dunes bake in the hot sun. Over a ridge, the crew
appears, on the backs of camels. Longinus looks angry.

LONGINUS

In my soldier days, we would have
gutted that fool like a fish.
Camels? We need the motorcycles he
said he had.

LAZARUS

How bad will this mess up our time?

LONGINUS

I have a feeling it will be dark
when we leave. Not good.

LAZARUS

Nope, not good at all.

Katie joins them.

KATIE

So we surprise Evil Prick in a
cave, then take his crown?

LAZARUS

Not quite. Our mission is deeper
than that. This time, we will kill
him and his entire army.

KATIE

His whole army? Just us? How?

Lazarus peers off into the distance.

LAZARUS

The secret weapon.

FLASHBACK

EXT. HOUSEBOAT - DAY

The Healed Ones are on deck on lounge chairs as they get pints of blood drawn.

HANNAH

Wish I thought of this sooner.
Maybe there is something in our
blood that doctors can use to stop
the pandemic.

LAZARUS

We'll drop them anonymously. I
don't want to be their lab rat.

Suddenly a burst of light shoots through the sky and lands in the ocean with a big splash. All are startled.

REBECCA

What was that?

LAZARUS

Longinus, you have those telescopic
eyes. See anything?

A fog spreads across the water from the crash zone. Longinus squints his eyes.

LONGINUS

A man is coming who walks on water
but it's neither Christ or that
Evil Prick.

The mysterious figure is closer. Face, unseen.

PETER

Lazarus. Hello, old friend.

All that met him before, recognize the face. Peter levitates, then floats onboard, greets them all.

LAZARUS

This is my friend Peter, a disciple
of Christ from back in Palestine.

Longinus and others shake his hand.

PETER

A blood donation? Your hearts are
in the right place. This plague was
started by Ye. He is killing too
many people. Millions.

LAZARUS

We've been trying to get the crown
for centuries. He's never on
earth, long enough.

PETER

He is out of control now and must
be vanquished. To kill him, you
need the sword I chopped Ye's ear
off with when Christ was arrested.

BARTIMAEUS

So where is it?

FLASHBACK

EXT. DESERT - DAY

Peter roams across the arid plains, alone. Looks anguished.
Travels near the caves of Qumran.

PETER (V.O.)

My head was in a bad place. I had
turned my back on Christ. I was
asked if I knew him and I denied
that relationship three times. I
hated myself.

Wind whips his robes as he approaches the caves.

PETER (V.O.)

Now my Lord, my friend, crucified,
the guilt was too much. I left
Jerusalem and fasted in Qumran,
praying for forgiveness.

INT. CAVE - DAY

Peter, distraught, walks far into the abyss using torch
light. He finally sits against the wall and agonizes.

PETER (V.O.)

The images of Christ getting beaten
and killed played in my head.
Finally, I gave up. I took out my
sword. Ready to die.

The tip of the sword rests on his abdomen. He thrusts
himself through. The tip, now extended through his back,
shows no blood. No pain is on his face.

Peter pulls it out, misty eyed. He examines the blade, then stabs and stabs himself over again. No pain, no blood. He collapses in tears, hopelessly despondent.

Suddenly a bright light appears. Slowly, Peter gets to his feet, nods, then pitches the sword over a dark ledge.

BACK TO SCENE

Peter studies the hi-tech equipment on the boat curiously as he talks.

PETER

I went on to preach the word, of the man I once turned my back on. I had forgotten about the sword, until the Dead Sea Scrolls were found near there.

DONICUS

You want us to retrieve the sword?

PETER

This plague is an emergency. Millions already dead. Ye and Satan are behind it all. Even if you take his crown, he will still be dangerous.

Peter looks to the foggy horizon.

PETER (CONT'D)

You must find the sword and kill him. Here is a map of what I remember. We will be watching over you. The danger is high, but we know you all are capable.

Lazarus takes the map and looks at it closely.

BACK TO SCENE

The camel caravan nears some caves.

KATIE

So not just vampires, but Satan too? Really?

LAZARUS

Its your lucky day.

Her face shows bubbling distress.

KATIE

You're immortal. Nothing to worry about. I'm just a plain human.

LAZARUS

Only immortal to a point. If decapitated, or incinerated we can also die. So far we all have avoided that fate.

EXT. THE TEMPLE OF KOSMOS - DAY

Satan as Kosmos sees Ye stroll by with several women.

KOSMOS

Ladies, I need a moment with my disciple. Scatter.

The females go in another direction as Ye scampers over to his boss.

KOSMOS (CONT'D)

The effectiveness of the plague on humanity has exceeded all expectations. You deserve some praise. My friend.

A smile, filled with pride, comes from Ye.

YE

Stupid humans. They traced it back to a bat, but they didn't figure out it was a vampire bat.

They share a laugh. Kosmos walks, Ye follows.

KOSMOS

I want to warn you of a recent disturbance in the heavens. Christ's forces have been on earth. They might have a plan to stop the virus and it may be launched soon. They know they are losing.

YE

I will not let them win. We are too close to destroying humanity.

Kosmos puts his arm around Ye's shoulder and gives him a side hug. Ye looks back at him like a grateful puppy.

KOSMOS

That's my boy.

INT. QUMRAN CAVE SYSTEM - DAY

As the seven enter the ancient caves. Bats swarm and fly out of the entrance. Stalactites pierce from above as stalagmites push upwards from below.

INT. QUMRAN CAVE SYSTEM - NIGHT

Hi beam flashlights click on. Lazarus takes out Peter's map and studies it. He points forward and they march in that direction. Animal bones and even a skeleton are passed on the spooky trek. They search and search.

LAZARUS

This looks like the place on the map.

HANNAH

So did the last four places.

BARTIMAEUS

But look, I think that is the correct ledge up ahead.

INT. LEDGE IN CAVE - NIGHT

They peer over the side with flashlights, a crater filled with molten lava swirls. On the ridge above the lava pool, a glimmer of metal is seen by Longinus.

LONGINUS

I see metal.

He points. All strain but no one else can see anything.

LAZARUS

Donicus, think you can get it?

DONICUS

I'll try.

INT. NEAR VOLCANIC CRATER - NIGHT

Donicus materializes near the sword. It is seventy percent covered with debris and lava rock. He touches it, too hot. Donicus wraps it in a rag and tugs. Nothing.

DONICUS

We have a problem. Its stuck. Hot down here too.

INT. LEDGE IN CAVE - NIGHT

They look amongst each other.

REBECCA

I can use my skin to deflect the heat.

YOSEF

I can fly down and help.

Rebecca descends the ladder rope as Yosef transforms into an eagle and soars over the edge.

INT. NEAR VOLCANIC CRATER - NIGHT

When Rebecca gets there, the men have been struggling to free the sword and are soaked in sweat. She turns the back of her body into a metallic heat shield. It glows red from the reflection of the extreme temperatures.

DONICUS

Thanks, that helps.

YOSEF

Let me try this a different way.

Yosef turns into a gorilla. There is resistance but as he rocks it back and forth, it is finally freed. Human again, he gives the sword to Donicus, who vanishes. A second later Donicus waves to them from above. Lazarus has the sword.

EXT. QUMRAN CAVE SYSTEM - NIGHT

Now dusk, a huge black cyclone descends near the cave. The camels get scared. On closer look, it is a swarm of bats.

Ye steps out of the their midst with Judas at his side and they stroll towards the cave. The bats transform into his army of vampires.

INT. LEDGE IN CAVE - NIGHT

Hannah gets a visible chill as Rebecca and Yosef join the rest from below.

REBECCA

We did it.

HANNAH

Just in time, I think they are here.

LAZARUS

How could Evil Prick know we are here?

LONGINUS

His spy was at our camp. They probably saw our camels.

DONICUS

I'll take a look.

Donicus vanishes. They others head for the exit.

EXT. QUMRAN CAVE SYSTEM - NIGHT

Donicus looks around. No vehicles around but the camels are unsettled. As he turns around to return, Judas is face to face with him. Vampire eyes stare Donicus down. He grins as fangs show.

INT. QUMRAN CAVE SYSTEM - NIGHT

A scream is heard outside. Suddenly the headless body of Donicus soars through the air towards them like a pitched baseball. His body hits the wall, falls and is impaled on a stalagmite.

Shock, fear and anger are seen on their faces. Some in the unit, scream. Lazarus raises the sword, eyes closed.

LAZARUS

Lord, give us the strength to win this war for you. Bless our Brother Donicus and welcome him home.

He turns to his troops.

LAZARUS (CONT'D)

Now, let us fight

They roar with approval.

Bats swarm into the cave, then turn into vampires. Big fight as the troops of Lazarus battle the un-dead.

Bartimeaus and Longinus grab their weapons. The guns shoot photon bullets and wood tipped darts that kill many vampires but they are outnumbered and start to lose ground.

Rebecca turns her skin into a bright light. When she gets near vampires, they dissolve.

A beam sent from Hannah's palm, drains the blood from their bodies in seconds. They die shriveled, then turn to dust.

Yosef turns into a giant squid, snapping off necks, eight at a time. Many humans allies die, but Lazarus touches some and they come back to life.

Katie is cornered by Judas. He slaps away her gun.

JUDAS

Yum yum, human blood. This
fighting has made me hungry.

Yosef sees it. He turns into a horse, bucking all vampires on the way. The horse motions Longinus to look over at Katie and Judas.

Longinus nods then jumps on the horse's back. They speed over to rescue Katie.

INT. LEDGE IN CAVE - NIGHT

Longinus jumps off the horse and lunges towards Judas. He lands on him and they wrestle on the edge of a cliff.

Below is a volcano pit. Judas is stronger, winning. The horse starts to trample Judas as Katie runs for cover.

The entire ledge gives way because of the weight. All three plunge into the smoldering volcanic pool, below. Katie cries from the soul.

INT. QUMRAN CAVE SYSTEM - NIGHT

As Lazarus tries to heal a human, Ye knocks him backwards. Lazarus grips the almighty sword, ready for battle.

LAZARUS

Come on, Evil Prick, I've been
waiting for this day.

Suddenly Ye turns into a bat and ducks each swing. He flies upward. As Lazarus looks for him, he silently appears right behind him.

Ye knocks the sword from his hand and it goes over a different cliff. Ye laughs. The crown of thorns lights up.

The powers of Lazarus's crew start to fade. Bartimeaus starts to go blind, Rebecca's skin goes from a bright light, to her normal skin, then starts to blister and peel.

Hannah starts to bleed profusely and Lazarus starts to age fast, looks eighty, may die soon. They all struggle in pain.

YE

Soon I will destroy the human race
for my master. And you can't stop
me. None of you.

Ye laughs at them. All is lost. Lazarus looks at his dying crew as they agonize.

LAZARUS

I have loved you all like family.
Was an honor to fight along side
you and for the love of Christ.

They all are near death, gasping for breath.

Suddenly the roof of the cave explodes. Boulders destroy many vampires. An orb of blinding light, jets through the hole like a fireball and goes into the pit below.

Ye is knocked off his feet, but gets up and continues to drain the crew of their life force with his crown of thorns as vampires overwhelm the human fighters.

From behind Ye, a glowing, hooded man floats up from the pit and above the ledge so all can see. In his hand, the sword. It is Peter.

PETER

That crown ain't yours.

He flicks it off Ye's head and it goes near Rebecca who grabs it, puts it under her and makes her skin metal. Ye pounds her but she won't budge.

YE

Gimme that back. I'll kill you.

Blood gushes from the puncture wounds where the crown was nailed in. Others are coming back to health after the crown is knocked off of him. Vampires start to retreat.

Peter taps Ye on the shoulder with the sword. He turns.

PETER

Hey traitor, remember me?

A second later, a bloody vampire ear hits the ground. He screams.

PETER (CONT'D)

Christ isn't here to save you this time.

Peter stomps the ear until it is red pulp.

PETER (CONT'D)

You ain't getting that one back.

Ye is stunned. Peter directs his voice to the ear that is still attached.

PETER (CONT'D)

I said - You ain't getting that one back.

Ye then looks hard at the floating man.

YE

Peter? But ..,

Hood off, Peter winds up and with a mighty punch, sends Ye swirling. Ye gathers himself. Seething, he turns into a huge, hideous, monstrous vampire. The beast lunges at Peter.

Peter flips the sword to Lazarus behind his back. In one motion, Lazarus catches the twirling sword by the handle, does a spin move and lops off Ye's head.

It flies over the cliff and into the abyss.

PETER

Nice one. Been waiting a long time to see that.

The rest of the vampire's body hits the ground and then evaporates.

Peter is given the crown of thorns. He has Lazarus touch the sword to the crown, both dissolve into sand and blow away.

PETER (CONT'D)

Your plague will now cease. Great job. You have a choice. Stay and battle other evils or ascend to heaven with me now.

The four who remain look among themselves. They nod to Lazarus that they want to stay.

LAZARUS

Just in case you need us, we'd like
to stay here for now.

Peter smiles and hugs each warrior.

PETER

Donicus, Longinus and Yosef. Come
forward.

Now spirits, they go to him. They warmly wave good bye to friends then ascend and disappear with Peter through the hole Peter made in the top of the cave.

Lazarus, Rebecca, Bartimeaus, Hannah, Katie and the other human soldiers hug, then march to the exit.

EXT. THE TEMPLE OF KOSMOS - NIGHT

Kosmos boils over with anger as he slams his goblet against his throne.

KOSMOS

This isn't over yet! Just you
wait. I have an eternity.

His evil laugh vibrates off the walls of hell.

THE END.