HIGHER DIVINE

By Johnny Russell

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FADE IN:

SPACE

A distant view of the Planet Gorgon.

EXT. GORGON - OVERVIEW - DAY

SUPER: "IN THE YDRA GALAXY EXISTS THE PLANET GORGON"

MONTAGE OF IMAGES

- 1. Roaming in foliage is a HUGE BIG FOOT LOOKING CREATURE.
- 2. Trees droop over a lake where a LOCH NESS TYPE MONSTER loops in and out of the surface of the mere.
- 3. Above the mere TWO WINGED DRAGONS soar. They breathe fire and flap their wings.

EXT. TARMAC - DAY

Shadows hide the faces of FOUR HOODED CREATURES called GORGONS. They work to install HUGE CANNON TYPE WEAPONS on TWO DRAGON-LIKE SPACESHIPS.

TWO more draped and HOODED GORGON CREATURES with looping tails watch the workers. These are the QUEEN Sisters, STHENO, and EURYALE. The taller of the two looks skyward.

SPACE

A distant view of an asteroid called Alteria.

TARMAC

STHENO

That crooked little rock is a gnawing pebble under my scales!

EURYALE

The asteroid follows a parallax of zero point zero astronomical units. It will never collide with Gorgon.

STHENO

Still, we are the hammer; the Alterians, the nail.

Both maniacally laugh and slither toward a huge building. Beneath their robes their scaly tales trail them.

SPACE

Closer on the asteroid that Stheno and Euryale had been watching.

INT. ALTERIA - COMBAT TRAINING ROOM - DAY

Portraits of the Crowned Leaders adorn the walls. Under their pictures in bold type, their names; KONA, RIA and NIN.

SUPER: "THE ASTEROID ALTERIA - FLEET TRAINING ACADEMY"

Student recruits of the Alterian Resistance banter as they enter. They are puppets of all sizes; wooden, string, foam, and cloth.

The string puppets move as if strands are attached. Others move similar to the opening and closing of a hand. All sit on the floor in a semi-circle.

With a red "R" on his chest, RENALDI, a handsome, trim, sharp and erect caped, robotic soldier of shiny metal steps center.

He points to COLESTIE. With mittens for hands, cloth strands for hair and button eyes the beautiful puppet steps center mat.

Next Renaldi points to YONDAN a muscular male puppet as her opponent. Yondan stands opposite Cole. Both bow and take a fight stance. Renaldi signals to begin.

Both throw kicks and punches. The fight ends when Colestie sweeps Yondan's leg and he falls beaten. Cole's right knee is torn. Renaldi raises Cole's arm in victory.

There's applause.

RENALDI

Weapons training next, take ten!

Banter from the class as they exit. Renaldi turns to face Cole. She sees him pull out a small box labeled, "Revitalization Kit".

COLE

Is it true? Will we have a destiny of peace?

RENALDI

If the stars stay aligned. In the meantime we must always be prepared.

Cole sits on a chair with her torn knee facing Renaldi.

COLE

The higher divine awaits you.

INSERT - TORN FABRIC ON COLE'S KNEE

Renaldi pinches the fabric together.

BACK TO SCENE

RENALDI

If you've ever wondered why the Crowned Leaders' portraits appear on the walls, it is because it is they, that are deserving.

He inserts a needle and pulls it taut.

COLE

Yours should be amongst them. You're cuter.

Renaldi smiles.

RENALDI

I relish the thought of saving our world if duty calls.

COLE

Should Alteria be under attack, would I favor a hope of duty?

RENALDI

We don't all evolve the same. But, Cole you do shoot for the crescent.

COLE

That way even if I miss, I'll land among the stars.

Renaldi finishes the suture. Cole looks at it and smiles.

RENALDI

Keep putting in work and your prospects for advancement to fleet training is very likely, indeed.

The class re-enters. Renaldi picks a blunt curved rod with a sharp inside edge off a rack of weapons.

RENALDI

Today I familiarize you with the fundamentals of the Olaris.

Enter COMMANDER ZERLOCK and LIEUTENANT SANTOURI, two wizened robots wearing exotic robes. They stand and watch.

Like a Japanese Kata, Renaldi exhibits spectacular fighting defense techniques. The display ends in applause from Zerlock, Santouri and the students.

COMMANDER ZERLOCK

SPLENDID!

SANTOURI

BRAVO! RENALDI! BRAVO!

COMMANDER ZERLOCK

(to Renaldi)

You are Alteria's future.

(to the class)

You ALL are. The approaching summit will secure peace in the Ydra galaxy for the next thousand years.

(to Renaldi)

Have you chosen a crew, Renaldi?

RENALDI

I have. We're ready, father.

INT. GORGON HIGH COMMAND CENTER - DAY

In the hallway stands a haunting scene of two human astronauts of stone covered in cobwebs.

The Demonic Shrine has carvings of bronze wings. Stairs lead to two thrones.

Sitting on the thrones are the Gorgon Queens, Stheno with Euryale on the other. A winged beast sits center.

Next to a monitor is a nerdy Alterian MANNEQUIN ASTROPHYSICIST who wears glasses with coke bottle lenses. He gestures to the.

MONITOR:

A SPACE VIEW OF THE PLANET GORGON AND THE ASTERIOD ALTERIA

BACK TO SCENE

Present is Renaldi, Cole and several soldier puppets. Alterian robots of all sizes colors and shapes stand in the gallery.

The three Crowned Leaders KONA, RIA and NIN are in royal wardrobe.

FIVE GORGON SOLDIERS with huge blades move closer to the Alterian crowned leaders. Mannequin Astrophysicist Puppet points to BLINKING words on the

MONITOR: "PARALLAX OF ZERO POINT ZERO ASTRONOMICAL UNITS. COLLISION NOT POSSIBLE".

On the FLOOR bounces the head of Kona with the crown still attached. The beheaded Crowned Leader's body falls. GORGON SOLDIER #1 stands with a blade in an, after-swing pose.

Renaldi, shocked draws his blade and slashes off the head of Gorgon Soldier #1. Stheno gestures to the winged beast.

STHENO

Targoyle! Kill them! Now!

Targoyle snaps its jaws and rockets toward Renaldi. Both sides, Gorgon and Alterian soldiers engage in a fierce battle. Renaldi jumps behind a statue. His Olaris falls.

The creature elongates his tongue and swabs the open areas. Renaldi grabs his side arm and jumps around to avoid being sucked into the Targoyle's mouth. He takes aim.

RENALDI

Suck on a grenade round!

He pumps a shot. The monster flips on its back to avoid the round. The grenade blasts off one of its limbs. The Targoyle screams a fiery breath and lashes out its tongue.

It dents Renaldi's head. Another tongue lash snatches and crushes one of Renaldi's arms. Amidst the smoke, Cole picks up Renaldi's Olaris and leaps high into the air.

She comes down with it across the monster's neck decapitating it. Tiny red worm-like creatures spill out. Renaldi is in awe.

RENALDI

You have a gift, Cole.

COLE

I've been putting in the work.

Euryale stealthily moves in and spears Cole in the back. Cole arcs and screams in pain. Euryale slings Cole off her spear. Renaldi goes wild with fury.

RENALDI

No!

He charges Euryale. Five Gorgon soldiers with blades block his path. He fights with one arm, beheads two of them but is overcome and held for beheading. Renaldi struggles.

INSERT:

GORGON SOLDIER #2 WITH SWORD DRAWN IS JUST ABOUT TO SWING.

STHENO

NO! He shall not die!

Everyone in the room stops.

RENALDI

I don't want your pity! Do I cringe?

STHENO

Do not dare me! What are you called?

RENALDI

I am Renaldi!

STHENO

I am Stheno, my sister, Euryale calculates a planetary collision.

RENALDI

It is a hoax!

STHENO

Hoax or not, on the next crescent all you feckless weaklings will die.

EXT. ALTERIA - DAY

SUPER: "THE ASTEROID ALTERIA"

Renaldi bows before Commander Zerlock and Lieutenant Santouri. His head's dented; his torso has holes and an arm's cut off.

COMMANDER ZERLOCK

Dead you say? All of them?

Renaldi gets animated. He flails the one good arm he's got.

RENALDI

They are convinced we are weak, father. They've slaughtered our crowned leaders. I have failed.

LIEUTENANT SANTOURI

An act of diplomacy with these demons was a huge mistake. If what Renaldi has said is true, Commander Zerlock, that puts you in charge.

COMMANDER ZERLOCK

We had faith and good intentions.

LIEUTENANT SANTOURI

The same measured quantity of which the road to hell is paved. If we only had the Biblion Ebeninos Pall!

Renaldi's head swivels in both their directions.

COMMANDER ZERLOCK

Reclamation not viable. There is a time for all things under the Creators. Right now, we may be on the threshold of extinction!

RENALDI

Lieutenant Santouri what is the Biblion Ebeninos Pall?

LIEUTENANT SANTOURI

Why, the ancient book with the power. It creates new destinies! In our hands it could change fate and fortune. Stolen from us centuries ago.

COMMANDER ZERLOCK

Once the Gorgons discovered it does not work for them they left it on ancient Earth. A great asset lost in the spoils.

A transformation begins. Renaldi's body emits a neon glow. His injuries begin to repair themselves. An amazing morph begins. He grows muscle and he grows taller.

ALTERIAN #1

He is evolving!

Renaldi looks human and strides across the room to the window. His transformation is complete.

ALTERIAN #1

Great stars, he's, he's human!

COMMANDER ZERLOCK

Enhanced human. You've crossed over to the Higher Divine! Impervious, with only two minor imperfections.

RENALDI

I must go protect Alteria.

LIEUTENANT SANTOURI
But first, know where you are
most vulnerable. The largest

human organ has trillions of microscopic holes called pores.

RENALDI

I know this human organ as skin.

LIEUTENANT SANTOURI

Yes. When human temperature rises pores secrete a cooling fluid known as perspiration. It cools them.

RENALDI

I sense my pelt. It has no pores.

COMMANDER ZERLOCK

Correct, just as the others who preceded you. If you remain in high temperatures, you perish. Secondly, you are impervious to all but the Khalup.

EXT. SPACE

Renaldi pushes off in flight. With Alteria in the background, two Gorgon spaceships appear. Spaceship #1 blasts Renaldi to flames. Spaceship #2 disappears.

EXT. ALTERIA - STREETS - NIGHT

A loud siren. The Alterians look skyward. A beam comes at them.

COMMANDER ZERLOCK

EVERYONE, RUN!

EXT. SPACE

Weakened by searing residual flames from the blast, Renaldi rises in shock to see the beam make contact with Alteria. There is a HUGE explosion.

In the distance, pieces of Alteria jet in all directions. Renaldi is bursting in anger and anguish. He pushes off to fly, but is too weak. He pats the flames out on his body.

The weapon is fired at Renaldi again. This time Renaldi puts one hand up. Like a mirror reflecting light, Renaldi's palm ricochets the beam back at the spaceship.

Their own beam blows Spaceship #1 to pieces.

QUICKFLASH

INT. ALTERIA - DAY

Renaldi stands before Zerlock and Santouri.

RENALDI

What is the Biblion Ebeninos Pall?

LIEUTENANT SANTOURI

Why, the ancient book with the power. It creates new destinies! In our hands it could change fate and fortune...

END QUICKFLASH

BACK TO SCENE

In torment, Renaldi streaks through space. After he's gone spaceship #2 appears. It peruses the area and jets off.