

Text Messages to God

by

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From a story idea by

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BLACK SCREEN - Islamic CALL TO PRAYERS

FADE IN

SUPER: Mosul, January 2014

INT. AIRLINER (LANDING IN MOSUL AIRPORT) - DAY

DR. DANIEL KOURY(34) eyes a mullah calling for prayers out his window, invokes apprehension in his body language, yet fused with understanding in his eyes & mind. His roots. His calling. The land of his forefathers long forgotten.

Daniel's serious scholastic demeanor is camouflaged by jeans & a casual sweater, modeling the paradox of an American with Iraqi ancestry - Scottish gruf & wit from his mother, black Persian hair & logic from his father. Scientific folk music.

CUT TO:

INT. BAGGAGE PICK-UP AREA

AKMED(32) wily, bearded, locally clothed but still out of place, holds printed sign stating "Mosul Museum", Daniel walks by oblivious, heads to baggage carousel. Akmed checks photograph of Daniel, matches faces, approaches Daniel.

AKMED

Doctor?

DANIEL

I beg your pardon?

AKMED

I am driver. Your driver, Mosul Museum.

DANIEL

Which doctor are you for?

AKMED

(phonetically off)

You. Doctor Koory?

DANIEL

Yes, I'm Doctor Koury. But isn't this a Ministry of Culture affair?

AKMED

Yes. Yes. Cultures, Museums. All the same. Your bags?

Akmed points as Daniel's bags tumble off ramp onto carousel.

DANIEL

Nice guess. Did you load them in  
Paris, too ?

AKMED

No. No. Archeologists bags always  
look the same. Come. Come.

Akmed grabs two suitcases, quickly maneuvers through crowd,  
Daniel follows with difficulty holding his instrument kit.

DISSOLVE TO:

I/E. AKMED'S TAXI - STREETS OF MOSUL - DAY

Daniel hands Akmed paper with address, which Akmed places on  
gearshift without looking, tears out of airport dodging  
buses, other cars, people. Daniel notices six-story building  
burning furiously an intersection away. Akmed ignores.

DANIEL

Looked pretty severe.

AKMED

Its nothing, nothing. You have  
fires in USA, too. No?

Huge EXPLOSION, thick black smoke rising where building was.

DANIEL

(looking back )

Not like that.

Taxi drives through Mosul, colorful mix of old/new cultures,  
peoples. Daniel absorbs in wonderment. Akmed drives crazy  
amongst other insane drivers, pedestrians, stops, hands back  
note to Daniel without ever looking at it, opens car door.

AKMED

Al Markaz 336. You want Shinar  
Khouri?

DANIEL

I do.

AKMED

Apartment 4.

DANIEL

How did you know?

AKMED

(slightly different

pronunciations)  
 Khouri. Koury. Koory. It's all the  
 same. When you go to dig site?

DANIEL  
 (surprised, taken back)  
 I was, uh...tomorrow?

AKMED  
 Good. Good. You here. Eight AM.

Akmed takes suitcases from trunk, put down on steps, looks  
 down both sides of street, fully extends hand.

AKMED  
 Money. Money.

DANIEL  
 Yes. Yes. Pardon me.

Akmed studies money handed, mentally debates, closes hand.

AKMED  
 Good. Good. Tomorrow. Here. Eight.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. - ISIS CAMP - DAY

ISIS Commander HAKIM HALABI (22), dark, baby-faced, the kid  
 in class you could never figure out, confers with fellow  
 ISIS soldiers, indistinguishable Arabic CONVERSATION while  
 all look at photographs of a bank, hospital, warehouse.

ISIS messenger runs in, hands Hakim photo, papers.

SUPER: English sub-titles, DIALOGUE in Arabic.

HAKIM  
 I must spare men for...ruins?

MESSENGER  
 Abulla's own orders, after we take  
 Tal Afar, this has priority.

HAKIM  
 Not the banks?

MESSENGER  
 (points at photo)  
 This has priority now.

HAKIM  
 So wills Abulla, so wills Allah.

Hakim posts photograph of Nineveh Ruins archeological site on tent next to other photos. Excitable CHATTER by soldiers.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. NINEVEH RUINS - DAY

Excavation site buzzing with activity, DR. AMIRA RAHAL (33), dark, delicate, but with an inner strength & calculating mind of Cleopatra reincarnated, works with two assistants in a secluded roped off area, photographing, cleaning, digging.

Ancient scrolls, artifacts recovered are carefully arranged on blanket. Amira holds newly found coin to the Sun.

ASSISTANT #1  
Beautiful.

AMIRA  
Is it pre-Christian?

ASSISTANT #1  
(checking book)  
Roman. Caesar Augustus. Five, maybe ten BC.

AMIRA  
But he has a beard.

ASSISTANT #1  
(refers to book)  
Yes, but look at the inscription.  
Back of coin matches photo exactly.  
Front of coin... hmmmmm, yea, a beard...never seen that before.

AMIRA  
Odd.

Explosion heard on the horizon, huge smoke plume rises.

AMIRA  
Savages.

ASSISTANT #1  
My God, are they in Mosul now?

AMIRA  
I'm sure it's just a loner. The Ministry assured me the entire Nineveh Province is safe.

ASSISTANT #1  
Tal Afar is Nineveh Province.

AMIRA  
What does your family there say?

ASSISTANT #1  
We've not heard a word for days.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. HOME OF SHINAR KHOURI - DAY

SHINAR KHOURI (78), dignified, slow moving but mentally lighting quick, opens door, opens arms to receive Daniel. Family blood from the 12th & 21st Century finally bond. Tears of joy, rejoicing from both men. Arabic MUSIC in background captures the magic of the moment.

SUPER: English sub-titles, DIALOGUE in Arabic.

SHINAR  
Welcome! Welcome! The last child  
of Khouri has come home, at last.

DANIEL  
Revered patriarch. I'm honored.

SHINAR  
If only my son could be here to  
witness his son...a man.

DANIEL  
Here. A present for you.

Daniel slides luggage into apartment, takes out wrapped package, hands to Shinar, who sets it on writing desk.

SHINAR  
Lovely. Praise Allah, the manners  
of the family are alive.

DANIEL  
Won't you open it?

SHINAR  
Manners, young man, wait.

Shinar to kitchen, starts water for tea. Daniel shrugs off misstep, reflects on family heirlooms, artifacts, revealing history of seven generations of the family, their work, the wives & significant moments from them all. Kettle WHISTLES.

CUT TO:

EXT. CITY OF TAL AFAR - SUNSET

SUPER: Tal Afar - 45 miles from Mosul

Civil Defense siren WAILS. EXPLOSIONS. Wailing stops. ISIS soldiers attack city from three sides. Iraqi soldiers flee city to military base, throwing down weapons as they run.

ISIS soldiers ransack Tal Afar, Iraqi soldiers run, jump on fleeing busses, military vehicles. Kurdish, Shiite men, women & children bravely fight house-to-house with light arms, old AK-47s. ISIS heavy weapons, armor takes toll.

Hakim, ISIS soldiers attack fortress on hill, the last holdout of Shiites & Kurds, who are shot even when they surrender. Women are raped on the spot, bound, put in trucks. Children are allowed to flee, shot as sport.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. HOME OF SHINAR KHOURI - EVENING

Daniel, Shinar in heated discussion, blood & tradition could not overpower the differences of generations & cultures. Technology & lifestyles polarize a historic family into two distinct, separate society species.

SUPER: English sub-titles, DIALOGUE in Arabic.

SHINAR

But it was the name given to you.

DANIEL

Well, mother changed it.

SHINAR

Ha! Of course, the work of a woman! Changes the name of your father, a name hundreds of years old.

DANIEL

She was alone, she had to Americanize to work...get a job.

SHINAR

No matter, no matter...its your family name, you are the last of the house of Khouri.

Daniel pulls out photograph of his mother, held with a reverence unveiling more than just sentimental value.

DANIEL  
Look, three kids, alone, but she  
raised us, alone, so she decided...

SHINAR  
...put that away, away, out of my  
sight! Why do you show that woman  
here? Desecrate my house?

DANIEL  
It's only a...

SHINAR  
(disgusted)  
Her...and you...Christians!

Huge EXPLOSION rocks entire street, windows shatter, car  
ALARMS sound off, people on the street SCREAM, CRY. Several  
items fall off table, bookshelf in Shinar's apartment.

DANIEL  
What the...

Daniel carefully inches to window to witness devastation.

SHINAR  
No! No!

Daniel freezes, is shocked at images on street. Shinar is  
unmoved. Ambulance SIRENS grow louder. More SHOUTS.

SHINAR  
It is not finished.

Second BLAST. Shinar pulls out Koran, rug, and prays. Third  
EXPLOSION. Daniel reflects on scene, now alone mentally &  
spiritually, pulls out his phone, TYPES.

SUPER: English Text appears with CLICK when each letter  
appears, set on transparent outline of cell phone:

Dear God,

The dream of reuniting is now a  
nightmare.

Instead of family & home, it's a  
lion's den, with a total eclipse of  
tolerance.



Dear God, this is how I must pray  
to you now,

to do so any other way may start  
a war...may cost my life.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. AMIRA'S PORTABLE ON NINEVEH RUINS - NIGHT

Amira skypes with unseen person on laptop.

UNSEEN PERSON

...and the Ministry of Tourism and  
Antiquities will be very happy to  
see the pieces of Nimrod.

AMIRA

The real treasure are the scrolls,  
there must be hundreds of them.

Amira holds one up to the computer screen camera.

UNSEEN PERSON

Excellent! Almost mint condition!

AMIRA

We may have one problem. There was  
a car bomb today, just north of us  
at the university.

UNSEEN PERSON

Horrible. Anyone hurt?

AMIRA

Hasan's there now, we'll know  
later. But my people are getting  
nervous over ISIS. Are we OK?

UNSEEN PERSON

Yes, yes, of course. Our forces are  
keeping them in back...in Syria.

AMIRA

And Tal Afar?

UNSEEN PERSON

Tal Afar is fine, just fine. Uh,  
has Doctor Koury arrived to start  
the classifications?

AMIRA

Who?

UNSEEN PERSON

Were you not informed? There is an Assyrian and Chaldean specialist on his way to...

AMIRA

...you sent an outsider...here?

Silence. Anger. Amira looks around her domain as if the violation can be seen, tasted & smelled, besides felt.

AMIRA

(controlled shouts)

That was not our agreement! This project is about Iraq, our history.

UNSEEN PERSON

The Board had to make changes, his expertise will let us be sure...

AMIRA

...be sure of what?

UNSEEN PERSON

If we have the right pieces.

AMIRA

Right pieces? For who?

UNSEEN PERSON

The buyers who want it.

AMIRA

Buyers? These were not to be...

Skype signal starts to distort, voice of Unseen Person alters, breaks in and out, signal is dropped. Amira and Unseen Person try to re-establish contact. Fail. Amira controls her fierce anger as if having lot of practice.

AMIRA

Great.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. FRONT: HOME OF SHINAR KHOURI - MORNING

Taxi idles, Akmed talks to man on motorbike, who rides off as Daniel exits door holding excavation kit, 1950's Daniel Boone lunch box, Daniel raises in thanks to Shinar, who

watches departure from second story window, frowning.

AKMED

Eight AM. Very good, very good.

Daniel surveys damage down the street of blast night before.

AKMED

Not good, not good.

DANIEL

Know anything about this?

AKMED

Bad people, very bad people.

Both step into taxi, drive off, watched by man on motorbike in alley, looks to Shinar, who nods, man nods back, follows taxi. MOVE back to view entire city, three massive columns of oily black smoke rise on outskirts of Mosul.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. HILL OVERLOOKING NINEVEH RUINS - MORNING

Two men in para-military clothes, armed with high tech military communications equipment & weapons observe excavation site. Both are 'the-guy-next-door', but their manner & air of professionalism reek elite Special Forces.

POV High powered binoculars on camp, assistants working, Amira directing staff, holds find. Akmed, Daniel drive up in taxi, stop. However are ignored by staff & Amira.

PARAMILITARY #1 (O.C.)

Well, we have company. A new guy.

CUT TO:

EXT. NINEVEH RUINS - SECONDS LATER

Daniel processes being ignored, stands next to Akmed, who remains in taxi, scans horizon...carefully...suspiciously.

DANIEL

Well, I wasn't expecting a marching band, but this is rather awkward.

AKMED

Correct, no music here. No.

DANIEL

(starts walking off)  
No music indeed. Wait here.

Akmed sees glint reflection of binoculars on distant hill.

AKMED  
 (punches gas)  
 Back at six, six PM.

DANIEL  
 What the....?

Taxi ROARS off kicking up sand, dust over the entire site, causing all workers & Amira to stop & notice. Amira, furious, walks up patting dusk off her clothes.

AMIRA  
 Nice work. But we usually try to uncover artifacts here a little more delicately.

DANIEL  
 Apologies, but I asked him to stay.

AMIRA  
 (looks to colleagues)  
 So, he respects you, too. Great. We have a real winner here, folks.

Daniel looks around in silence, notices the scowl on faces of all the workers, assistants, & Amira, who finally nods to one of the workers to pick up Daniel's kit, takes to a large work tent. Still embarrassed, Daniel bows in gratitude.

AMIRA  
 So who, exactly, sent you?

DANIEL  
 Dr. Nazari, from your Ministry of Culture.

AMIRA  
 He's just a political hack. Was it one higher up? Who really sent you?

DANIEL  
 I...I don't know what you mean.

AMIRA  
 Figures.

Amira waves others to return to work, motions Daniel, Assistant #1 to work tent, whom she converses with.

SUPER: English sub-titles, DIALOGUE in Arabic.

AMIRA  
Only let him see the Gilgamesh  
compositions.

ASSISTANT #1  
Is that his expertise?

AMIRA  
We'll see.

ASSISTANT #1  
Do you know why he is here?

AMIRA  
The Ministry may have a reason, but  
he's an American, one never knows.

ASSISTANT #1  
CIA...? Oil....?

AMIRA  
One really never knows.

The three arrive at work tent, Assistant #1 pulls out box  
from huge storage tray, places on table. Amira smirks.

AMIRA  
(in English)  
Here's what we've recovered so far.

DANIEL  
(in Arabic, does not even  
look in tray)  
If this is a Gilgamesh text, is it  
one of the eight kings that ruled  
before the great flood, or the  
dynasties that came after?

Amira, Assistant #1 eye each other, shocked, embarrassed.

AMIRA  
You seem to know your Sumerian  
myths...and Arabic. Apologies...  
It's just that...

DANIEL  
Yes, I know, I'm an American, and  
one never knows with Americans.

AMIRA  
Apologies again, but we don't know  
why you're here, or who really sent  
you. This makes trust difficult.

DANIEL

Well, your government invited me,  
and despite what you heard or  
probably think, I guess I'm here  
because of what you found.

Amira, Assistant #1 look at each other as if discovered.

DANIEL

Or perhaps what you really found.

Amira nods to Assistant #1, who takes second box off shelf.

AMIRA

(extending hand)

Dr. Amira Rahal, University of  
Mosul. Antiquities.

DANIEL

(reciprocating)

Dr. Daniel Koury, Claremont  
University, California. Ancient  
Studies.

AMIRA

Khouri?

DANIEL

Koury.

AMIRA

Khouri is a well known name of  
archeology in Nineveh Province.

DANIEL

If you mean Dr. Shinar, then yes,  
he is that...and my grandfather.

Amira, Assistant #1 glance at each other, realizing before  
them was the descendant of an Iraqi legend in archeology.

ASSISTANT #1

Cali-for-nia?

Helicopter engine WHUMPAS in the distance. Amira, Assistant  
#1 rush outside, Daniel follows, workers scurry to clear  
landing zone. Copter lands, blowing more dusk than Akmed.  
Workers gather, happily greeting man in suit who steps off.

AMIRA

I think I know why you are here.

CUT TO:

EXT. HILL OVERLOOKING NINEVEH RUINS - MOMENTS LATER

Paramilitary team throw camouflage net over equipment & themselves, observe helicopter shut off engine, man departing, walking to Amira, Daniel, & assistants.

PARAMILITARY #1  
Uh-oh. Official company.

PARAMILITARY #2  
(German accent)  
What are dey doing here?

PARAMILITARY #1  
Something with that new guy?

PARAMILITARY #2  
Der boyfriend, perhaps?

PARAMILITARY #1  
Naw, Amira's strictly business, he must be in on this. Get a photo of him, upload to HQ. They'll know.

Paramilitary #2 pulls long tele-lens camera, WHIR of motor, POV camera interval CLICKS different positions of Daniel interacting with Amira, man in suit walking to portable.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. ISIS CAMP HEADQUARTERS - AFTERNOON

Hakim speaks on old fashioned radio with dials, headphones, surrounded by soldiers cleaning guns, horseplay.

SUPER: English sub-titles, DIALOGUE in Arabic.

HAKIM  
It has to be more than just relics.

RADIO VOICE  
How do you know this?

HAKIM  
There's Shiite guards disguised as workers. Ministry visits. Talk... an American may be there soon.

RADIO VOICE  
CIA?

HAKIM

No one knows...yet.

RADIO VOICE

Has anything been taken away from  
the site?

HAKIM

Not a grain of sand.

AK-47 BLURPS outside. SHOUTS, commotion, more SHOTS. Hakim drops radio, grabs guns, rushes outside. Soldiers jump up & down, point at dead wild boar, tipped crates & spilled vegetables animal was raiding. SHOUTS. No one goes near it.

HAKIM

Stupid shits.

Hakim returns disgusted, pissed, into his tent to radio set.

RADIO VOICE

(breaking in & out)

What happened?

HAKIM

We will not be eating dinner  
tonight.

RADIO VOICE

As you wish. What do you think  
they're hiding?

HAKIM

Gold. Such big money is not spent  
on finding simple scrolls, statues.

RADIO VOICE

You must find out and take proper  
action before Eid Al-Adha.

HAKIM

Understood. Question. Are you  
watching the site?

RADIO VOICE

That's your job, are you watching?

HAKIM

Yes, but others are watching too.

RADIO VOICE

Who?



HAKIM  
We don't know.

RADIO VOICE  
Then kill them.

HAKIM  
We can't.

RADIO VOICE  
Why not?

HAKIM  
Who we send do not return.

RADIO VOICE  
Then find a way to kill them. Allah  
willing, find a way.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. AMIRA'S PORTABLE ON NINEVEH RUINS - AFTERNOON

Daniel, Amira, Assistant #1, & distinguished looking, suave, MINISTER MAHMUD NAZARI (62) in expensive tailored suits from Italy examine scrolls & artifacts on table. Amira raises scroll, Nazari waves off with little regard, or interest.

MINISTER NAZARI  
So, these scrolls mention a Final  
Kingdom, and all that, OK. So are  
all these only Christian?

DANIEL  
Pre-Christian. Seventh Century BC.

MINISTER NAZARI  
The fall of Nineveh?

DANIEL  
Perhaps, that's my guess...now.

MINISTER NAZARI  
And the coin? May I see it?

Amira nods to Assistant #1, who hands over coin. Nazari examines with eyepiece as if a professional jeweler.

MINISTER NAZARI  
Yes, yes. Very nice, pristine, too.  
Ten BC you say? Or older?

AMIRA

The doctor here thinks from five to ten BC. We however, the museum, feel Augustus coins could be minted as early as 20 or even 30 BC.

Minister Nazari eyes coin intensely, then Daniel.

DANIEL

There are some who believe Augustus started having his image on coins a few years after his victory at Actium in 31 BC...I think he waited a little longer.

MINISTER NAZARI

Why?

AMIRA

(irritated)

Yes. Why?

DANIEL

Because Augustus was always very concerned with appearances. After the Battle of Actium he did have total power in Rome, all the more reason to keep up the facade Rome was still a Republic...since...

MINISTER NAZARI

Yes...since that's what got his great uncle Julius Caesar killed, the appearance of total power. Hmmm. Makes sense.

Amira, Assistant #1's eyes lower in disappointment.

MINISTER NAZARI

So how many more of these?

DANIEL

You mean, there's more than one?

MINISTER NAZARI

(eyes Amira coldly)

I'm hearing there's more.

Amira pulls third box off shelf, places on table.

AMIRA

To date we have seventy-six.

Daniel, Minister Nazari react in amazement as all glistening pieces are placed out on the table before them.

MINISTER NAZARI  
Why was this not in the report?

AMIRA  
We wanted to present them all at once.

MINISTER NAZARI  
Word of this is already out, you need extra protection. This should have been shipped to the museum.

AMIRA  
No. Everything stays together.

Minister Nazari looks to Daniel, who shrugs shoulders.

DANIEL  
That is procedure for this branch of science, find a group, keep the group...correlations may be needed.

MINISTER NAZARI  
Well, for now, maybe, but by next week, I want...

SHOUTS, COMMOTION outside, hands BANG & THUMP on car. All four cautiously move to door. Daniel lets out MOAN. Akmed sits in his taxi surrounded by angry workers, who SHOUT, BANG his taxi, Akmed fights them off with hands thru window.

MINISTER NAZARI  
What is that?

DANIEL  
I think that's my ride home.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. BOARDROOM UNKNOWN EXECUTIVES - UNKNOWN

Dozens of monitors showing news reports from around the world fill a circular high-tech room's wall, two WOMEN & one MAN, executive types of the highest level, sit at one end of huge tech conference table. No emotions. Strictly business.

EXECUTIVE MAN  
How much gold you think is there?

WOMAN EXECUTIVE #1  
I'm sure it exceeds the EU's  
treasury, but I'm more interested  
in this blueprint mentioned.

EXECUTIVE MAN  
Blueprint for what?

WOMAN EXECUTIVE #1  
Resurrection of a second Roman  
Empire. That's why Koury's there.

WOMAN EXECUTIVE #2  
How are manuscripts from the  
seventh century BC going to help  
our political designs now?

WOMAN EXECUTIVE #1  
Prophecy. Prophecy is always a good  
hedge fund in time of troubles.

EXECUTIVE MAN  
Hedge fund? How?

WOMAN EXECUTIVE #1  
As a guide.

Woman Executive #2's face flushes a daze of disbelief.

WOMAN EXECUTIVE #2  
Really? You believe that? A guide?

WOMAN EXECUTIVE #1  
Jules Verne showed in 1869 how to  
get to the Moon, but it took  
society 100 years to evolve in  
making it so. If these scrolls show  
us how to run Europe now, and we  
have the power, why not use it now?

WOMAN EXECUTIVE #2  
But we have the EU already.

WOMAN EXECUTIVE #1  
We only own it. Full control comes  
when people give up their power  
voluntarily. The scrolls discovered  
I feel is the guide how to do so.

EXECUTIVE MAN  
You mean how to control Europe are  
described in these scrolls?

WOMAN EXECUTIVE #1  
 Force has always failed; Rome,  
 Charlemagne, Napoleon...Hitler,  
 each one shown by prophecy in deed  
 and date. These scrolls will reveal  
 how not repeat those mistakes.

WOMAN EXECUTIVE #2  
 I can't believe you buy this bunk.

WOMAN EXECUTIVE #1  
 I don't buy the religion, just the  
 vision, it has a track record we  
 can't ignore. You saw it yourself.

Woman Exec #1 presses computer screen, graph shows when  
 prophecy given, when event occurred, with symbolic images.

EXECUTIVE MAN  
 May be wise to consider all  
 prospects, with what's at stake.

WOMAN EXECUTIVE #1  
 And the Russians, Chinese, and Amis  
 have all raised those stakes.

WOMAN EXECUTIVE #2  
 So this Koury will decipher these  
 scrolls, for us?

WOMAN EXECUTIVE #1  
 He will, but for the love of his  
 archeology, for the academia...he  
 has no idea of us.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. NINEVEH RUINS - EVENING

Minister Narazi ignores Amira & Daniel as he boards/takes  
 off in helicopter. The couple walk towards Akmed in taxi  
 awkwardly, wanting to learn more of each other, but afraid  
 to show any interest in the present environment, company.

DANIEL  
 Just out of curiosity, what are you  
 not telling me?

AMIRA  
 What do you mean?

DANIEL  
 I think it's standard procedure for  
 (MORE)

DANIEL (CONT'D)

any director of a dig site to only reveal the tip of the iceberg. At least, that's what I would do.

AMIRA

Really? You? Why?

DANIEL

Same reasons probably you'd probably do the same, politics.

AMIRA

The truth is, we don't really know exactly what we have yet. Ironic you are here, though.

DANIEL

Why?

AMIRA

Your grandfather was the one I was thinking of contacting to decipher.

DANIEL

He might enjoy getting back in the field. I'll ask him.

AMIRA

No. That is not proper. I will.

DANIEL

Fine. If you are going to do that, tomorrow after Dhuhr prayers is the best time, he gets cranky after the Asr. Let me give you his ad...

AMIRA

Thank-you, I know his house.

DANIEL

Then, until tomorrow. However, I have one request. One scroll for homework?

Daniel holds up one scroll he lifted from the table.

AMIRA

What is it?

DANIEL

Prophecy. From my namesake.

AMIRA  
Your namesake? Khouri?

DANIEL  
Daniel.

AMIRA  
Daniel? The...

DANIEL  
Looks like it, let me look it over,  
I'll let you know tomorrow.

Amira nods reluctant approval as they arrive at taxi. Both shake hands goodbye, Amira almost unwilling, Daniel shy. Akmed notices awkwardness, MUMBLES over school children of the opposite sex unable to speak to each other. Frustration.

AMIRA  
Tomorrow, then.

Akmed looks around before starting taxi, Daniel climbs in.

AKMED  
(to Amira)  
Allah be with you.

Engine revs, Akmed slowly drives off, still looking around.

AMIRA  
(quietly)  
May Allah protect you.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. AKMED'S TAXI - ROAD OUT OF NINEVEH - MOMENTS LATER

Akmed notices red tint from location in hills where binocular reflection was seen earlier, sits lower in seat. Daniel pulls out phone, begins to text message.

AKMED  
(to himself)  
Allah watches, day and night.

SUPER: English Text appears with CLICK when each letter appears, set on transparent outline of cell phone:

Dear God,

Today. Pain. Mistrust. Hate.

(MORE)

Met hate, returned love. Has their  
hate subsided? Has mine?

I know not. Guide me. Both love &  
hate are transforming, but which  
one am I transforming into?

Things not what they seem. Dear  
God, reveal to me the truth, my  
life may depend on it.

FADE TO BLACK.

SHOUTS in Arabic. One VOICE rises above others, SILENCE.

FADE IN:

INT. ISIS CAMP HEADQUARTERS - NIGHT

Commander Hakim & other commanders sit in tent, listen to  
their leader, pocked marked faced ABULLA ATTAHARI, (44) with  
a long unkept beard, the poster boy for a terrorist, terror  
seen in his eyes in person or a photo, points at Mosul map.

SUPER: English sub-titles, DIALOGUE in Arabic.

ABULLA  
Prepared?

COMMANDERS  
Allah Akbar!

ABULLA  
Organized?

COMMANDERS  
Allah Akbar!

ABULLA  
Tomorrow, then.

HAKIM  
The message! The video.

Abulla nods approval, motions with hands for ritual to take  
place. Lights, camera, ISIS flag as backdrop are set up.  
Prisoner in orange jumpsuit is brought out, hands bound  
behind his back. Hakim puts on black ski mask, takes blade.

HAKIM  
(to camera)  
People of Mosul, this is the fate  
of all who defy the word of Allah!



POV camera, Hakim slices the neck of the prisoner.

COMMANDERS

Allah Akbar! Allah Akbar!

HAKIM

This is the fate of all those who  
defy us!

"Allah Akbar" ECHOES as severed head is raised to camera.

CUT TO:

INT. ANCHOR NEWS DESK - (NEWS FOOTAGE)

Scenes of OBAMA speaking speaking in front of crowds.

NEWSCASTER

In a wide-ranging interview with  
the New Yorker, President Barack  
Obama compared Al-Qaeda-linked  
militants in Iraq and Syria, known  
as ISIS, to junior varsity  
basketball players, downplaying  
their threat as small-league. He  
also shared what he thought were  
extremely good chances of reaching  
Middle East peace agreements.

FADE OUT

CRACKLE, STATIC of speaker phone.

FADE IN:

EXT. HILL OVERLOOKING NINEVEH RUINS - NIGHT

Cell CLICKS, paramilitary team wakes quickly, answers.

PARAMILITARY #1

Oklahoma Forward, here.

RADIO VOICE

DR7 says you've got bad guys coming  
your way. Copy?

PARAMILITARY #1

Copy. We already got 'em.

RADIO VOICE

Negative. DR7 has new spec, repeat,  
new spec, will be a full force,

(MORE)

RADIO VOICE (CONT'D)

repeat, full force, do you copy?

PARAMILITARY #1

Copy, Warsaw Alpha, full force. How many bad guys, Warsaw Alpha?

RADIO VOICE

DR7 says at least five thousand, Oklahoma Forward, five, zero, zero, zero, heading your way. Copy?

PARAMILITARY #2

Scheisse.

PARAMILITARY #1

Copy Warsaw Alpha, five thousand. How much time do we have? Over.

RADIO VOICE

DR7 says three hours. Copy?

PARAMILITARY #1

Copy, Warsaw Alpha, three hours.

RADIO VOICE

Get out Jesse. Now. Copy?

PARAMILITARY #1

Copy Warsaw Alpha, getting out now.

RADIO VOICE

Go Sooners.

PARAMILITARY #1

Thanks, go War Eagle. Oklahoma Forward, out.

Paramilitary agents look at each other, Paramilitary #1 gives hand/finger circular motion to wrap it up. Both collect gear, weapons in disciplined, practiced motion.

SUPER: English sub-titles, DIALOGUE in German.

PARAMILITARY #1

(American accent)

Well? You wanted a beer, didn't you? Now you can have a cold one.

PARAMILITARY #2

Yes, but I want this mission, too.

PARAMILITARY #1

It'll still be here, we're just

(MORE)

PARAMILITARY #1 (CONT'D)

going to sit out the rush hour.

PARAMILITARY #2

That's not what I'm hearing when others deal with these guys.

PARAMILITARY #1

So, you want to go down there now? We don't even know what to pick, in less than an hour? Come, let's go.

Both brush observation area with bush. Paramilitary #2 points cell phone to sky, CLICKS, both step down hill, come across four dead ISIS bodies, all shot in the head, which they kick off the path into a gully bellow, filled with over a dozen other dead ISIS soldiers.

PARAMILITARY #1

Their friends can bury them.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. HOME OF SHINAR KHOURI - AFTERNOON

Amira, Shinar, & Daniel drink tea in constrained atmosphere, unconsciously aware the meeting is delicate, but consciously not knowing why. Both Shinar & Daniel examine artifacts, as Amira lays them out on rug with tempered joy, & pride.

SHINAR

We do not view this Daniel as a prophet, a saint, perhaps. He is respected for interpreting dreams.

AMIRA

Then why is this so important to Christians? His work is hundreds of years before Christ was even born.

DANIEL

True, Daniel's prophecies were written hundreds of years before Christians, but are important for their accuracy about Christians.

AMIRA

We focus on his prophecies for the Final Days, for all peoples.

DANIEL

For us he's the Rosetta Stone of understanding all the different writings on the Endtime.

## MONTAGE - PROPHECIES OF DANIEL

-- Prophet Daniel, as young boy, in bonds, entering Babylon, being educated with three other youth in King's Court.

DANIEL (V.O.)

In the reign of Jehoiakim, 606 BC, Daniel was among the young Jewish nobility carried off to Babylon. He and three others were chosen for their intelligence to be trained as advisers for the Babylonian court.

-- King Nebuchadnezzar angrily shouts at his advisors, interpreters, points at his private guards, woman throws dust on fire bowl, increases size of flames, speaks to King, she is carried off by soldiers & impaled outside city gate.

DANIEL (V.O.)

In the second year of King Nebuchadnezzar's reign, he was distressed by a series of frightening dreams, demanded from his advisors they not only interpret his dream, but to describe the dream itself. Those who pretended to know faced a horrible death.

-- Daniel prays in cell, has vision of statue with head of gold, arms of silver, belly of brass, legs of iron, and feet of iron & clay. Daniel speaks with guard.

DANIEL (V.O.)

As Daniel was in training to be an advisor, he too was marked for execution, and prayed to God of heaven for mercy in solving the mystery so that he and his friends would not be killed. God revealed the King's dream to Daniel and the meaning. Daniel told the guard he was willing to reveal the dream.

-- Daniel speaks with king, animation of the statue come to life in sequence with text.

DANIEL (V.O.)

Daniel told the King, "As you lie before sleeping, your thoughts are of the days ahead. God answered your wish of knowing the future in

(MORE)

DANIEL (V.O.) (CONT'D)

your dreams. The gold head of the statue in your dream is your kingdom, wealth, power, and glory, it is you that is the head of gold.

Your rule will be followed by another kingdom, of with arms of silver, inferior to yours, followed by one of bronze, the belly and finally one that rules like iron.

The statue's feet are of iron and clay, meaning a mongrel half-breed empire, which won't hold together, and a stone hitting the feet makes the statue fall to dust.

-- Animation of mountain growing over fallen statue, taking on the materials from the fallen piece in balanced form.

DANIEL (V.O.)

The dust from the statue becomes a great mountain, the Kingdom of God, that fills the earth, and will stand strong and eternal. God has let you, the King, know what will happen in the years to come.

END MONTAGE.

All three sit in silence. SHOUTS heard in far distance.

SHINAR

Those parts of the statue could mean anything.

DANIEL

Yes, but for Daniel to be given insight to know exactly what the King actually dreamt?

AMIRA

What were the other kingdoms, besides Nebuchadnezzar's gold?

DANIEL

Silver is Persia, brass is ancient Greece, and iron is Rome.

SHOUTS increase, CLANKING of tank. Shinar looks at clock.

SHINAR  
It's happening.

DANIEL  
What?

Explosion BLASTS down the street, followed by another further away. Shinar rushes to closet, pulls out boxes, from one box he pulls out black burka & white kufi cap.

SHINAR  
Put these on...quickly!

SCREAMS, MACHINE GUN fire, tank outside FIRES round.

DANIEL  
You know something about this?

SHIRNAR  
These are bad times, we must survive how we can.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. BOARDROOM UNKNOWN EXECUTIVES - DAY

All twelve seats of high tech boardroom conference table are taken, two security men in coat & tie stand by door.

WOMAN EXECUTIVE #1  
Both Shell and Exxon are worried about production in Kirkuk. Reports are that these ISIS people have taken half of Nineveh province. Suggestions?

EXECUTIVE MAN  
We're not going to get any help from the US military, my people inside the White House say they don't want to touch this with a ten foot pole.

WOMAN EXECUTIVE #2  
What about Great Britain?

EXECUTIVE MAN  
It would take something drastic from them to get involved, their Muslim population has the government by the balls.

Red dots flash, BUZZES, at bottom of TV monitors on wall.

Shadowy ELDERLY MAN appears on all monitors. Members react.

ELDERLY MAN

Why are all the oil and financial groups calling me about Iraq?

WOMAN EXECUTIVE #1

Apparently ISIS has not honored their agreement. They started.

ELDERLY MAN

Don't we have contingency plans? You knew they couldn't be trusted.

WOMAN EXECUTIVE #1

Without the US or EU, we only have a few people on the ground.

ELDERLY MAN

What about our discovery?

WOMAN EXECUTIVE #1

We hope that will remain hidden until we can remedy the situation.

Other board members look at each other, WHISPERS begin.

EXECUTIVE MAN

About the corporate people there?

ELDERLY MAN

Tell Exxon and Shell we'll get their people out, tell the banks we can do the same, but they will owe us on this one...big time.

WOMAN EXECUTIVE #1

At once, sir.

ELDERLY MAN

Keep me posted, and no more bad news on this, we're already behind.

Screens returns to regular news shows. WHISPERS swell to BUZZ of discussion. Woman Executive #1 taps for silence.

EXECUTIVE MAN

What discovery was he speaking of?

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. STREETS OF MOSUL - ESTABLISHING SHOT - DAY

Civilians being rounded up, bound, crucified, shot. Houses, businesses, banks, government offices looted. Children cry by dead parents, refugees flee, few soldiers shoot back.

CUT TO:

INT. HOME OF SHINAR KHOURI - MOMENTS LATER

Doors SMASH down hallway. SCREAMS, shots FIRED, soldiers SHOUTING commands. Rifle pounds on door. Shinar opens door, two soldiers rush in, Daniel & Amira are in prayer position.

SUPER: English sub-titles, DIALOGUE in Arabic.

SOLDIER #1

What house is this?

SHINAR

This is the House of Khouri, and the Al-Noree Grand Mosque.

SOLDIER #1

You are with...?

SHINAR

The Great Ali Fouad Tahan of Al-Noree, he will vouch for me.

SOLDIER #1

And them?

SHINAR

My family. Grandson, wife.

SOLDIER #1

Papers.

Amira gives Shinar her papers, Daniel remains still, soldier looks at Amira's papers, throws them back. Points to Amira.

SOLDIER #1

(to other soldier)

Doctor.

SOLDIER #2

Him?

SHINAR

He's a doctor, too, here.

Shinar offers elegant silver box on mantel, soldier pulls out papers, examine, hands back to Shinar.



SOLDIER #1  
Doctors. Come.

SHINAR  
What? We are of the faith with  
Great Ali Fouad Tahan, who gave  
assurances to me, and my family.

SOLDIER #1  
The Great Ali Fouad Tahan needs  
doctors. Come.

Amira, Daniel pick up what belongings they can on their way  
out. Shinar collects several bags, gives to Daniel.

SHINAR  
Allah protect you.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. MOUNTAINS OUTSIDE MOSUL - SUNSET

PAN mountains. No people visible, no movement.

PARAMILITARY #1 (V.O.)  
Warsaw Alpha, no pick up in site.

RADIO VOICE (V.O.)  
Oklahoma Forward, copy. No word  
from Wild Turkey 3. Over.

PARAMILITARY #1 (V.O.)  
Getting cold, here. Copy?

RADIO VOICE (V.O.)  
Roger that. Wild Turkey 3's the  
only one on standby.

PARAMILITARY #1 (V.O.)  
Warsaw Alpha, its been a whole day,  
how about cranking up another?

RADIO VOICE (V.O.)  
Sorry, Okie. No help from our  
friends on this one. You may have  
to camp out a while. Over.

PARAMILITARY #1 (V.O.)  
Thanks for nothing, Warsaw Alpha,  
put me on overtime as of 0400 this  
morning. I want to see that on my  
next paycheck. Copy?

RADIO VOICE (V.O.)  
 Roger that Oklahoma Forward. At  
 0400 overtime. Sorry Jesse.

SUPER: English sub-titles, DIALOGUE in German.

PARAMILITARY #1 (V.O.)  
 What's for dinner?

PARAMILITARY #2 (V.O.)  
 A sand viper, some crickets, and a  
 camel spider. Look.

PARAMILITARY #1 (V.O.)  
 What the...? Get that god damn  
 thing out of my face!

PARAMILITARY #2 (V.O.)  
 Sorry, can't cook this evening,  
 we'll have to eat it raw tonight.

PARAMILITARY #1 (V.O.)  
You can, I'm going on watch.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. ISIS CAMP HEADQUARTERS MOSUL - EVENING

Amira, Daniel sit in tent with soldiers, who play with  
 knives, clean their guns. Hakim enters tent, all rise.

SUPER: English sub-titles, DIALOGUE in Arabic.

HAKIM  
 You are the doctors from the House  
 of Khouri?

DANIEL  
 Praise Allah. Yes.

HAKIM  
 You are needed by the Caliphate.

DANIEL  
 We will heal your men, God willing.

HAKIM  
 (inspects belongings)  
 Where are your medical kits?

DANIEL  
 Your men did not give us time to  
 collect our tools.

Hakim frowns, comes face to face with Soldier #1 by inches.

HAKIM

(shouting)

Can you work without your tools?

SOLDIER #1

I can't.

HAKIM

Can they work without their tools?

SOLDIER #1

They can't.

HAKIM

Then take them to their work and  
get their tools.

SOLDIER #1

At once!

Hakim fakes huge smile, embarrassingly motions to door as if inviting soldiers, Amira, & Daniel out to the car. Soldiers glare at each other file out. Hakim puts hand on forehead.

HAKIM

Stupid shits.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MOSUL CHRISTIAN CHURCH - CHILDREN'S ROOM - EVENING

Children watch cartoon Bible television show.

- - Daniel walks down road, sees a two horned ram and one horned goat appear in the sky.

VOICE OVER

Daniel saw a vision of a two-horned  
ram coming from the east, and a  
one-horned goat come from the west.

-- The animals begin to fight in the sky.

VOICE OVER

The clash and dominance of the goat  
over the ram was explained to Daniel  
by the angel Gabriel.

-- Angel Gabriel appears, talks to Daniel, transposed on  
screen appears the text:

VOICE OVER

The ram which you saw, having two horns, are the kings of Persia. And the rough goat is the kingdom of Greece, and the great horn that is between his eyes is the first king.

-- Map of ancient Greece and Persia is shown animated.

VOICE OVER

In Daniel, Chapter Eight, we are given prophecy 200 years before the conquest of Persia by Greece, before either were a major power.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MOSUL HOSPITAL - EVENING

Amira, Daniel, walk inside hospital looking for equipment, soldiers follow down the hall with shopping cart. Broken glass, smashed furniture, dead bodies litter the floor.

AMIRA

Should we run?

DANIEL

Where to? From the looks of it, they control most of the city now.

AMIRA

My family has a house near Zakho.

DANIEL

Isn't that heading to Syria? I heard its even worse there.

AMIRA

Its closer to Turkey, actually.

DANIEL

I don't know.

AMIRA

What, are you afraid?

DANIEL

No, just would like a...plan.

AMIRA

A plan?

DANIEL

Yes, like a car waiting, maybe some safe houses and sympathetic allies along the escape route. Food, water in case we're underground for a few days. Things like that.

AMIRA

It's only three hours to Zakho.

DANIEL

Maybe it was three hours on your last trip, with checkpoints, the road being watched, it's more now.

AMIRA

Ok, maybe four, or five hours.

DANIEL

Yes, by car, which we don't have. How long by foot?

Amira steps into room with window/door to roof, which she opens, nods to Daniel, seductively mimics for him to follow. Mesmerized for a second, Daniel follows. Then snaps spell.

DANIEL

What the...?

Daniel runs to door, holds it shut with his hand.

DANIEL

Are you crazy?!? We need a plan.

Soldiers down hall stomp over into room, Amira grabs Daniel, embraces, then kiss right as soldiers enter room.

SUPER: English sub-titles, DIALOGUE in Arabic.

SOLDIER #1

Enough. Hakim waits.

Daniel suppresses shock, Amira fakes embarrassment, both toss collected material bags into soldier's shopping cart.

DANIEL

Just wanted some clean sheets.

SOLDIER #1

Enough. Go.

CUT TO:

EXT FRONT OF MOSUL HOSPITAL - MOMENTS LATER

Daniel, Amira, soldiers toss equipment in back of pickup, gunfire erupts from building above. All take cover, soldiers shoot back. Soldier #1 calls on walkie-talkie, Soldier #2 makes flanking run, is hit. RPG hits front of truck, engine ERUPTS into huge fire, smoke. Car full of new ISIS arrives.

AMIRA  
(to Daniel)  
Now?

DANIEL  
Now what?

Soldiers from new ISIS car roll out, fire RPG's, their heavier guns shred windows, three storm the building. Shots, EXPLOSIONS erupt in house. Silence. Daniel, Amira, Soldier #1 stand, two dead uniformed Iraqis tossed out of window.

SOLDIERS  
Allah Akbar!

Soldier #2 moans, Amira, Daniel look at each other, grab medical bags, run towards him, cut off shirt, clean his chest wound. Soldier #1 steps up to observe the 'doctors'.

DANIEL  
We have him! Save the equipment!

Soldier #1 runs back to pickup, front burns fiercely. Soldier #1, soldiers unload medical supplies from back.

AMIRA  
Know how to pull out a bullet?

DANIEL  
Only saw it done on TV.

AMIRA  
(grabs forceps from bag)  
Then move aside.

Amira pushes Daniel between soldier #2 & pickup to block view of her jamming forceps into wound, then pushes up to heart. Soldier #2 coughs up blood, struggles, dies. Amira sticks two fingers in wound, pulls out bullet.

DANIEL  
My god..!

AMIRA  
It's better he dies here, than us.

Soldier #1 walks back to Amira, Daniel, who shake their heads, faking sorrow. Amira holds up bullet.

SUPER: English sub-titles, DIALOGUE in Arabic.

AMIRA

We couldn't stop the bleeding.

Soldier #1 cries in anguish, fires AK-47 into window above, fires more bullets into the dead Iraqi uniformed bodies until cartridge case empties, falls to knees, prays. Daniel, Amira follow suit. Engine of pickup EXPLODES, all duck.

DANIEL

What now?

SOLDIER #1

We get another car.

Two soldiers in other ISIS car drive off. Soldier #1 walks over area, returns, inspects soldier #2's body, looks at Daniel, Amira. Daniel opens hands, looks up into sky, prays.

DANIEL

Allah have him, be merciful.

ISIS car returns, soldiers, guns leaning out window at taxi in tow. Both stop besides burning pickup. Soldiers throw recovered medical supplies in taxi, driver gets out: Akmed.

DANIEL

(under his breath)

Holy shit.

Akmed, with huge smile approaches Soldier #1, Daniel, Amira.

AKMED

Allah be praised. ISIS is here. How can I help those of Allah?

Daniel shakes his head 'no' slightly, Akmed still approaches opening his mouth to say something to Daniel. Gas tank in pick-up truck erupts in EXPLOSION, all drop to the ground.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. HILL OVERLOOKING NINEVEH RUINS - NIGHT

Two ISIS soldiers stand guard overlooking Nineveh Ruins, one unzips his pants, prepares, urinates. Two heavy CLICKS from a silenced gun splatter their brains on each other. Both Paramilitary agents walk by, pick up bags of the dead men.

PARAMILITARY #1  
Someone pissing on your bush again?

PARAMILITARY #2  
D'ees assholes.

PARAMILITARY #1  
(points at backpacks)  
Let's see if there's any kebabs or  
hummus, I'm sick of eating bugs.

PARAMILITARY #2  
Klar.

Paramilitary men go through backpacks, find map, some Dolmas  
& Bureks wrapped in handkerchief, and two gold coins.

PARAMILITARY #1  
Well...what have we here?

PARAMILITARY #2  
D'ees are ages old.

PARAMILITARY #1  
You're the antique expert, how much  
are one of these worth?

PARAMILITARY #2  
(examines by penlight)  
Ancient Rome. Pristine...Priceless.

Paramilitary #1 takes night vision binoculars, scans the  
Nineveh excavation site. POV night vision image.

PARAMILITARY #1  
Well, seems there might be just a  
bit more than old scrolls and stone  
statues down there.

PARAMILITARY #2  
Logish, us not told, und makes  
perfect sense.

PARAMILITARY #1  
What makes perfect sense?

Paramilitary #2 unfolds captured ISIS map, photo of Minister  
Mahmod Nazari pasted on it over dig site.

PARAMILITARY #2  
Why is ISIS and Iraqi Minister are  
here, why is that stranger  
here...and why ve sent here?



PARAMILITARY #1

This is getting to look a wee bit more than just a recon mission. What does that German engineering brain tell you?

PARAMILITARY#2

D'ees is big-time. Ja. Klar.

Paramilitary #1 hands night vision binoculars to #2.

PARAMILITARY #1

Damn Henderson. If these sand scumbags knew about this treasure, he must have known too.

PARAMILITARY #2

Has he lied to you before?

PARAMILITARY #1

More than several times.

PARAMILITARY #2

Perhaps d'res a vay ve could even the score here.

PARAMILITARY #1

I'm listening.

Distance SHOT of paramilitary agents on mountain, crickets CHIRP, indistinguishable conversation in GERMAN.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. FRONT OF MOSUL HOSPITAL - NIGHT

All rise from pickup exploding. Akmed is visibly shaken.

SUPER: English sub-titles, DIALOGUE in Arabic.

DANIEL

(to Akmed)

Are you OK? My wife and I are doctors, we can help.

AKMED

Doctors?

Akmed breaks into huge smile, looks towards Soldier #1, who approaches taxi. Daniel grits his teeth, looks to Amira.

AKMED

Doctors?

Akmed looks around at all the other soldiers, up to sky.

AKMED

Doctors! Praise Allah! And my wife so ill. My prayers are answered. Praise Allah!

SOLDIER #1

They are to come with us. You can have them later, right now we need your taxi, and you. Follow us.

Amira walks up to taxi, looks inside at the back filled with equipment, passenger seat is free. She eyes Akmed.

AMIRA

I will ride here to watch the equipment...

Soldier #1 nods, points to Daniel to get into other car. Turns to Akmed, points gun, motions to taxi.

SOLDIER #1

You stay next to us. Do not lose one band aid...or else.

AKMED

Of course, of course. Everything for Allah, ISIS, and my wife...

All parties enter cars, ISIS car has difficulty starting, finally starts, driver REVS engine to max RPM, slowly jerks, screeches, jumps in gear to shaky jerking moving motion.

CUT TO:

INT. AKMED'S TAXI - STREETS OF MOSUL - MOMENTS LATER

Amira, Akmed drive, do no look at each other while talking, soldiers in other car watch, have guns trained on taxi.

AMIRA

How did they find you?

AKMED

I was on the next block, watching you. What a mess. Why didn't you run when you were in the hospital?

AMIRA

He didn't want to.

AKMED

What? Why not?

ISIS soldiers in car nearby mimic they are about to shoot at the taxi, LAUGH. Shoot at parked cars, buildings instead.

AMIRA

He wanted to have a plan first.

AKMED

Stupid Americans.

AMIRA

What about my site?

AKMED

They say it's ISIS property now.

AMIRA

Who says? Mahmud?

AKMED

No, my friends.

AMIRA

Why aren't your friends helping us?  
Don't they want a return on their  
investment, their property?

ISIS soldiers in nearby car motion for Akmed to make a turn.  
Fire shots in front of taxi when turn not done fast enough.

AKMED

Don't know, everyone is just  
letting ISIS have a free hand.  
Letting them roam free.

AMIRA

Even the Americans?

AKMED

Especially the Americans. They're  
the ones setting all restrictions.

AMIRA

And I thought this Koury was their  
agent. What is he doing here then?

AKMED

Maybe he's who he says he is.

AMIRA

Ha! Who here is ever who they say

(MORE)

AMIRA (CONT'D)

they are?

AKMED

True. Often a man is not what he says, but what he hides.

AMIRA

I wonder what he is hiding?

AKMED

I wonder what's being hidden from us.

AMIRA

What do you mean?

AKMED

I mean someone else is watching the site.

AMIRA

Who?

AKMED

Don't know, but top notch. High tech gear, survival skills, dead shots. Someone's special forces.

AMIRA

Who else could know about our find?

AKMED

Someone with a lot of money, and resources. A lot of resources.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. THE VATICAN - ESTABLISHING SHOT - EVENING

Tourists, priests, nuns, enter & exist St.Peter's Square.

SUPER: English Text appears with CLICK when each letter appears, set on transparent outline of cell phone:

Dear God,

Alone. For the first time in my life I am alone, truly alone, surrounded by death...

...by those who cherish death.

(MORE)

Will the Holy Spirit truly be  
retained in me, should my body be  
ripped to shreds?

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. THE VATICAN - CONFERENCE ROOM - EVENING

Cardinals, priests, discuss around gold conference table.

CARDINAL #1

How did ISIS get into the site?

PRIEST #1

There were no assets there to  
protect it. We knew they might not  
keep their word, a plan was in  
place for that, our people were  
ready...but no protection sent.

CARDINAL #1

God damn it, the State Department  
gave us assurances.

CARDINAL #2

This apparently...was a lie...?

PRIEST #1

Henderson must have known it was a  
lie when giving us assurances.

CARDINAL #1

It's getting to be a habit with his  
administration. But what can we do  
now, with what we have there?

All members look at one another. Silence.

PRIEST #1

We only have one contact on the  
ground, the rest have been killed.

CARDINAL #1

Then I think we are in agreement  
this is important enough to do this  
operation ourselves?

All members nod in agreement. Cardinal #1 picks up old  
styled gold phone on table, presses one button.

CARDINAL #1

Get me Verneti.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. ISIS CAMP HEADQUARTERS - SUNRISE

Soldiers, Amira, Daniel unload medical supplies from taxi to tent. Hakim approaches; groggy, ruffled...highly concerned.

HAKIM

What took you so long?

SOLDIER #1

Attacked, we lost a truck...Jamal.

HAKIM

(walks to Akmed)

And who is this?

SOLDIER #1

A new recruit.

AKMED

Myself. My taxi, at the service to Allah...and you, of course.

HAKIM

What mosque are you?

AKMED

The first ever in the city, Umayyad, built in 640 AD by Utba bin Farquad Al-Salami in the reign of Caliph Umar bin Al-Khattab.

HAKIM

(to Soldier #1)

Have Haji check him out. His name?

Soldier #1 shrugs shoulders "Don't know".

AKMED

Akmed Ba-Seif Al-Hakimi Moghadam Bin-Shammas Fakhoury....junior.

HAKIM

So, Akmed Fakhoury, help the doctors with your taxi.

AKMED

Yes, noble leader. When we're done, can the doctors, some medicine, be spared for my poor, ill wife?

HAKIM  
Your wife?

AKMED  
As promised by your lieutenant?

SOLDIER #1  
I promised nothing.

AKMED  
Then humbly, may I request again?

HAKIM  
Help the doctors. We heard your request.

Akmed heads to taxi muttering to self, helps unload medical supplies. Hakim, Soldier #1 walk towards another tent.

HAKIM  
Jamal?

SOLDIER #1  
Ambushed by regulars. He was hit in the chest.

HAKIM  
The doctors?

SOLDIER #1  
They tried to save him, I witnessed their efforts myself.

Hakim kicks the ground, picks up a rock, throws.

SOLDIER #1  
He was my family too.

Hakim composes himself. Holds up paper.

HAKIM  
We must move soon. Attahari wants us in the center. Call Haji about this taxi driver, I don't like him.

SOLDIER #1  
At once.

Soldier #1 runs to another tent. Hakim observes Akmed, Amira, Daniel unload taxi, set up medical supplies in tent. MUFFLED Helicopter ROTOR. POV video camera from Apache helicopter down on ISIS camp, Hakim, his soldiers.

## RADIO VOICE

Longhorn 3-5-4-9 here. Have bad guys north-north-west Mosul in grid 3-7 alpha. Looks like a hot party.

## COMMAND RADIO VOICE

Copy Longhorn 3-5-4-9. Grid 3-7 alpha. How many bad guys, Longhorn? Repeat. How many bad guys?

## RADIO VOICE

Camp size is motel set up for probably 600. Repeat. 600. See about 100 walking around now. Repeat. 100 are visible now.

## COMMAND RADIO VOICE

Copy, Longhorn. Motel accommodates 600, you see 100 out about.

## RADIO VOICE

Roger that. Shall we play match maker for their 72 virgins?

## COMMAND RADIO VOICE

Hold Longhorn 3-5-4-9.

## RADIO VOICE

Longhorn 3-5-4-9 hold.

## COMMAND RADIO VOICE

Longhorn 3-5-4-9. Confirm motel is grid 3-7 alpha. Repeat. Confirm camp is in grid 3-7 alpha.

## RADIO VOICE

Longhorn 3-5-4-9. We have bad guy motel at grid 3-7 alpha. Repeat. Confirmed camp at grid 3-7 alpha.

## COMMAND RADIO VOICE

(after 10 second pause)

Roger that, Longhorn 3-5-4-9, light'em up. Fighting Irish says play match maker.

## RADIO VOICE

Copy. Match making service engaged.

VIDEO shows .30 calibre shells puff up sand as high as figures walking around, figures begin to run for cover. Bullets rake over tent with ammunition, explodes, secondary



explosions. Figures fall, some cut in half by shells.  
After much carnage. Shooting stops. No movement.

RADIO VOICE

Longhorn 3-5-4-9. Motel at grid 3-7  
alpha was lit. No activity, over.

COMMAND RADIO VOICE

Copy. Longhorn 3-5-4-9. Camp at  
grid 3-7 alpha lit up. Nice work.  
Bet they're happy to be in heaven.

RADIO VOICE

Bet they are, probably the first  
time many of them ever got laid.

COMMAND RADIO VOICE

Copy that. Hope their virgins  
don't look like my mother-in-law.

RADIO VOICE

(static)  
*Indistinguishable comment.*  
(Laughter in background).

COMMAND RADIO VOICE

Request for backup by Auxiliary  
Bishop at grid 5-2 alpha. Longhorn  
3-5-4-9, can you assist?

RADIO VOICE

Copy. Auxiliary Bishop needs  
assistance at 5-2 alpha, on our  
way. We're done here. Over.

FADE TO BLACK.

MOANS of pain, SCREAMS, EXPLOSIONS in distance.

SUPER: English Text appears with CLICK when each letter  
appears, set on transparent outline of cell phone:

Dear God,  
In the Valley of Death. What is my  
lesson, why I witnessing this?

Am I to change?

What am I to change? To gain  
courage? What fear am I to lose?

I see the boundary dividing life &  
death is vague, as thin as shadows.

FADE IN:

EXT. ISIS CAMP HEADQUARTERS - MOMENTS LATER

POV Amira opens eyes, BLURRED surroundings. PAN complete devastation of ISIS camp, CLEAR FOCUS Daniel above her.

DANIEL

Say something. Are you OK?

Sounds of GUNFIRE, EXPLOSIONS still echo in Amira's mind. ISIS soldiers run in SLOW MOTION, BLURRING IN & OUT, their SHOUTS & SCREAMS slightly DISTORTED. TONE in her head GROWS.

DANIEL

Amira. My wife. Please!

TONE in Amira's head reaches maximum PITCH, STOPS. Surroundings now come back to normal SOUNDS & SPEEDS.

DANIEL

Amira! Look at me! Can you hear me?

Amira looks up, tries to stand but can't. Looks around.

AMIRA

(incoherent, shaky)

What....?

Daniel, Akmed, whose arm is bleeding, help Amira on cot. Daniel begins to clean, prepare Amira's shoulder & head wound. Hakim, others bring in more wounded & dying.

HAKIM

My men! Treat my men!

DANIEL

My wife. I must...

HAKIM

She is only woman.

DANIEL

She is a doctor. We need her to save your men.

Hakim remains standing over Daniel, Amira. Jabs gun barrel in Daniel's back. Daniel still continues caring for Amira.

DANIEL  
This will only take a second. Let  
me just stop the bleeding.

Hakim cocks his rifle. Daniel looks up from his treatment.

DANIEL  
We need her.

Hakim looks around as more men are being brought in, his  
head rolls back from the pain of his arm and leg wound.

HAKIM  
A few seconds, then save my men.

DANIEL  
...and you.

Hakim staggers out, the tattered tent fills with more & more  
men. Daniel finishes cleaning, bandaging Amira's wounds.

DANIEL  
Can you hear me?

AMIRA  
(nodding 'yes')  
I....

DANIEL  
Don't talk. You only have a few  
deep cuts, I'll be right back.

Daniel moves around room, provides elementary first-aid on  
even the most severe wounds, pushes exposed intestines in on  
one, bandages, Akmed assists. Secondary EXPLOSIONS go off.  
Hakim, hurt, is carried in by soldiers, who look at Daniel.

DANIEL  
Over here!

Daniel begins to press & bandage Hakim's wounds, who passes  
out. Daniel makes rounds to treat other soldiers. Finishes  
dressing last soldier, returns to, checks Amira.

DANIEL  
How are you holding up?

Amira grits teeth, nods 'yes'

DANIEL  
Can you walk?

Amira opens mouth, tries to lean up, can't. Nods 'no'.

DANIEL  
Can we move you?

Amira shifts her weight from side to side. Nods 'yes'.

DANIEL  
Akmed!

Akmed pops head in tent, Daniel waves him over to Amira.

DANIEL  
(whispering)  
Let's move her to your taxi...

Daniel looks around, all ISIS soldiers are pre-occupied.

DANIEL  
...and then get the hell out of  
here.

Akmed nods in agreement, they perform two-man carry of Amira out of tent. Soldier in front of tent aims AK-47 at them.

DANIEL  
(shouting orders)  
We need to get her and Hakim to a  
real facility...bring Hakim!

Daniel, Akmed proceed to taxi, Soldier still stands at tent, confused. Amira is placed in taxi, Akmed jumps in, starts engine. Soldier starts walking towards taxi, Daniel opens car door, motions as if waiting to put in Hakim.

DANIEL  
(shouts to soldier)  
Get Hakim!

Soldier still walks towards car, raises gun to taxi.

DANIEL  
No! We must save Hakim!

Daniel notices soldier is not looking directly at him, but behind him. Daniel turns around, sees convoy of 60 ISIS pickup trucks enter, encircle the entire camp. Hundreds of ISIS soldiers pile out, fan out throughout camp.

AKMED  
(mumbles to self)  
Allah be shit.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. EXPENSIVE RESTAURANT - DAY

Executive Man dines with Woman Executive #1. Restaurant CHATTER, NOISE. Waiter leaves their table with order.

WOMAN EXECUTIVE #1  
...and that's what I was told.

EXECUTIVE MAN  
The gold I can understand. But why the big secret on the scrolls?

WOMAN EXECUTIVE #1  
We don't know really what they are.

EXECUTIVE MAN  
Maybe they're related to the coins. If they're found in the same place, doesn't that give you a clue...?

WOMAN EXECUTIVE #1  
It's not only what was found, but who else is after this.

EXECUTIVE MAN  
Besides the Iraqis?

WOMAN EXECUTIVE #1  
I think Rome.

EXECUTIVE MAN  
The church? Are you sure?

WOMAN EXECUTIVE #1  
They have people there...and...

EXECUTIVE MAN  
...and?

WOMAN EXECUTIVE #1  
There may be others.

EXECUTIVE MAN  
Others? I don't like the sound of this, either we control the situation or we don't, which is it?

WOMAN EXECUTIVE #1  
Again, we don't know.

EXECUTIVE MAN  
I don't like the sound of that, either. What about these terrorists  
(MORE)

EXECUTIVE MAN (CONT'D)  
 running around all over the place?

WOMAN EXECUTIVE #1  
 Again, we don't know.

EXECUTIVE MAN  
 You mean we can't get intelligence  
 on some sand punks driving Toyotas  
 with AK-47's?

WOMAN EXECUTIVE #1  
 We don't have any help in this,  
 from State Department, Black-Ops,  
 or any of our other sources.

EXECUTIVE MAN  
 Then I question the old man's  
 leadership.

WOMAN EXECUTIVE #1  
 Don't say that.

EXECUTIVE MAN  
 I just did, and will, this is  
 unacceptable. How can we function  
 if we don't exercise control?

WOMAN EXECUTIVE #1  
 We just need more time.

EXECUTIVE MAN  
 More time? For what? If we have  
 three or four other entities after  
 this...thing, and we're not even in  
 the race, or even there, that's a  
 problem. A big problem.

WOMAN EXECUTIVE #1  
 Granted, but don't say it. Don't  
 bring it up.

EXECUTIVE MAN  
 I'm sorry, but I did, and I will. I  
 said it, someone has to say it.

Waiter comes with order, places dishes on table.

WAITER  
 More wine?

EXECUTIVE MAN  
 Me? No. The lady here will have  
 some, in fact leave it, she may  
 (MORE)

EXECUTIVE MAN (CONT'D)

need the rest of the bottle.

MATCH CUT TO:

INT. THE VATICAN - POPE'S PRIVATE OFFICE - DAY

Wine being poured for The Pope, who with Priest #1 confer over various wines & hors d'oeuvres. Despite the difference in rank, both are equally astute in Machiavellian principles and modern technology to maintain a world-wide empire.

POPE

...Verneti, was it?

PRIEST #1

Yes, he gave the order himself.

POPE

So, the Cardinal has decided to take matters in his own hands.

PRIEST #1

Shall I close his account?

POPE

No, I'm curious to see how he handles it, and how far he will go.

Both take a sip, contemplating their next moves.

POPE

If he succeeds, I'm curious how much he's willing to tell me and...

PRIEST #1

...who works on his side?

POPE

...and who works on his side.

PRIEST #1

And Henderson? We have proof he and the State Department lied, they gave us assurances they knew were not going to be kept.

POPE

Was it out of his control? You know that administration has vast forces working against each other, especially in foreign affairs.

PRIEST #1

The lie was totally his, he had complete say-so in his actions.

POPE

Hmmmm. Do you think he decided to go on his own, like our Cardinal, or chose the highest bidder?

PRIEST #1

What other players are at the site?

POPE

Well, we have Iraqis who think it's gold, our European friends think it's their ancient relic with answers, and who else is there?

PRIEST #1

The Americans, perhaps?

POPE

The Americans are falling over themselves to get out of Iraq, plus they don't even know what's there.

PRIEST #1

Well, one American does.

POPE

What do you mean?

Priest #1 pulls paper out of briefcase, hands to Pope.

POPE

(reading)

Dr. Daniel Koury, Claremont University, California. Ancient Studies? What's he doing there?

PRIEST #1

The Iraqi Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities called him in, to work with Dr. Amira Rahal.

POPE

Interesting. Is she one of ours?

PRIEST #1

No, she's just the site director.

POPE

This Koury presence has the earmark  
(MORE)



POPE (CONT'D)

of a cover story. Someone in the Iraqi ministry has to know more than what's being told. Did you check on this Koury? Is he CIA?

PRIEST #1

No. That's what's odd, he really is only some specialist in Ancient Studies, a professor at Claremont.

POPE

Odd. If Mahmud sent for him, then someone above him must pulled the strings to get the American there.

PRIEST #1

Agreed. The Iraqis would never ask for help on their turf. Shall we then query our Minister Nazari?

POPE

Yes, find out who else he's talking to, taking orders from, perhaps we'll see who is outbidding us.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. ISIS CAMP HEADQUARTERS - DAY

Out of the lead pickup walks up ABULLA ATTAHARI (44) regional commander of ISIS. Soldier #1 raises AK-47 to sky, shoots.

SOLDIER #1

Abulla! Abulla! Allah Akbar!

Abulla walks to taxi, scans the entire camp, looks in taxi.

AKMED

(points at Daniel)

His wife, they are our doctors. We need to get her and commander Hakim to the hospital.

Abulla looks at Daniel, then to Soldier #1, who points to tent where Hakim struggles, staggers out, gun in hand.

ABULLA

Allah Akbar! You are alive!

Hakim stumbles after a few steps, Daniel, soldiers rush to support him up, bring him to a crate to lean on.

DANIEL  
We were going to take him to a  
proper facility for his care.

ABULLA  
You are doctor?

DANIEL  
Yes, and my wife in the car, also  
in need of care.

ABULLA  
We must move Hakim?

DANIEL  
Yes.

ABULLA  
(looking around)  
All must move. Collect everyone,  
everything. We go to safe place.

DANIEL  
Move? Everyone? Some of in there  
are in no condition to move.

ABULLA  
Are you are doctor?

DANIEL  
Yes.

ABULLA  
Then you will heal, I will lead.

Abulla turns, barks orders to all his soldiers, who begin to salvage equipment, carry the wounded into their trucks. Daniel heads to taxi, gets in back to comfort Amira. Akmed sits in front, alternating between SWEARING & PRAYING.

DANIEL  
Hang in there, sweetheart.

AKMED  
We'll all be hanging soon. This  
Abulla will slit your throat for  
praying wrong, or even right.

Trucks loaded, Abulla gives the signal, moves out, drives by taxi, points to Akmed his place in the caravan, drives off.

AKMED  
We're all going to die.

Daniel ignores Akmed, covers, holds Amira, who is asleep.

SUPER: English Text appears with CLICK when each letter appears, set on transparent outline of cell phone:

Dear God,

Only in the stars feel can I  
perceive your presence, as we are  
led astray and in chaos down here.

Protect Amira too, my Lord, even if  
she sees you in a different way.  
There are others here who also see  
you in a different light.

I truly wonder now. Not if you are  
on my side, but if I am truly on  
yours.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. HILL OVERLOOKING NINEVEH RUINS - NIGHT

Paramilitary #1 & #2 take turns observing Nineveh Ruins with  
night vision binocular, eating, playing video games.

PARAMILITARY #1

Looks dead. How many would you say  
are still down there?

PARAMILITARY #2

A dozen, as you would say.

PARAMILITARY #1

You want to go down and do a  
look-see? Find out what makes that  
place so interesting...to everyone?

PARAMILITARY #2

Twelve against two are ze best odds  
we've had so far.

Paramilitary #1 taps #2, they carefully begin down the  
mountain towards the ruins. Halfway they freeze, a string of  
headlights from Abulla's trucks begin to weave down the  
mountain road on the other mountain.

PARAMILITARY #1

What the fuuu...!

Both agents scurry up the mountain to their lookout spot.

The trucks file into the evacuation site, spread out, stop.

PARAMILITARY #1

Well, first Iraqi officials, Euros,  
or whoever Henderson is working for  
this week, and now mullahs?

PARAMILITARY #2

Indeed, a very interesting site.  
Shall we call this in?

PARAMILITARY #1

Not yet, let's see if this is just  
a rest stop of if they plan to  
stay. If anything, let them do the  
digging and heavy lifting for us.

PARAMILITARY #2

Jawohl.

PARAMILITARY #1

(eyeing in binoculars)

Look at that big one heading to the  
main tent. Does he look familiar?

PARAMILITARY #2

(looking in his)

Vell! Abulla Attahari! D'his must  
be a big deal. A very big deal.

PARAMILITARY #1

Should we watch a bit, or do you  
want to kill him now and collect  
the reward?

PARAMILITARY #2

Let's watch, twelve against two is  
quite different than two against  
two hundred.

Quiet clicks on Paramilitary #1's cell phone. Answers.

PARAMILITARY #1

Oklahoma Forward here.

RADIO VOICE

Report your position, Oklahoma  
Forward.

PARAMILITARY #1

Back at original set up, Warsaw  
Alpha, repeat, original set up.

RADIO VOICE

Copy, Oklahoma Forward. We have several Wild Turkeys free to pick you up. When and where do you want extraction? Over.

PARAMILITARY #1

That's a negative, Warsaw Alpha. Do not send any Wild Turkeys at this time. Over.

RADIO VOICE

Say again, Oklahoma Forward?

PARAMILITARY #1

That's a negative, Warsaw Alpha. Do not send any Wild Turkeys at this time. Over.

RADIO VOICE

What's up Jesse? You've been bitching for days to get picked up. Are you shit'en me?

PARAMILITARY #1

That's a negative, Warsaw Alpha. Do not send any Wild Turkeys at this time. Over.

Faint, indistinguishable VOCALS of Radio Voice, SWEARING, angry SHOUTS in talking back & forth to fellow radio man.

PARAMILITARY#1

Bad guys nearby, Warsaw Alpha, will talk when we can. Out.

RADIO VOICE

Copy, Oklahoma Forward. Out.

Both paramilitary return to reconnoitering with resolve.

PARAMILITARY #2

Guess you don't really want that cold beer now?

PARAMILITARY #1

Do you?

CUT TO:

EXT. NINEVEH RUINS - MOMENTS LATER

ISIS pickup trucks, Akmed's taxi, find places in/around

excavation site to park. Unloading, setting up begins. Amira returns to consciousness, sits up, still in pain.

AKMED

Well, at least familiar ground.

DANIEL

This could be to our advantage.

Daniel lifts up Amira to show she is at her dig site. Abulla orders all of the workers to be rounded up, lined up in the center of camp on their knees. Several soldiers take positions behind them ready to shoot. Amira goes hysterical.

AMIRA

No...!

Amira staggers out of taxi to her workers, Akmed, Daniel follow. Abulla looks on, annoyed, puzzled. Some workers CALL to Amira in tears, bow to her feet. Abulla walks over.

ABULLA

You know these people?

AMIRA

(in pain)

Yes, we were here a few weeks ago to treat a virus.

ABULLA

Are they cured?

AMIRA

Yes, all of them. They can help my husband, they can help you.

ABULLA

How?

Amira points to the badly wounded ISIS soldiers being carried out of the pickup trucks, MOANS & GROANS heard.

AMIRA

They assisted our medical work. Their experience will help yours.

ABULLA

They can help you, but I can't feed them, they will feed themselves.

AMIRA

We will manage.

Amira, Daniel rush to aid assistants, workers, untie their hands, share water. Akmed slowly backs towards taxi.

ABULLA

Enough. You are doctors, tend to those who really need doctors.

Two soldiers step to Amira, Daniel, lead them to the makeshift hospital, Abulla points at Akmed to follow.

AKMED

Me? I only know driving taxis.

ABULLA

Now you learn something new.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. EXPENSIVE RESTAURANT (ENTRANCE) - NIGHT (RAIN)

Woman Executive #1, Executive Man stand under entrance canopy marked "Hotel Meurice", Eiffel Tower in background.

EXECUTIVE MAN

(getting off phone)

The German contingent will give you a week, if not, we'll press the matter with the Prince.

WOMAN EXECUTIVE #1

We'll have everything sorted by then, I'm sure, thank-you.

EXECUTIVE MAN

I want to know this unknown source involved at the site, such people could be trouble later on.

WOMAN EXECUTIVE #1

It's already being investigated.

Luxury Limo drives up, Woman Executive #1 steps in.

EXECUTIVE MAN

One week.

Woman Executive #1 nods 'yes', slams door, limo drives off. Executive Man pulls out phone, presses one number. BEEP.

VOICE ON PHONE

Yes?

EXECUTIVE MAN

I want everything on Nineveh Ruins.

VOICE ON PHONE

Financial?

EXECUTIVE MAN

Everything. History, legends, who discovered it, who's there now...I want to know every rock, stone that is there, was ever there, and why everyone wants to go there now.

VOICE ON PHONE

One moment. (pause) Sir, that's an excavation site, we're talking archeology kind of stuff here.

EXECUTIVE MAN

Exactly.

VOICE ON PHONE

We're on it, when do you need it?

EXECUTIVE MAN

Tomorrow.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. NINEVEH RUINS - WORKER'S TENT - NIGHT

Amira, Daniel, assistants, workers huddle in crowded tent around single candlelight. All talk in low WHISPERS.

DANIEL

We won't be able to figure our rations until we see how much food they will even give us tomorrow.

ASSISTANT #1

We might be able to help, Tuma thinks he found another hallway connected to the Mashki Gate.

DANIEL

Mashki Gate?

AMIRA

Gate of the Watering Places. In ancient times used for livestock to water on the Tigris during a siege.



DANIEL  
 If we could get to the river  
 without being seen...

ASSISTANT #1  
 (draws map in dirt)  
 No. There's soldiers on Kuyunjik  
 mound overlooking the river, with  
 lookouts here, and here.

DANIEL  
 And which way are they looking?

ASSISTANT #1  
 West.

DANIEL  
 Then they're watching those who  
 approach to the ruins. Hmmm.

AMIRA  
 Ideas?

DANIEL  
 Maybe. What's this other entrance  
 you spoke of?

ASSISTANT #1  
 (marks in dirt)  
 It is south of Mashki Gate, about  
 600 meters.

AMIRA  
 Six hundred? Well, you've done a  
 lot of digging while I was gone.

ASSISTANT #1  
 Apologies. We had nothing else to  
 do...and the good news is...

Assistant #1 motions, others slide table, rack with trays  
 over, revealing a one man spider hole in the ground.

ASSISTANT #1  
 ...we can get to it from here.

By entrance to tent, Akmed observes uncovering of hole.

AKMED  
 (whispers to self)  
 They found it.

Workers prepare for sleep. Akmed watches tent entrance,

Daniel takes out cell phone, looks around, texts.

SUPER: English Text appears with CLICK when each letter appears, set on transparent outline of cell phone:

Dear God,

You heard my prayers, as I know how  
you answer.

Now there is hope. Thank-you...

Thank-you for saving Amira.

Can love be a single soul  
inhabiting two bodies?

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. HILL OVERLOOKING NINEVEH RUINS - PRE-DAWN

Paramilitary agents eat unknown substance with hands.

PARAMILITARY #2

What do you make of the site?

PARAMILITARY #1

Oh, I'd say we're looking at 2,000  
acres surrounded by a very large  
brick wall that's probably 12  
kilometers if you ran around it.

Paramilitary #1 hands #2 the sketch made of the complex.

PARAMILITARY #2

Impressive.

PARAMILITARY #1

Just your typical Biblical city  
built several thousand years ago,  
probably anywhere from 6000 to 3000  
BC, give or take a millennium.

PARAMILITARY #2

Watches?

PARAMILITARY #1

I only see one observation post on  
that big mound there by the river.  
What does it look like when a  
handful of ISIS punks kick around

(MORE)

PARAMILITARY #1 (CONT'D)

here for a while, then half the  
ISIS army shows up?

PARAMILITARY #2

(holds up coin)

Maybe they found enough of d'ese to  
make their soldier's payroll?

PARAMILITARY #1

Maybe. Damn. I'd give up one of my  
prized bulls just to have a chance  
to snoop around there.

PARAMILITARY #2

(points at trucks  
starting)

Maybe you'll get your chance.

CUT TO:

EXT. NINEVEH RUINS - MOMENTS LATER

Abulla walks in center of excavation site rousing his  
soldiers to life. Thirty trucks jump to life, Abulla jumps  
on truck, yells at soldiers who remain. Trucks drive off. In  
Daniel's tent, Akmed, four workers slip in hole, then cover.

DANIEL

Did they count us when we were put  
in here?

Rounds of 'no' & shakes of head answer.

DANIEL

Then let us always keep five down  
there in case they ever do count.  
Do they have tools down there?

ASSISTANT #1

Yes, we put everything we had down  
there when we saw them coming.

DANIEL

Good. Have them signal when they  
open the other entrance.

ASSISTANT #1

Will do...

All in tent notice soldiers approaching, react, cover hole.

AMIRA

...and you?

DANIEL

I've always wanted to play doctor.

Soldiers open tent, one leans in, motions with AK-47.

SOLDIER #1

Everyone out! Time to work!

Amira, Daniel notice a soldier counting each member as they exit the tent, head to makeshift hospital. Amira directs workers to clean, replace bandages. Soldiers direct Daniel to Hakim, who is semi-alert yet physically restricted.

HAKIM

Ah! My doctor.

DANIEL

Good to see you bright, alert.

HAKIM

My recovery. Will I be up soon, Allah willing?

DANIEL

Allah willing.

HAKIM

Promise me one thing.

DANIEL

Promise you? What?

HAKIM

(looks at Amira, workers)  
Do not let a woman treat my wounds.

DANIEL

But if I'm away? You may need her.

HAKIM

Abulla has made you our doctor, you remain here, you remain with us.

DANIEL

Yes...but...

HAKIM

You are for here...and no women, no women touches me.

DANIEL

As you wish.

Daniel changes bandages, clean wounds. Daniel pulls out cell phone to look up procedure for applying temporary skin graft. Soldiers buzz in anger, grab Daniel's phone, examine.

SOLDIER #1  
You take photos?

DANIEL  
No. No, look at instructions.

SOLDIER #1  
Instructions? You're a doctor, who doesn't know how to use your tools?

Daniel turns at Hakim, ignores Soldier #1.

DANIEL  
Firms make products in different ways, with different instructions.

Hakim motions to see phone. Soldier #1 hands over, Hakim examines phone, sees medical website, checks history to see other medical, first aid, & other pages. Checks other apps in phone. Daniel stiffens. Hakim hands phone back to Daniel.

HAKIM  
Let him use his instructions.

CUT TO:

INT. NINEVEH RUINS - CHAMBER ENTRANCE - MOMENTS LATER

Workers, Akmed, dust entrance doorway. Molding outline of entrance appears more distinct. Excited Arabic CHATTER.

AKMED  
Allah be praised! I've found it!

Metal SCREECHES sound come from other side of entrance, workers freeze, throw down tools run down tunnel to exit.

AKMED  
No! Come back! They will help us!

Workers run away. POV entrance facing Akmed, who stands, growing line of light beams on his face as door opens wider. Shadows appear in front of Akmed, whose broad smile, hands held out, open palms, appears as the purest form of welcome.

AKMED  
I've been looking for you.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. LUXURY HIGH TECH HIGH RISE APARTMENT - NIGHT

Woman Executive #1 speaks with Elderly Man on screen. Woman Executive #2 works between two computers. Despite business like rapport, one senses a connection between Elderly Man & Woman Executive #1. Protégé? Daughter? Lovers?

WOMAN EXECUTIVE #1  
...he's really getting pushy. He  
wants action on the site in a week.

ELDERLY MAN  
Does he have any clue of our  
involvement?

WOMAN EXECUTIVE #1  
No, but he has sources, he may find  
out on his own by other means.

ELDERLY MAN  
We can't let that happen. If his  
contingent sees we left them out...

WOMAN EXECUTIVE #1  
I know...

ELDERLY MAN  
...and what we left them out of.

WOMAN EXECUTIVE #1  
Fully understood.

ELDERLY MAN  
Can you stop his known sources?

WOMAN EXECUTIVE #2  
We're working on that now.

ELDERLY MAN  
Can you buy them off?

WOMAN EXECUTIVE #1  
We're looking into that too.

ELDERLY MAN  
This takes top priority, if they  
learn, even a hint, we won't be  
able to repair this.

WOMAN EXECUTIVE #1  
Understood. None of us want  
another war. Will that be all?

ELDERLY MAN

Just remember loyalty between us  
always, loyalty to the group when  
they deserve it.

WOMAN EXECUTIVE #1 & #2

(together)

Loyalty between us always.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. NINEVEH RUINS - DAY

Daniel, Amira, workers assist the wounded. Soldiers left behind horseplay, clean weapons. Mullah climbs up top of pickup, calls to prayer. All members in camp collect, kneel, begin to follow mullah in prayer.

Two soldiers beyond the excavation camp, turn to watch prayers. Two loud CLICKS of silencer has them fall dead. Paramilitary #1 checks, pulls out gold coins from pockets, crawls to hidden position at the edge of excavation site.

MULLAH

Allah commands us!

Return chants muffles CLICK blowing Mullah's brains out, who falls forward off pickup. Soldiers SCREAM, SHOUT, scatter.

SOLDIERS

Allah Akbar! Allah Akbar!

Some soldiers on other side of site fire wildly. Soldiers, workers all find cover. SILENCE. Soldier #1 slowly steps out, approaches dead Mullah. POV Soldier #1 PANS area 360 degrees. Distant jet ROAR. Soldier #2 motions to sky.

SOLDIER #2

Drone!

Everyone shifts back to hiding place, Soldier #1 jumps under pickup truck. No movement. ZOOM on scorpion crawling over dead mullah's hand. Paramilitary #1 crawls away from camp.

CUT TO:

EXT. HILL OVERLOOKING NINEVEH RUINS - MOMENTS LATER

Paramilitary #1 & #2 reunite at spotting position, giving a nonchalant 'high-five-fist-jab' for a safe return. However.

PARAMILITARY #2

Vhy in himmel you do dat?

PARAMILITARY #1  
Cutting off the head.

PARAMILITARY #2  
I think the real head will be  
coming back soon.

PARAMILITARY #1  
Well, we cut the religious head.

Paramilitary #2 shakes head in disbelief, points out entire  
perimeter of excavation site, then at their feet.

PARAMILITARY #2  
Now they some someone's near,  
they'll send out more patrols

PARAMILITARY #1  
Was hoping they'd send out more  
patrols, so we could knock them off  
one or two at a time.

PARAMILITARY #2  
(viewing binoculars)  
Maybe in your army. Hmmm. They  
kept put....and still are.

POV binoculars, soldiers remain hidden, looking up in sky.

PARAMILITARY #2  
They're looking for a drone!

PARAMILITARY #1  
(takes binoculars, looks)  
Stupid shits. Ha, gives me an idea.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. IRAQI MINISTRY HALLWAY - DAY (NEWS FOOTAGE)

Priest #1, Iraqi Minister Mahmud Nazari shake hands, cameras  
flash on their plastic smiles shown only to the media.

NEWSCASTER  
Iraqi Minister Nazari met with the  
Vatican representative today in  
Bagdad to discuss the plans to save  
both Christian and Muslim religious  
shrines and antiquities.

MINISTER NAZARI  
(close up SHOT)  
The destruction of the burial site  
(MORE)



MINISTER NAZARI (CONT'D)

of Jonah, an important biblical figure in both Islam, Jewish, and Christian faiths, has backfired on the marauding groups now in Mosul.

NEWS FOOTAGE: (Actual) ISIS soldiers with pickaxes hacking away on Jonah's tomb.

MINISTER NAZARI

The Prophet Muhammad once declared: "One should not say that I am better than Jonah". You, who claim to hold the Koran in high esteem have betrayed Muhammad's words.

PAN Ministry of Antiquities hallway, displaying ancient treasures from Babylon, Sumer, and Assyria.

MINISTER NAZARI

The Vatican and the people of Iraq, have joined forces in an effort to protect such treasures.

NEWSCASTER

We also have word from Mosul that when destroying the tomb, ISIS also destroyed many early copies of the Qur'an and other holy Islamic books, causing outrage in Muslim communities around the world.

CUT TO:

INT. IRAQI MINISTRY PRIVATE OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Priest #1 & Minister Nazari in tense conversation, a complete 180 of the spirit of cooperation shown earlier.

MINISTER NAZARI

What can I do? ISIS controls Mosul.

PRIEST #1

You can get some eyes in there, can't you?

MINISTER NAZARI

We had one, but think he's lost.

PRIEST #1

Think he's lost?

MINISTER NAZARI

It's very chaotic, there and here.

Priest #1 stands, exasperated, prepares briefcase to leave.

MINISTER NAZARI

I thought you had one at the site.

PRIEST #1

That's what happens when you think all on your own.

MINISTER NAZARI

I will not tolerate such insults.

PRIEST #1

(leaving)

And we won't tolerate incompetence.

POV TV SCREEN: Priest #1 opens door to crowd of reporters, cameras, bright TV lights, he step out door, smiles, responds to microphones shoved in face.

PRIEST #1

Religion is an important part of the human condition, it's part of our cultural, and our intellectual history.

Priest #1 motions to historical treasures in hallway.

PRIEST #1

Religion was our first attempt at literature, at cosmology, and of making sense of the universe.

Priest #1 holds up photo of famous winged Assyrian bull.

PRIEST #1

The destruction of such treasures as this in the Nineveh Museum in Mosul, is barbaric, insults those who value history, culture, and the very essence of civilization.

Priest #1 waves off microphone to exit. Press persists.

NEWSWOMAN

What form of agreement have the Christian and Islamic faiths come to in dealing with ISIS?

PRIEST #1

(after moment thought)

The leaders of Christianity and Islam are in total agreement and

(MORE)

PRIEST #1 (CONT'D)

are cooperating fully to save these many artifacts that are so valuable to each of our doctrines.

MOVE back from TV screen to show Abulla, several soldiers watching TV inside a bank. MURMUR of displeasure by group.

ABULLA

They're not keeping their word.

SOLDIER #1

What?

ABULLA

There was to be no such meeting until after we found the treasure.

SOLDIER #1

Are we still being paid?

ABULLA

Only Allah knows, but we must now plan for a possible double cross.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. AIRLINER (PRIVATE, LUXURY) - EVENING

Elderly Man speaks of international finances, Executive Man listens, accepts glass of wine from stewardess.

ELDERLY MAN

...which should allow us all access of gold in Mali and oil in Angola.

EXECUTIVE MAN

Agreed.

ELDERLY MAN

Put Henderson on it right away.

EXECUTIVE MAN

Henderson is on his way to Iraq now and will be available on Thursday.

ELDERLY MAN

(controlled surprise)  
Oh? What's he doing there?

EXECUTIVE MAN

Finding the truth of a matter.  
Someone inside may be going solo.

ELDERLY MAN  
Any idea who?

EXECUTIVE MAN  
I have my suspicions.

ELDERLY MAN  
At times we pay for our suspicions  
by creating what we suspect.

EXECUTIVE MAN  
I did not create this, these were  
facts placed on my door step. My  
duty is keeping company business in  
the company, just doing my job.

ELDERLY MAN  
Loyalty to the group always.

EXECUTIVE MAN  
Always.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. NINEVEH RUINS - EVENING

Abulla, soldiers drive into excavation site, see mullah  
wrapped in white cloth on makeshift burial mound. Abulla  
jumps out before truck stops, runs to mullah's body.

SOLDIER#1  
Drone.

ABULLA  
When?

SOLDIER #1  
Right after Asr prayer.

Abulla looks to sky, then at worker's tent.

ABULLA  
Bring them all out.

Soldier #1 SHOUTS at soldiers near tent, who SHOUT into  
tent, rush workers, Daniel, Amira in front of dead mullah.  
Abulla motions they be lined up, pushed on their knees.  
Abulla pulls out pistol, SHOOTs two workers in head.

ABULLA  
Let our cleric have helpers in  
heaven.

## SOLDIERS

Allah Akbar!!! Allah Akbar!!!

Abulla motions for workers to be returned to worker's tent, but for Daniel, Amira to follow him to Hakim's tent. Inside, Abulla motions soldier to wake Hakim, who awakens alertly. Abulla motions for all soldiers in makeshift hospital out.

Abulla nears to Hakim's ear, looks at Daniel, Amira.

ABULLA

Has the doctor cured you?

HAKIM

Yes, I trust his work.

Abulla stares at, inspects Daniel, Amira suspiciously.

ABULLA

To be trusted is a greater compliment than being loved.

DANIEL

Abulla honors me with such a thought. Praise Allah.

Abulla turns to Hakim, places his finger on Hakim's lips.

ABULLA

The Brotherhood has betrayed us.

HAKIM

How?

ABULLA

They are talking with the infidels.

HAKIM

Who?

ABULLA

Rome.

Abulla pulls out paper with Arabic writing on map, again stares at Daniel, Amira.

ABULLA

Do you trust them?

HAKIM

On my life. Which they have saved, and what they could of my men.

Abulla motions Daniel over to bedside.

ABULLA  
We were sent here to find something  
of great value...to us, to many.

DANIEL  
(looks over to Amira)  
Here? Valuable?

Abulla throws several of the excavated ancient gold coins on  
table. Daniel does not react.

ABULLA  
Take it. For your services.

Daniel glances to Amria, her eyes blink, slight head shake  
"no". Daniel picks up cloth, cleans Hakim's exposed wounds.

DANIEL  
My service is to Allah. Save the  
coins for his will as you see fit.

HAKIM  
Truly. They are believers.

Abulla unfolds map over table, covering coins.

ABULLA  
The coins are just the beginning,  
only what is known. There is  
something else here, something the  
Christians want very badly.

DANIEL  
Christians?

ABULLA  
Something important to them, so it  
is important to us...

HAKIM  
...so we may use this over them.

DANIEL  
Blackmail?

ABULLA  
Use. Blackmail. Destroy. But we  
must find this first.

DANIEL  
Find what?

ABULLA  
 (looks at map)  
 We don't know. We only know it is  
 here (points), here in Nineveh.

CUT TO:

EXT. HILL OVERLOOKING NINEVEH RUINS - MOMENTS LATER

Paramilitary #1 eyes camp with binoculars, #2 types on field laptop. Photos, details of Daniel, Amira flash on screen.

PARAMILITARY #2  
 Found him.

PARAMILITARY #1  
 Found who?

PARAMILITARY #2  
 Our mystery man.

Paramilitary #1 sets down binoculars, slides down to view computer screen.

PARAMILITARY #1  
 This doesn't make sense.

PARAMILITARY #2  
 Indeed. Strange.

PARAMILITARY #1  
 He's a legit dirt dobber.

PARAMILITARY #2  
 Dirt? Dobber?

PARAMILITARY #1  
 Archeologist. Digs, dobs, in dirt?

Paramilitary #1 grabs binoculars, continues surveillance.

PARAMILITARY #1  
 So when did he and his girlfriend  
 become doctors for ISIS?

PARAMILITARY #2  
 Or allies of ISIS?

PARAMILITARY #1  
 Wouldn't bet on that...yet.

PARAMILITARY #2  
 Why not?

PARAMILITARY #1  
 Because half the people down there  
 don't want nothing to do with ISIS.

CUT TO:

EXT. NINEVEH RUINS - MOMENTS LATER

Amira reads medicine books, eyes chemicals, drugs, on shelves, begins to organize bottles, pills, equipment. Hakim, Daniel, Abulla converse around map.

DANIEL  
 I don't understand, you don't know  
 what you're looking for?

ABULLA  
 We know its important to the  
 infidels. That is our clue.

DANIEL  
 You don't think its the gold? It  
 looks like its from an important  
 Christian period.

ABULLA  
 It can't be the gold, Rome already  
 owns all the world's gold.

HAKIM  
 (coughing)  
 The source. Tell him the clue given  
 by the source.

ABULLA  
 (reads text from map)  
 "The entrance to the lowest floor  
 was on the south side of the  
 temple; a stairway led up to the  
 middle level and from there to the  
 third."

Daniel texts the words into his phone.

DANIEL  
 If that's the clue from your  
 source, then its from the Bible.  
 One Kings, six, eight.

Abulla becomes angry, crumbles the map, tosses across tent.

ABULLA  
 (to Hakim)  
 (MORE)



ABULLA (CONT'D)

Is your source mocking us?

HAKIM

He would never do that, he has been correct every time

DANIEL

What source?

ABULLA

Our source. For weapons, funds...

HAKIM

...and information. There must be something to this. What does this Kings statement mean in the Bible?

DANIEL

It refers to the temple, which is important to Christian prophecy.

Abulla, Hakim eye each other in controlled glee. Discovery!

ABULLA

They found the chamber!

DANIEL

What chamber?

ABULLA

The chamber may be the temple you speak.

DANIEL

If there is a temple here, or near this site, then this verse may actually mean something. But why does your source want it?

ABULLA

The enemy of my enemy is my friend.

DANIEL

And who is the...our, friend?

ABULLA

The Americans.

DANIEL

(to Hakim)

Your source is an American?

Abulla stares blankly. Hakim tries to lean up.

HAKIM

My friend, very high in the  
infidel's own State Department.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. AMERICAN TELEVISION (NEWS BROADCAST) - DAY

Photo of an Executive looking man behind newscaster.

NEWSCASTER

....died today, when his plane  
crashed in Saudi Arabia in route to  
an economic summit in Qatar from  
Cairo.

VIDEO pans jet wreckage, Saudi soldiers examine crash site.

NEWSCASTER

Henderson, former economic advisor  
to the White House, was Vice  
President of Citigroup and in line  
to be the Deputy Secretary of the  
Treasury.

FILE FOOTAGE of Henderson, smiling, shaking hands with other  
government, banking officials in the Treasury Department.

NEWSCASTER

In other news, oil prices rose  
today as reports confirmed ISIS  
took over a refinery in Hadithah,  
Iraq, last Tuesday. Prices also...

FADE TO BLACK:

VOICE of Newscaster continues with news of various topics.

SUPER: English Text appears with CLICK when each letter  
appears, set on transparent outline of cell phone:

Dear God,

Oceans of secrets, do not let me  
drown holding the truth.

Everyone here accepts living with  
secrets, lies, as if a way of  
life...or an addiction.

While all deception requires

(MORE)

(CONT'D)

secrecy, does all secrecy mean one  
must deceive?

FADE IN:

INT. NINEVEH RUINS - CHAMBER ENTRANCE - EVENING

Assistant #1 leads Daniel, Amira to excavated entrance,  
leaves lamp on ground, runs off.

DANIEL

Doesn't want to help?

AMIRA

He's afraid. All of them are. They  
think its cursed, it took Akmed.

DANIEL

Ha. Disappearing is an art for  
Akmed. Maybe we should be careful.

AMIRA

Maybe we should. They heard sounds  
on the other side.

DANIEL

What?

Daniel begins tapping, fingering the surrounding details of  
the entrance. Amira does same, both work, accidentally touch,  
awkwardly wonder: was it a subconscious move or intentional?  
Moment has them realize more is shared than just their jobs.

DANIEL

Odd.

AMIRA

What?

DANIEL

The grooves are recessed, this can  
only be opened from the inside.

Amira inspects the structure of the base, door. Runs hand  
over film of dirt to more clearly read inscriptions on base.

AMIRA

Can you read this?

Daniel puts lamp closer to inscription, rubs fingers over.

DANIEL

It's Assyrian! Probably 600 BC.

A loud CLICK comes from the other side of the door, RUMBLES. Daniel, Amira, grab each other, fall back. Fear bonds again.

DANIEL  
Maybe it is haunted.

Another loud CLICK shifts the entrance so light rays stream through a hairline crack of a now defined door that slowly opens blinding Daniel, Amira, who remain on ground. From the light emerges JOSIAH(28), aiming rifle from hip.

JOSIAH  
You speak English. You're Iraqi?

DANIEL  
(recovering)  
American. Dr. Daniel Koury. Dr. Amira Rahal. Iraqi. (to Amira) Uh, you are Iraqi, aren't you?

Amira, not amused, nods 'yes'. Daniel turns to Josiah.

DANIEL  
We just met, actually.

All members study each other in silence. Another figure, ANNA(26), peers through the doorway, pauses, then steps through doorway revealing her beauty, & weapon.

DANIEL  
I hope introductions are happening soon.

ANNA  
(to Josiah)  
These are the excavators I saw working here before ISIS came.

JOSIAH  
(to Daniel)  
Why are you working with these murderers now?

DANIEL  
Didn't really have much choice...

AMIRA  
...it was join or die.

JOSIAH  
Their wounded, are you doctors?

DANIEL  
It's a long story...

AMIRA  
We're not doctors, they only think  
we are.

JOSIAH  
But you left, and then returned  
with them.

DANIEL  
It's a long story...

Josiah looks at Anna, then to Amira, who sighs.

AMIRA  
He's right, its a long story.

DANIEL  
Look, I'm sorry, I know you have  
the guns, but who are you?

Josiah glances at Anna, who nods, opens the door wider,  
motions for Amira, Daniel to enter. Both hesitate.

ANNA  
Don't be afraid, our story is long  
too, but we have plenty of time.

Daniel, Amira enter, follow by Josiah who closes door.  
Inside the chamber is modern furnishings, technology, with  
stores of ancient artifacts, scrolls, and tablets stacked in  
organized fashion, displayed as if in a museum.

Daniel, Amira walk by each row studying all that they can.

ANNA  
You will have time to appreciate  
these later. Please.

All four continue down an attached hallway to sitting room,  
library. Josiah motions for all to sit, prepares water.

DANIEL  
Nice place you have here.

JOSIAH  
The original structures were build  
in 615 BC by the Assyrians to  
prepare for the siege by  
Nobopolassar.

DANIEL

(to Amira)

Well, I was only off a few years.

Daniel points at all the books, technology.

DANIEL

But what are you doing here with all this?

JOSIAH

I am Josiah, keeper of the Christian chronicles and people.

AMIRA

Christians?

ANNA

The Christian community in al Kanisah. These tunnels connect there, and all over Mosul.

DANIEL

We can get to Kanisah from here?

JOSIAH

It's not safe, the only entrance safe is Al-Sadeer in Mosul Woods.

AMIRA

(points to entrance)

...and the one we have.

ANNA

That door is safe, but ISIS covers all the tunnel exits from it.

DANIEL

Not all of them.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. HILL OVERLOOKING NINEVEH RUINS - EVENING

Paramilitary #1 crawls back into observation pit, throws hand full of ancient coins in front of #2.

PARAMILITARY #2

Souvenirs?

PARAMILITARY #1

Every ISIS mulla-bulla seems to have one or two.

PARAMILITARY #2

And these pieces of gold won't be missed?

PARAMILITARY #1

They're going to be more worried how their sentries throats got slit than what's missing from pockets.

Paramilitary #2 motions #1 to check out computer screen, pulls up news report of Henderson's death.

PARAMILITARY #1

Damn. Where does that leave us?

PARAMILITARY #2

Don't know. Warsaw Alpha won't answer. Can't even get the DR7 or any of the Wild Turkeys.

PARAMILITARY #1

Shit.

PARAMILITARY #2

So, who else knows ve're out here?

PARAMILITARY #1

Nobody.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. BOARDROOM UNKNOWN EXECUTIVES - EVENING

Woman Executive #1 & #2 converse with Elderly Man on screen.

WOMAN EXECUTIVE #1

We're still tracking down all the assets Henderson set in motion.

ELDERLY MAN

I see he had some communication with DR7, find out all their current operations in play.

WOMAN EXECUTIVE #1

Will do, and thank-you.

ELDERLY MAN

No. Thank-you. Your cleaning up this mess has prevented a revolution within the company.

WOMAN EXECUTIVE #1  
Loyalty...always.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. NINEVEH RUINS - CHAMBER HALLWAYS - EVENING

Josiah, Anna give tour to Daniel, Amira as they return to the Chamber entrance. Daniel stops at racks of scrolls listed as "Aramaic", notices section labeled "Daniel".

DANIEL  
My namesake.

JOSIAH  
Who my family was charged to protect.

DANIEL  
From ISIS?

JOSIAH  
From all in history who would destroy these works.

MONTAGE - HISTORY OF JOSIAH'S FAMILY

-- Nebuchadnezzar boasting, building monuments to himself, interacting with God, living as animal in wild.

JOSIAH (V.O.)  
Daniel predicted Nebuchadnezzar would be humbled by God with insanity, and would live in the wild like an animal for 7 years.

-- Daniel directs Mishael, who transports scrolls, directs workers building the chamber, Nebuchadnezzar directs siege of Jerusalem.

JOSIAH (V.O.)  
To escape the madness that was about to come, Daniel directed Mishael, who I am descendent, to take all his works from Babylon and save them here in Ninevah, for Daniel knew Judea would soon fall.

-- Porphyry speaks to church in Rome in 300 AD, Catholic scholars debate in 17th century over Daniel's work.

JOSIAH (V.O.)  
Daniel also knew the protection of  
(MORE)



JOSIAH (V.O.) (CONT'D)

his works would be needed until the end times, foreseeing that future churches altering his predictions, or trying to say he lived in later times, so his prophecy appears merely as recordings of events, instead of the word of God.

END MONTAGE.

DANIEL

These are the original Daniel?

JOSIAH

From his very hand.

DANIEL

In Aramaic?

JOSIAH

(pointing)

Daniel wrote in Hebrew, which are there, and Aramaic, the universal language of 6th century BC, so all could read his work.

Huge EXPLOSIONS heard above ground. Machine guns FIRING, smaller EXPLOSIONS follow. Daniel, Amira eye each other with the same thoughts, same concerns.

AMIRA

My crew.

DANIEL

We'd would love to stay and read all this, but we'd better get back.

JOSIAH

But why? You are safe here.

AMIRA

Because if we are not seen, all my excavation team may be beheaded.

Daniel, Amira, run through entrance of chamber, down tunnel to spider hole. Josiah, Anna close, seal door behind them.

CUT TO:

INT. NINEVEH RUINS - WORKER'S TENT - MOMENTS LATER

Daniel, Amira climb out of spider hole into tent, workers all lay prone on ground for cover. CHAOS outside tent.

AMIRA  
Who is attacking us?

ASSISTANT #1  
We don't know.

WORKER #1  
The explosions and shooting are all  
over camp.

DANIEL  
Everyone, down the hole!

AMIRA  
But they will find the entrance.

DANIEL  
Maybe, but staying up here doesn't  
look like a good option at all.

Explosion BLASTS in front of tent entrance, two soldiers  
guarding doorway fall dead into tent. Some workers SCREAM.

AMIRA  
Down the hole!

Workers, Amira, file into spider hole one-by-one, Daniel is  
the last one in, grabs shelf-rack to fall over hole as he  
slides wooden board to cover entrance.

DANIEL  
Hopefully they'll think we ran  
away.

CUT TO:

EXT. HILL OVERLOOKING NINEVEH RUINS - NIGHT

Paramilitary #1 & #2 watch excavation site under attack  
through tech binoculars. POV tech binoculars.

PARAMILITARY #1  
Who th' hell's drop'm 500 pounders?

Paramilitary #2 points cell phone up, pans sky.

PARAMILITARY #2  
D'ere's no drones, has to be  
F-16's, or something higher.

ISIS soldiers scurry around camp shooting wildly outside the  
camp parimeter, up into the air, everywhere. Bombs fall.

PARAMILITARY #1  
That's right, dick heads, waste all  
your ammunition.

PARAMILITARY #2  
This looks like a prep attack.

PARAMILITARY #1  
Agreed. But by who? We can manage  
rag heads in pickups, but hide from  
other spooks with this technology?

PARAMILITARY #2  
...und air support?

PARAMILITARY #1  
Yea, damn Henderson, what the hell  
did he do?

PARAMILITARY #2  
Whatever he did, would it be safe  
to assume that whoever was after  
him will soon be interested in us?

PARAMILITARY #1  
I would. (pause) Wait, lasers!

Paramilitary #2 flips switch on binoculars. POV binocular  
screen, three laser beams from sky meeting targets with  
three laser beams originating from hills on opposite side of  
camp. ZOOM to one originator beams on opposite hill.

PARAMILITARY #2  
They've got three spotter teams.

PARAMILITARY #1  
How many in a team?

PARAMILITARY #2  
Only two in the center team.

Paramilitary #1 focuses on other spotter teams.

PARAMILITARY #1  
Damm they're using our tactics and  
have our equipment.

PARAMILITARY #2  
NATO? Your American friends?

PARAMILITARY #1  
Naw. It would take them months to  
decide on attacking this cabbage

(MORE)

PARAMILITARY #1 (CONT'D)  
hole. This is Black Ops or private.

PARAMILITARY #2  
Should we talk to them?

PARAMILITARY #1  
(preparing gear)  
Let's go see who they are, first.

CUT TO:

EXT. NINEVEH RUINS - NIGHT - MOMENTS LATER

Abulla, soldiers rush from cover to cover, firing at any movement or lights outside of camp, up in sky. Bombing stops, sporadic machine gun fire from soldiers in camp.

ABULLA  
Stop!

Soldiers SHOUT, repeat order, firing stops one-by-one. Abulla walks around camp, examines damage to trucks, tents. Walks over to badly damaged makeshift hospital tent, many wounded are blown up, Hakim, new wounds, is barely alive.

ABULLA  
Get the doctors!

Soldiers run to worker's tent.

ABULLA  
Hakim, Allah stay with you, help is on the way.

Soldiers return, upset.

SOLDIER #1  
Commander! The workers. They've vanished!

Abulla walks over to worker's tent, examines damage.

SOLDIER #1  
They've been hit, but look. No bodies.

Abulla walks to back of tent and looks beyond the camp.

ABULLA  
(points north, west)  
That way. Take your men, find them.

Soldier BARKS orders to those around him, the group sets out beyond the camp towards the hills of the mystery spotters.

Abulla returns to Hakim, does what he can in first aid.

ABULLA

If you die, your death will be avenged. I will kill them all.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. VATICAN AIRLINER (PRIVATE, LUXURY) - MORNING

Priest #1 sits at table on video conference with Pope.

PRIEST #1

...its what Mahmod didn't say that is interesting...besides his lies.

POPE

Lies? We've never had that problem with him before.

PRIEST #1

He said he was never at the site...

POPE

Such petty deceit.

PRIEST #1

...and that he has no people there.

Pope turns, speaks to someone off screen. Returns.

POPE

We will take care of anyone he does happen to have there.

PRIEST #1

And ISIS?

POPE

We're taking care of them now, as you can see on your sectional feed. Have a pleasant trip home, my son.

PRIEST #1

Blessings, Holy Father.

Priest #1 switches feeds on computer, pulls up live aerial view of Ninevah Ruins' attack. Stewardess brings drink.

STEWARDESS

Your Bloody Mary, sir.

PRIEST #1

Thank-you, my child.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. NINEVEH RUINS - CHAMBER ENTRANCE - MORNING

Amira, Daniel, workers before chamber entrance. Daniel TAPS on door. Waits. TAPS again louder. Waits. BANGS on door.

DANIEL

Fellow Christians! Need a little help here!

Silence. Amira's workers look around, at entrance in fear.

AMIRA

It's alright. We spoke to them.

EXPLOSION above drops streams of dirt from ceiling of tunnel. Workers slowly back towards spider hole entrance.

AMIRA

No! We're safe here! Stay!

Two scramble down the tunnel, run towards spider hole.

DANIEL

Stop them! They'll get us killed if we're found!

Several workers chase the two that fled.

DANIEL

(to himself)

We can, A. Get bombed, B. Get beheaded, or C. Hide safely underground. And the answer is..

Workers return shaking their heads, holding empty hands.

WORKER #1

We tried, they got away.

DANIEL

Did you cover the hole?

Workers nod 'yes'. Daniel sighs, looks at Amira.

DANIEL

We may have a chance then.

AMIRA

And my crew members?

DANIEL

They're on their own now.

CUT TO:

EXT. NINEVEH RUINS - MORNING

Abulla, soldiers run from cover to cover. Occasional bomb falls. Direct hit on medical tent. Abulla scans outside camp, sees mirror flashing on hill from his men.

ABULLA

Look! They've found our enemy!

More mirror flashes from hill. Abulla fires three calculated shots in the air. All soldiers look to Abulla.

ABULLA

(motions hand on hill)

Between the trees and mound halfway  
up! Flank them from both sides!  
Najjar! Attack the back side!

Abulla's soldiers filter out of the camp as directed. Sporadic gunfire erupts, soldiers & spotters engage in firefight. Bombing stops. Abulla, soldiers fan out, inspect camp. Abulla enters medical tent, Hakim, others, blown up.

ABULLA

Enjoy your virgins, my son.

Abulla walks to workers tent, enters, inspects. Hears BRUSH of fabric against object, walks to sound, pulls up burlap sacks, finds both of Amira's workers. Takes sword, chops off head of one, points blade at the other.

ABULLA

For Hakim!

Abulla motions the other to rise up, swings sword as soon as victim stands, slicing his head off as well.

ABULLA

For Allah!

Abulla inspects tent further, stands one foot away from covered spider hole, kicking around the debris. Picks up cloth, cleans sword, walks outside. Fire fight on hill continues, more mirrored messages. Abulla motions soldiers.

ABULLA

Help Hajjar! Behind the hill!

Group of soldiers fan out to support attack on hill. Abulla jumps on truck bed to handle mounted heavy machine gun, fires at spotter position on hill. Fire fight escalates. New

column of ISIS pickup trucks/fighters descend down road.

ABULLA

Allah Akbar! God's hand is with us!

ISIS trucks circle base of hill, several, like Abulla, fire mounted heavy machine guns. The three spotter positions on the hill become churned up. A WHOOSH sound blows up one of the pickup trucks at the base of the hill. Then another.

Abulla turns, sees three black attack helicopters firing missiles at each truck, exploding one-by-one. Abulla jumps off truck, runs for cover, his truck explodes. Three more helicopters land outside camp, spewing out dozens of professional troops in uniforms with no distinct markings.

Professional troops battle, kill remaining ISIS soldiers in excavation camp, then attack ISIS at the base of the hill. Fighting subsides. Professional soldiers secure area.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. NINEVEH RUINS - CHAMBER ENTRANCE - MOMENTS LATER

Daniel, Amira, workers look up, around at each other.

WORKER #1

The shooting has stopped.

AMIRA

Yes, but who won?

DANIEL

Who was fighting?

One of the workers begins to head down tunnel to spider hole. Amira, Daniel wave him back.

DANIEL

Let's wait until dark, just to be on the safe side.

BANGS, CRASHES come from the other side of the chamber door. Daniel runs up to door, BANGS, SHOUTS.

DANIEL

Hey! It's us! Open up!

Silence from the other side. Then more BANGS, SCRAPES, and MOVEMENT sounds. Workers become frightened. Some back off, but do not runaway. Daniel, Amira eye each other confused, both step towards each other, embrace. The first & last?



DANIEL

What the hell is going in there?

SILENCE. Daniel, Amira, workers stare, listen at door. Only a faint occasional sound filters through, less & less.

CUT TO:

INT. NINEVEH RUINS - WORKER'S TENT - MOMENTS LATER

Professional soldiers comb through worker's tent, taking photographs of dead persons, equipment, artifacts, bagging certain items. One soldier discovers spider hole, motions others with hand signals, several prep to go down.

CUT TO:

INT. NINEVEH RUINS - CHAMBER ENTRANCE - MOMENTS LATER

Amira, workers huddle around wall, Daniel, Amira move to door, holds lamp to read inscriptions around the edges.

DANIEL

Our friend Josiah in there wasn't kidding, this states Mishael built this during the 23rd year of King Nebuchadnezzar's reign, by order of Daniel.

AMIRA

What lengths Mishael went through to protect Daniel's works.

DANIEL

What lengths his distant descendent Josiah is doing now.

Approaching FOOTSTEPS startle, frighten workers, Amira, & Daniel. A powerful beam of light hits the group huddled by the wall, another hits Daniel, Amira by the entrance.

PROFESSIONAL SOLDIER #1

Identify yourselves!

DANIEL

We are the excavation crew for the Ninevah Ruins archeological site, officially sponsored by the UN and the Iraqi government.

PROFESSIONAL SOLDIER #1

Dr. Amira Rahal?

AMIRA

That's me.

PROFESSIONAL SOLDIER #1

Dr. Daniel Koury?

DANIEL

Speaking. And you are?

Professional soldier approaches, adjusts light from beam to ambient lighting, extends hand.

PROFESSIONAL SOLDIER #1

Commander Reese Jamison. We were worried about you.

DANIEL

And who is we?

PROFESSIONAL SOLDIER #1

The Iraqi government.

DANIEL

But your accent is South African. Cape Town, maybe?

PROFESSIONAL SOLDIER #1

You know your languages.

DANIEL

It's the pressing of the vowels, especially the 'a's'. So when did South Africa and Iraq become such close allies?

PROFESSIONAL SOLDIER #1

Really, professor we just saved your life, can we handle all the diplomatic questions later? We still need to secure the area.

DANIEL

Understood. What shall we do?

PROFESSIONAL SOLDIER #1

Follow us, please.

Other soldiers come down the tunneled hallway, hand water to workers, clean, treat minor cuts. All head to spider hole, except two soldier who, unnoticed by others, set up putty & equipment in front of the entrance door. Demolition team!

CUT TO:

EXT. NINEVEH RUINS - OUTSIDE WORKER'S TENT - AFTERNOON

Soldiers scurry around in activity, treat wounded, securing perimeter, other soldiers bring more equipment from helicopters to worker's tent, then down spider hole. Daniel, Amira led to helicopter, are put on, chopper lifts off.

AMIRA  
(to soldier on gun)  
My staff? My assistants?

Soldier smiles, taps ear part of helmet, shakes head 'no'. Daniel leans close to the soldier's head, SHOUTS.

DANIEL  
Where are you taking us?

Soldier smiles, taps ear part of helmet, shakes head 'no'. Daniel smiles back, changes to frown after sitting down, looks out to see them flying away from Ninevah Ruins, & the center of Mosul. Daniel leans into Amira's ear.

DANIEL  
I'm not so sure about this.

AMIRA  
(pointing)  
I'm not either. But its better than down there.

Daniel looks below, sees many ISIS trucks, soldiers, active all over Mosul. Some shoot up at the helicopter, a few hit.

DANIEL  
Well, if this really was a rescue, I thought the cavalry would come in to save all of Mosul.

AMIRA  
Your grandfather?

DANIEL  
He seemed to know how to play with his friends.

Daniel, Amira watch as Mosul shrinks in the distance, pillars of smoke rise from the battle at Ninevah Ruins. Amira taps Daniel, puts her mouth close to his ear.

AMIRA  
(whispering)  
Can you hear me?

Daniel nods 'yes'.

AMIRA

Do you really think all this was  
done just to save us?

Daniel shakes head 'no'.

AMIRA

The coins?

Daniel shakes head 'no'.

AMIRA

The chamber?

Daniel nods 'yes'.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. IRAQI MINISTRY HALLWAY - NEWSCAST - EVENING

Minister Mahmod Nazari gives press conference.

MINISTER NAZARI

(reading script)

The Iraqi government is pleased to  
announce the rescue of an  
international archeological team  
from the Ninevah Ruins in Mosul.

As you know, Ninevah is one of the  
oldest cities in antiquity, settled  
as early as 6,000 BC and plays an  
important role in ancient history,  
the Jewish and Christian Bible, and  
the Koran.

Starting in 1842, the site has been  
under constant excavation, and even  
today, new treasures, knowledge,  
and artifacts are being discovered  
that still astounds the world.

Nazari coughs, turns page, smiles to camera.

MINISTER NAZARI

(continuing)

Tomorrow we will present two of the  
professors rescued, and have them  
give you a first hand account of  
their amazing rescue. Thank-you.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. NINEVEH RUINS - CHAMBER ENTRANCE - EVENING

Professional soldiers work around chamber entrance setting up charges, others take readings on instruments they scan around, next to door. Soldier placing charges gives 'thumbs up', SHOUTS. All soldiers move down tunnel hallway.

Charge soldier does final check, trots down corridor to other soldiers. All give 'thumbs up', detonator is pressed, huge EXPLOSION shatters the entrance doorway, spewing smoke, debris. Soldiers lower masks, eye guards, slowly move in.

POV camera on helmet, enters the blown door into chamber, which is completely empty. MOVE from storage room, hallway, and what was the library. Entire complex: empty. Nothing.

PROFESSIONAL SOLDIER #1  
Warsaw Alpha, are you getting this?

RADIO VOICE  
Copy, Gator One. Nice walls. What color would you say that is, exactly?

PROFESSIONAL SOLDIER #1  
Sort of a piss yellow, Warsaw Alpha, kinda like the beer you brew in your garage. Over.

RADIO VOICE  
Roger that, Gator One. If there's nothing to collect, then let's get the hell out of there. Drones show ISIS collecting their entire gang in Mosul to hit you guys. Copy?

PROFESSIONAL SOLDIER #1  
Roger that, Warsaw Alpha. Getting the hell out. Thanks for nothing.

CUT TO:

EXT. NINEVEH RUINS - BY HELICOPTER - EVENING

Professional Soldier #1 looks into Huey door, sees Paramilitary #1 & #2 sitting in handcuffs. Shakes his head, smiles. Turns to inspect all soldiers next to all the other helicopters. All give 'thumbs up', he returns signal.

PROFESSIONAL SOLDIER #1  
(into mic in helmet)  
(MORE)

PROFESSIONAL SOLDIER #1 (CONT'D)

Let's get out of here.

Professional Soldier #1 climbs into Huey, whirls index finger to all other helicopters, which take off. He straps in, looks over at Paramilitary #1 & #2 (Jesse & German).

PARAMILITARY #1

Are the handcuffs necessary, Frank?

PROFESSIONAL SOLDIER #1

Just following orders, Jesse.

PARAMILITARY #1

So how did we become the bad guys?  
We just did what we were told.

PROFESSIONAL SOLDIER #1

Apparently some changes at the top.  
Did you see?

PARAMILITARY #1

Henderson?

Professional Soldier #1 nods 'yes' with a grimace. Disgust.

PARAMILITARY #1

Well, you know that wasn't us, we  
were on the ground here the entire  
time.

PROFESSIONAL SOLDIER #1

Still, they want to debrief you.

PARAMILITARY #1

You're kidding. For what we saw?  
Or are we under suspicion?

PROFESSIONAL SOLDIER #1

Don't know, just following orders.

PARAMILITARY #1

Yea...so were we.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. RESTAURANT - BAGHDAD - EVENING

Amira, Daniel dine on rooftop overlooking Bagdad.

AMIRA

How can you not be there?

DANIEL

One. He's not my boss. Two. I have  
(MORE)

DANIEL (CONT'D)

nothing to say to him. Three. I have nothing to say to anyone.

AMIRA

To the world?

DANIEL

Especially the world. Besides, my face, our story might make it difficult for my grandfather.

AMIRA

You're right. I hope he's alright.

DANIEL

You have family there too?

AMIRA

No, I'm the last Rahal on my family tree. Ninevah Ruins was my family, my life.

DANIEL

Well, it looks like that may be lost for a while too. So does this make you unemployed?

AMIRA

In a manner of speaking, yes.

Daniel pulls out map of Southern Turkey, photos of ruins.

DANIEL

Have you been to Göbekli Tepe? They finding things 12 - 15,000 BC, I have a friend there who says this site is ten times larger than they originally thought, need all kinds of help there....here, take a look.

Each scoot closer to view, DISCUSS details & marvels of Göbekli Tepe discovery. MOVE BACK: show couple FLIRTING, LAUGHING with Baghdad's nighttime skyline of lights.

FADE TO BLACK.

WHOOSING of airliner heard from inside jet.

SUPER: English Text appears with CLICK when each letter appears, set on transparent outline of cell phone:

Dear God,

(MORE)

Thank-you for blessing me.

I see salvation is a challenge for  
each moment, not a battle to  
prepare for in the future...

FADE IN:

INT. AIRLINER (PRIVATE, LUXURY) - CONTINUOUS (WITH TEXT)

One lone figure sits back to CAMERA in big easy chair  
watching "Lawrence of Arabia", on one screen, TEXT being  
created by Daniel on another. Stewardess approaches.

STEWARDESS

What would you like with your  
dinner, Mr. Asker?

Mr. Asker (Akmed the taxi driver), turns to answer.

AKMED

A glass of milk will be fine,  
goat's milk if you have it.

SUPER: English Text appears with CLICK when each letter  
appears, set on transparent outline of cell phone:

Thank-you for my daily bread,

Stewardess smiles, nods 'yes', returns to rear of plane.  
Screen shows incoming call. Akmed switches channel. POV TV  
screen on Akmed.

VOICE ON TV

I trust you got our new friends out  
of their hole in time.

AKMED

In the nick of time, I believe is  
the expression, and apparently they  
are fine with their new home.

SUPER: English Text appears with CLICK when each letter  
appears, set on transparent outline of cell phone:

And for delivering us from evil.

VOICE ON TV

Well done. But I must ask, the  
negotiations?



AKMED

A compromise used since ancient times. The enemy of my enemy is my friend. An arrangement they've known for centuries too.

VOICE ON TV

Have you gone through the scrolls?

SUPER: English Text appears with CLICK when each letter appears, set on transparent outline of cell phone:

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory

AKMED

Yes, I believe we have the ones you requested. Of course there was no time for Dr. Koury to go over them, as he had to...rather abruptly... leave...under the circumstances

VOICE ON TV

As we all must do at times.

AKMED

However I think we may find another way to get he, and the scrolls, together.

SUPER: English Text appears with CLICK when each letter appears, set on transparent outline of cell phone:

For ever and ever

VOICE ON TV

Speaking of which, I must finish and engagement to make that very thing happen. If you will excuse me, enjoy your flight.

AKMED

Thank-you, sir. See you in the morning then?

VOICE ON TV

Please stop by as soon as you land. Good evening.

AKMED

Good evening...and thank-you, Your Holiness.

Akmed switches back to watch "Lawrence of Arabia", stewardess brings dinner, milk. Akmed looks at the other screen to see the text messages Daniel is currently writing:

On the screen is entire TEXT MESSAGE seen in prior SUPER transparent text messages, Akmed watches as Daniel types his final word:

COMPUTER SCREEN

Amen.

CUT TO:

EXT. VATICAN AIRLINER (PRIVATE, LUXURY) - NIGHT

SOUNDTRACK of "Lawrence of Arabia" continues, LIGHT on tail reveals Vatican symbol.

THE END

END OF FILM