THE S DOMINANT

Written by

Brandon Chuang

#### ACT 1

FADE IN:

#### EXT. THE UNIVERSE

In a swirl of chaos and debris and a pinpoint of light, the universe explodes stretching outwards and expanding infinitely.

Narrator: "The age old question, was this universe created by a divine intervention? Perhaps, and that is up to your own opinion to decide. How can something be created from nothing? Faith is the notion we only have to believe that God really exists. But if he did, what was his purpose and why are we really here? God has not revealed himself for a reason, and to that lays the groundwork for the future of mankind."

(Visuals accompanying narration: There are shots across galaxies and stars accelerating to focus into the Milky Way. Zoom into earth and across the world as night and day shift rapidly through nature. Eras pass until the first human is seen emerging through a cave. Beginning with the first recorded date BC several notable events in history appear as a flipbook as time passes by rapidly accelerating to the

FADE OUT

"He who is eternal seeks out not God, but rather the breath of life."

### EXT. DESERT SAHARA - NIGHT

(STORMY RAINING)

(Text unveiling on the screen)

The world is at war between dictators and democracies. Tensions between nations are at an all time high. Alliances are fragile and distrust is everywhere.

A large and tall temple constructed out of black granite rock, slightly futuristic, alien-like, and foreboding is shown in the distance. Surrounding the temple in a circumference is an endless chasm with only a narrow walkway to enter from the front. A window half-way to the top is open with a platform. ARMAND (50s, male, cloaked) walks on stage in front of a crowd of over 1,000 known as the Syndicate. They all cheer and holler. ARMAND: "Who are they, the ones that bind us to this mortal earth? We are God's children! This life, it means nothing! It is only a vessel to eventually walk in God's glory. Do you see the fools who fight each other for ownership of dirt? We are the last of the religious, my Syndicate. The Christians, the Muslims, and the Jews have all been eroded into nonexistence. We fight on because we believe in his holy name and that trust in him will lead us into divinity. I see with clear eyes of the ways of the old ones. Tradition is the foundation of the faithful and it is this way that will trounce the nonbelievers. If they do not convert, then we will show them God's will, and he will judge them in the afterlife. I know God and through me, we will all find salvation. Hakesh, we are God's will!" (Crowd cheers and roars).

ARMAND's assistants bring a hostage who is bound by arms and legs on stage. They take off the bag on his head. Hostage spits on ARMAND's face. ARMAND slowly wipes off the saliva. In his hand is a curved sword.

ARMAND: "Do you see the nonbeliever? He graces me with his filth. God's wish is to cleanse the world of the unworthy, the ones who do not accept destiny."

HOSTAGE: "This man is a heretic! You believe this scum's lies? The world is not perfect, but we can make it better!"

ARMAND: "An FBI from the US of A. A worthy sacrifice for his glory."

In one clean swing, ARMAND cleaves off the HOSTAGE's head. The head rolls off the stage onto the ground. An audience member grabs the head and holds it up. The crowd uproars: "God's will! Hakesh!"

# INT. BRUCE'S HOUSE IN D.C. - EARLY MORNING

BRUCE(late 30's, male, shirtless) wakes up from the nightmare vision choking on his vomit, coughing and sputtering into the trash can next to his bed. He shakes his head, wipes the sweat from his face, then grabs and looks at his cell phone. It shows the time as 5:03 AM. It is raining and dark outside. He notices a text from his colleague, PAUL (40s, male).

PAUL: "Bruce, we need you at the capital stat."

He texts back: "What's going on?"

He gets out of bed and goes to the bathroom and brushes his teeth. The text chimes again.

PAUL: "International subjugation"

Cut to BRUCE walking out of his house putting on his sport coat. BETSY (3 year old golden retriever) follows BRUCE out carrying a bag of medicine.

BRUCE: "Aw Bets, good girl taking care of your old dad." He takes the medicine bag and hugs her. He pops the pills in his mouth. He pets her head. She whines.

BRUCE: "That'a girl. I'll be home later. Don't worry about me." He closes the door and gets in his car (Tesla model S).

He texts back: "Middle east again?"

He reverses out and then heads down the road. As he is driving he receives another text from PAUL: "Zionist demagoguery in the Sahara"

PAUL: "Tell you about it when you're here"

BRUCE pulls into the parking lot behind the Capital. He walks into his office. At his desk, PAUL is on the phone: "Mr. President, I told you Europe is destabilized. Russia and China demand a blockade of trade. Our economy is in shambles. We are on the cusp of World War III. If we do not defend our democratic allies we will lose democracy as we know it. The world is fractured between democracy and dictators. We do not have the resources to put together another stint in France..." (Pause) "Okay. Respectfully I disagree but if that's what the Pentagon wants then I guess we'll make do." PAUL hangs up.

PAUL: "Can you believe the President wants us to send even more troops to France to support the revolutionists? We barely have the manpower to prevent riots at the capital."

BRUCE (eating an apple): "Well he's the President. He can do whatever he wants."

PAUL: "Seriously BRUCE."

BRUCE: "Okay, now what is so urgent that you have to wake me up and drag me out of my house at 5am? Betsy had to bring me my meds because I was so drowsy walking out of the house."

PAUL: "Ah, good ol' Bets. I love that dog you know? More than you."

BRUCE: "Indeed. Now what's going on?"

PAUL: "Look. The world is getting bleaker and bleaker BRUCE. People are looking up to demagogues now for hope. Something isn't right in the Sahara. We've been receiving cryptic transmissions that some of our own are being slaughtered in that nasty desert."

BRUCE: "How many?"

PAUL: "About 10 have gone missing."

BRUCE: "Hm. Are they trying to send us a message you think?"

PAUL: "I don't know. It's been happening with other countries too."

BRUCE: "Strange connection. Where are the transmissions?"

PAUL tosses a micro chip to BRUCE: "See for yourself."

BRUCE puts the micro chip into the mainframe which pops up into a holographic dystopian future. A crowd bows down to a godly figure. Then it switches to several people being decapitated.

Ominous voice: "Do you bleed?"

The holograph then blurs out and becomes static.

PAUL: "What do you think?"

BRUCE: "Kind of creepy."

PAUL: "Doesn't it remind you of some insane cult gone wrong?"

BRUCE: "It seems to me like they are trying to market fear."

PAUL: "The world is a wonky place right now BRUCE. World War III is going to happen any day now."

BRUCE: "When did you get this?"

PAUL: "Right before I called you in."

BRUCE: "Any leads?"

PAUL: "Just that it's originating from somewhere in the Sahara. We've tried using satellites to pinpoint their location, but they're using some sort of AI cloaking field to disrupt any sort of signal."

BRUCE: "Not much to chew on. Who is that main shadowy figure atop that alien-like structure?"

PAUL: "They call him the Prophet, ARMAND."

BRUCE: "Yikes, a dark prophet killing our guys. This is like a resurgence of medieval religion." PAUL: "Indeed. President wants to meet with the team. Thought we should bring this up."

BRUCE: "Definitely."

BRUCE receives a ping.

BRUCE: "It's SHEILA. We were supposed to get breakfast together."

PAUL: "You go man. We can talk about this more later. I've shown you everything I wanted to show you."

BRUCE: "Okay well let me know if you get any more updates."

BRUCE grabs his coat and exits.

# INT. LARRRY'S CAFE - EARLY MORNING

BRUCE enters the nearly empty cafe and spots SHEILA (late 30s, female) who waves at him. He walks over.

SHEILA: "This place has the best french toast."

BRUCE: "Sign me up."

WAITRESS comes over.

WAITRESS: "What can I get for ya'll this morning?"

SHEILA: "We'll get two french toasts and a coffee for me."

BRUCE: "Make that two coffees."

WAITRESS: "You got it."

WAITRESS walks away with order.

SHEILA: "So what's new?"

BRUCE: "The world is coming to an end."

SHEILA: "That isn't new news BRUCE."

BRUCE: "No, but get this. We got a transmission from some wacko cult that's going off killing agents all over the world."

SHEILA: "Wait, a cult? Like a religious cult?"

BRUCE: "Yes."

SHEILA: "Hasn't religion faded into nonexistence?"

BRUCE: "That's what we all thought, but history has this funny notion of remembering the past."

SHEILA: "So it does. What do you think of it?"

BRUCE: "I guess we wait and see. We have no leads."

SHEILA: "How did you get it then?" BRUCE: "Transmission from somewhere in the Sahara."

SHEILA: "Like, the desert Sahara?"

BRUCE: "The one and only."

WAITRESS comes by and drops off the french toast and coffee.

WAITRESS: "Enjoy."

SHEILA: "That is so weird."

BRUCE: "Yeah, decapitating heads. It's barbaric."

SHEILA: "I don't know. People are capable of doing some hideous things."

BRUCE: "It's ancient you know? We live in the generation of AI now."

SHEILA: "You think it was generated by AI?"

BRUCE: "Possibly. Fear tactics I think."

SHEILA: "I think they want some kind of world order."

BRUCE: "The world is a crazy place right now."

SHEILA: "Yeah. Hmm."

BRUCE: "What's going on with you?"

SHEILA: "We got some new data on the biostream front."

BRUCE: "Oh yeah? Like you can plug into machines now?"

SHEILA: "Precisely. Still got some odds and ends to fix up, but for the most part we're able to lock in the visual and audio cortexes."

BRUCE: "So you can see and think like a machine?"

SHEILA: "Not quite, but you can see and think like other people. You should stop by our lab. I can show you more what

it's like."

BRUCE: "Yeah maybe sometime later this week."

SHEILA: "We can use this technology to help people with mental illnesses."

BRUCE: "Like me?"

SHEILA: "Even schizophrenia, yes."

BRUCE: "You're saying you can uncurse a person who was cursed at birth?"

SHEILA: "Well, I mean we can definitely help you relearn new behaviors, but some things are still a work in progress."

BRUCE: "Rad."

Music begins playing through the ceiling speakers: "Fast Car" by Tracy Chapman.

BRUCE: "Hey look it's our song when we dated in high school."

SHEILA: "You still remember that? That was ages ago!"

BRUCE: "I remember a lot of things SHEILA, like you have a

mole on your right hip."

SHEILA: "BRUCE! That's a birthmark."

BRUCE: "Oh whatever, it made you stand out."

SHEILA: "Well, you were always kind of weird BRUCE, talking about your plans for the future like you were going to remake the universe. I guess that was kind of attractive."

BRUCE: "And here I am answering the call to duty. It has its perks but I guess it's not exactly what I envisioned."

SHEILA: "Didn't you say that mankind deserved to know its true purpose?"

BRUCE: "'And that would lay the groundwork for immortality.' Yes, and I still believe it."

SHEILA: "BRUCE, the world has lost religion. There is no more God."

BRUCE: "There will always be some believers."

SHEILA: "Well, anyway, when do you want to come in?"

BRUCE: "How about tomorrow?"

SHEILA: "Okay come in the morning. I know it's hard for you to get up and this will give you a reason to do so."

BRUCE: "The meds."

SHEILA: "I know, but as we say, mind over matter."

BRUCE: "Yeah."

SHEILA: "Okay I have to run, I need to be in the lab to run a few analyses. I'll see you tomorrow 8am sharp."

BRUCE: "Sure."

SHEILA leaves money on the table and leaves. BRUCE watches her enter her car and drive off. He looks at an old picture of them in his wallet, shakes his head, puts some money on the table and leaves.

# INT. MEETING ROOM AT THE WHITEHOUSE - AFTERNOON

Around a large long table sits several Pentagon members including PAUL and BRUCE.

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE: "I don't know how we get out of there.

We're pot committed."

CHAIRMAN OF JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF: "Maybe a better reason is why?"

DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE: "Well we're obviously supporting the pro-democratists but is the cause more important than the cost to life?"

PAUL: "The dictatorship in Turkey has the military. We have no choice but to confront power with power."

VICE CHAIRMAN OF JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF: "Don't forget we are backing the revolutionists in France as well."

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE: "Democracy is expensive."

CHAIRMAN OF JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF: "Not only is it expensive but it is spreading our resources too thin."

PRESIDENT: "Gentlemen, if we do not stand and fight for what is right, then democracy loses."

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE: "But at what price? World War III?"

BRUCE: "Mr. President, with all due respect I don't think we should be over-committing. We've actually just received

transmission of a terrorist cult killing our best men. We're losing them like flies."

PRESIDENT: "A terrorist group? Of what nature?"

BRUCE: "It's a religious fanatical group, we think. They may have some stake in international governments. Many countries are reporting the same thing."

PRESIDENT: "Hmm. What do you propose we do?"

PAUL: "I suggest we set aside a team to investigate. It would be in our best interest to nip this in the bud before it spreads like wildfire."

PRESIDENT: "Okay. How about PAUL and BRUCE you two take on this terrorist rampage and prevent our men from dying."

BRUCE: "Will do."

PRESIDENT: "The rest of us, we need to take care of these outbreaks if we are to pass down democracy to our children."

BRUCE motions to PAUL to get up and leave. They both exit.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE U.S. CAPITAL - EVENING

PAUL is walking with BRUCE towards the Capital.

BRUCE: "Anything new?"

PAUL: "In fact, yes. There is a person you should seek out at Rio de Janeiro. He claims to know the origins of this cult."

BRUCE: "How did you find this out?"

PAUL: "Never mind the details BRUCE. You'll find him at Christ the Redeemer."

BRUCE: "Coincidentally religious? What is his name?"

PAUL hands BRUCE a portfolio.

PAUL: "All the information you need is in here. I gotta run to dinner, but let me know what you find out."

BRUCE: "You're not coming?"

PAUL: "The President wants me at home base for anything else that may come up. I told him you were the man for the job and he agreed. This is your mission BRUCE, perhaps you'll find out more than what you were looking for. I gotta run, talk to you later." BRUCE: "See ya."

BRUCE opens the portfolio, and on the first page is a black and white photo of an elderly man (80's) throwing bread at birds gathered around Christ the Redeemer. At the corner a name is written: "Gabriel Pintas" Several more photos show Gabriel at a run-down church, in the cemetery digging holes, and lighting candles around a cross. The last page is a short bio: "Gabriel Pintas, a priest of old and devout Christian. No known family affiliations or relatives. Lives alone in Rio de Janeiro for an unknown duration. Political preference: orthodox religion with no known loyalty to any country." At the bottom a phone number is written +55 21 95379 7333.

#### INT. REDUX BIOTECH - MORNING

BRUCE drives into a parking spot in the parking lot next to Redux Biotech. He enters the large corporation.

(On the phone) BRUCE: "Hey I've just arrived."

Out of the elevator comes SHEILA.

SHEILA: "You're two minutes late!"

BRUCE: "Per usual."

SHEILA: "Come on, I'll show you my lab."

BRUCE follows her into the elevator. She presses the 11th floor.

SHEILA: "So technically they do not allow visitors, but since we dated a long time ago you're not just a stranger."

BRUCE: "I promise I won't break anything."

SHEILA: "If you do, it's coming out of my paycheck. Be on your best behavior okay?"

BRUCE: "Yes, ma'am."

The elevator opens and they walk down the corridor to the end.

BRUCE: "So this is where Skynet originated?"

SHEILA: "Shutup."

The device on the wall scans her eyes and it unlocks the large heavy door. They both walk in with the door shutting behind them. Inside is a busy room with lots of spare parts and gadgets on large tables. SHEILA: "Sorry for the mess. But this is how I work."

BRUCE: "Well, every brilliant scientist was no clean freak."

SHEILA walks to a large computer monitor setup with a large human shaped chamber connected.

SHEILA: "This is where we check your Biostream."

She types in a lock code to unlock the computer mainframe.

BRUCE: "What is this Biostream you are talking about anyway?"

SHEILA: "It's kind of like the electrical signals in your brain that make up your consciousness."

BRUCE: "I see. So this is where I get connected to the ether?"

SHEILA: "Pretty much. We've been working on an AI chipped device that you can put in your ear that will sync your Biostream to the system by matching your oscillating brain waves."

She picks up an earpiece.

SHEILA: "Here try this on."

BRUCE: "Woah wait, do I have to prepare myself for this?"

SHEILA: "Not yet, not until I sync you with the system."

BRUCE puts on the ear piece. It begins to light up and scan his the inside of his brain.

SHEILA: "Right now it's running a diagnostic."

BRUCE: "It kind of tickles."

SHEILA (typing on the mainframe computer): "Okay it's about ready. Why don't you step into this chamber here because you're about to go into somewhat of an unconscious daydream."

BRUCE steps inside the chamber and lies back.

BRUCE: "So this is going to help me...?"

SHEILA: "It will open your mind. Just relax."

SHEILA enters in some code and then executes. In a flash, BRUCE enters the depths of his mind through a bright light then darkness and then into a formative memory as indicated by a hazy border. INT. BIOSTREAM MEMORY OF SAN FRANCISCO GIANT'S BALLGAME - DAY

(At a baseball game walking the inside corridors) YOUNG BRUCE (5 y/o): "Mom, can we get some nachos?"

MOTHER: "Of course! Anything else you want?"

YOUNG BRUCE: "Cracker jacks!"

MOTHER: "Okay!" She rubs his head.

As they wait in line YOUNG BRUCE looks silently at the large amounts of people bustling, walking to and fro, and laughing loudly. His vision begins to blur, and becomes almost staticlike.

YOUNG BRUCE: "Mom, something's not right."

MOTHER: "Come again dear?"

YOUNG BRUCE (louder): "Mom my head hurts!"

As he looks around people begin to look like they are laughing maniacally and become evil, devilish looking.

YOUNG BRUCE: "Mom make it stop!"

MOTHER: "What's the matter son? Relax, we're just at a ball game."

YOUNG BRUCE: "My head is on fire!" He covers his ears and screams.

The memory ends abruptly.

FADE OUT

### EXT. BIOSTREAM MEMORY AT YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK - NIGHT

BRUCE is now in his teenage years (17 y/o) outside in nature lying on the front windshield of his old Honda station wagon with teenage SHEILA looking at the stars.

They both silently gaze for a few moments. A shooting star appears making its path through the night sky.

BRUCE: "Look at that, that one's me!"

SHEILA: "Wow, I can't believe we actually caught a glimpse of a shooting star. Aren't these like once in a lifetime kind of events?"

BRUCE: "You tell me. You're the science whizz."

SHEILA: "What do you want to be when you grow up?"

BRUCE: "Hmm. The Beast Master so I can shepherd all the lost souls back to their destinations."

SHEILA: "You must have thought about that one for a while."

BRUCE: "Why, because it's actually good?"

SHEILA: "No, because it's just so... you."

BRUCE: "I like to think about these kinds of things."

As they gaze on for a few moments, BRUCE gets sucked into an alternate world in the distant future.

## EXT. BIOSTREAM VISION OF RAZ'AZUL - NIGHT

He is transported into the Sahara where a stormy cloud circles above the temple Raz'Azul. Cautiously he looks around and then turns to the doorway. In a flash, a hooded shadowy figure appears, the same from the hologram. He draws a bloody sword and licks it and then begins to pull off his hood to reveal his face, but then suddenly BRUCE gets pulled out of the desert into a serene scenario.

# EXT. BIOSTREAM CLOUD - DAY

As if on clouds and surrounded by white light, he breathes in

air sharply and then blinks.

BRUCE: "You're here. Did you just see what happened in my mind?"

(Appears next to BRUCE)

SHEILA: "No, that was your own Biostream. Right now I'm connected to the same frequency so we are sharing a Biostream which is why you can see me."

BRUCE: "Wild. Those were some formative memories."

SHEILA: "I like to tap into the memory bank, since it presents opportunity to mend some wounds."

BRUCE: "One wasn't a memory though, it seemed like a dystopian future similar to the transmission we received."

SHEILA: "The Biostream is a finicky concept. Sometimes it shows your past, and sometimes it can predict your future. We don't have a solid grasp of it yet, but we just know how to tap into it."

BRUCE: "Wow okay. I don't know what this has to say about me."

SHEILA: "You're probably going to have to confront some of

these demons BRUCE."

BRUCE: "Well, maybe this can help me. I think somehow this Biostream and my mission to figure out what is going on with our missing men is related."

SHEILA: "Then take these. They are prototypes anyway. It might help you lock in and focus on what is going on. I'm going to pull us out now."

The world suddenly goes black, and then BRUCE opens his eyes slowly coming to.

# INT. REDUX BIOTECH SHEILA'S LAB - DAY

SHEILA: "So what did you think?"

BRUCE: "This is some wild technology SHEILA. I've never relived parts of my life before."

SHEILA: "I think these will help you."

(She puts both devices in his hands)

BRUCE: "Thanks. I'm still unsure how this is going to get me to where I need to go."

SHEILA: "Just take a leap of faith and trust you'll figure it out."

BRUCE: "Yeah, easier said than done."

SHEILA: "Okay well I'm actually going to need to run some more analyses on how to keep more focused on the Biostream, so unfortunately I'm going to have to kick you out."

BRUCE: "Oh yeah great just like you did thirty years ago."

SHEILA: "Out with you."

ACT 2

### EXT. D.C. AIRPORT - MORNING

Plane takes off, and on a map it shows the flight path to Rio De Janeiro.

## EXT. RIO DE JANEIRO AIRPORT - MORNING

BRUCE exits the airplane, shielding his eyes from the bright sun. He passes through customs and exits onto the busy streets. He gets in a cab and points to his hotel on a map. The driver acknowledges. They arrive at the hotel, BRUCE enters his room, throws his baggage on the bed, and takes out the portfolio.

BRUCE: "Alright GABRIEL, I hope whatever you know will set things right."

### EXT. CHRIST THE REDEEMER - MORNING

BRUCE exits his cab, and then climbs up the stairways to the balcony where Christ the Redeemer stands. He looks around and only sees a few tourists taking pictures. There is no sign of Gabriel.

BRUCE: "I guess now we just do the waiting game."

He looks at his watch and it shows 10:37am. He sits down on a bench and pulls out a sketchbook. He begins sketching a portrait of Christ the Redeemer. 1 hour 23 minutes pass and as he is finishing a rough drawing, he looks up and sees an old man hobbling to the balcony with a paper bag full of bread.

```
(Looks at his watch)
BRUCE: "12pm lunch time, right on time."
```

He watches as GABRIEL (80's, male) brings a flock of birds in his wake and he begins to break off pieces and feed them. He begins some odd behavior by walking in circles three times and then leaving the bread in the center.

BRUCE: "Good morning señor."

(Looking up, surprised) GABRIEL: "Hello sir, good morning to you."

BRUCE: "Lots of hungry mouths to feed."

GABRIEL: "Oh these guys? They are always hungry. No one would

notice them otherwise."

BRUCE: "Do you frequent this location often?"

GABRIEL: "Why are you interrogating me?"

BRUCE: "I am not, I am simply trying to make pleasant conversation."

GABRIEL: "I come here because no one else cares for them."

He walks in circles again.

BRUCE: "That is a bit strange what you are doing."

GABRIEL: "You can mind your own business."

BRUCE: "Are you a religious person?"

GABRIEL: "I am. One of the last followers of Christ."

He throws bread in the circle.

BRUCE continues sketching for a moment while Gabriel continues his neurotic pattern of feeding the birds.

BRUCE: "Do you have any friends?"

GABRIEL: "Why ask me such a foul question."

BRUCE: "I did not mean to offend you, I am only wanting to help out a fellow human being."

GABRIEL: "I do not need help. In fact, I am doing a service to mother nature by not letting these beautiful creatures suffer."

BRUCE: "But are you doing them a service by relying on you for sustenance? Perhaps it may be better to let them survive in the wild, as nature intended."

GABRIEL does not answer. He keeps on feeding the birds and tosses the remaining bread out to the birds. He then turns to leave.

BRUCE: "I did not get your name sir. I was only trying to help."

GABRIEL continues walking away without answering. BRUCE closes his journal, grabs his bag, and hurries down the steps following GABRIEL.

BRUCE: "Wait I know your name, GABRIEL is it?"

(Stops and turns)

GABRIEL: "How did you know my name?"

BRUCE: "I have access to certain information. It's a long story, but I need to know if you know a man named ARMAND."

(Disinterested) GABRIEL: "I have not heard that name in a long time."

BRUCE: "Wait, you know this man? He is a killer. He has been killing our people in the USA."

GABRIEL: "Why don't you join me for supper. This may take more than a brief conversation to go over. Here is my address."

GABRIEL hands BRUCE a card.

GABRIEL: "Meet me at my house at 6. Not earlier, I have things I need to prepare."

GABRIEL walks away. BRUCE looks at the back of the card and on it is scribbled an address Los Vicente 211, Rio De Janeiro.

DISSOLVE

## EXT. OUTSIDE OF GABRIEL'S COTTAGE - EVENING

BRUCE exits the cab and pays the driver. He walks down the dirt path toward the door and knocks. He listens as GABRIEL walks to the door and he locks and unlocks the door five times before opening.

GABRIEL: "Come in."

BRUCE walks in and hangs up his coat. He looks around and notices a sofa and chairs covered in plastic coating, neatly piled books and newspapers stacked away, and only one seat drawn at the table.

BRUCE: "I don't think I mentioned my name, but I'm BRUCE."

(At the stove) GABRIEL: "It does not matter to me."

He brings a large pot of stew to the table.

GABRIEL: "Ah, I forgot to bring another chair. It has been some time since I have had company."

GABRIEL brings up a chair. GABRIEL: "Please sit." 34.

GABRIEL ladles stew into two bowls with particular attention to detail to make sure they are even.

BRUCE: "You are quite precise in what you do, even pathological."

GABRIEL: "God made me this way."

BRUCE: "Have you ever asked for help?"

GABRIEL: "I do not require help for anything. I am my own man."

BRUCE: "Everybody needs help sometimes. It looks to me like you might have some form of Obsessive Compulsive Disorder."

GABRIEL: "I know what that is, and whether or not I have it does not make a difference. I am perfectly fine. Now eat."

BRUCE: "All I am saying is it might be getting in the way of making relationships with people."

They begin to eat.

BRUCE: "This is quite good."

GABRIEL: "So what was it you wanted to talk about?"

BRUCE: "Did you ever know a man named ARMAND?"

GABRIEL: "He was a student of mine once, yes."

BRUCE: "Do you know he has become a maniacal killer deeming himself a "new-age" prophet?"

GABRIEL: "I am not surprised."

BRUCE: "Can you tell me more about him?"

GABRIEL: "I just know that as a boy he showed signs of intense ambition, even ruthless to obtain what he wanted."

BRUCE: "Was he a religious person?"

GABRIEL: "Very much so. He believed God called on him to carry out his will."

BRUCE: "Do you know where I can find him? He has hidden himself in the Sahara Desert and our technology cannot pinpoint his location."

GABRIEL: "That I am afraid I cannot help you with."

BRUCE: "Why not?"

GABRIEL: "There are people who would get hurt if I gave up this information."

BRUCE: "People are dying GABRIEL. Good people are dying. We need to know any leads."

GABRIEL: "He had a family. That is all I know."

BRUCE: "Look, if you do not want to give up the information, there are other ways I can collect it. Are you familiar with the Biostream?"

GABRIEL: "What is that?"

BRUCE pulls out two of this devices.

BRUCE: "These things here can sync our consciousnesses, and I can tap into your memories."

GABRIEL: "I do not wish to partake in this technological experiment."

BRUCE: "GABRIEL, if you cared about humanity as much as you care about Christ, you would do this and help us out."

GABRIEL thinks a bit. He drops his spoon.

GABRIEL: "Very well. I will show you his family."

He places one of the devices in his ear. BRUCE does the same.

BRUCE: "It's going to sync up and just be prepared for a slight surprise like you're going down the rabbit hole."

A few moments pass and then both are taken into the Biostream.

# INT. BIOSTREAM MEMORY AT THE CHURCH OF SAINT JOSEPH - DAY

They enter a vivid memory of ARMAND (10 y/o), ANGELICA (sister, 8 y/o), RICKY (best friend, 10 y/o), MISHA (girlfriend, 10 y/o), and ALI (brother, 12 y/o). A younger version of GABRIEL sits at the head of a circle formed by all of them.

GABRIEL: "You are all children of God, do you know that?"

ARMAND: "If we are all children of God, then why are we not immortal?"

GABRIEL: "Because this life is a vessel to eventually walk with God in the heavens for eternity."

ANGELICA: "What does hell feel like?"

GABRIEL: "Hell is the worst punishment. It is a disconnect from God and being enslaved by the devil."

GABRIEL pauses and does some prayers.

ARMAND: "Then the greatest accomplishment would be to carry out God's will, is it not?"

GABRIEL: "Correct."

ARMAND: "Even if it means getting rid of the nonbelievers?"

GABRIEL: "To kill is a sin, ARMAND."

ARMAND: "But if they are already doomed to hell, then what is the difference?"

GABRIEL: "ARMAND, do not judge humanity so fiercely. That is God's role, not yours!"

ARMAND: "I do not believe that is God's will to stand with the nonbelievers. He created this world for a reason, to see who would be true to him!"

The memory fades and suddenly they are swallowed by darkness

into another memory.

FADE OUT

INT. BIOSTREAM MEMORY AT THE ST. JOSEPH'S DORMITORY - NIGHT

ARMAND's family are in their early 20's.

ARMAND is packing his bag full of clothes. The rest of his family does the same. GABRIEL walks into their dorm room.

GABRIEL: "You disobey me, you loot, you steal, and now you run from the very home that took you in when no one else would."

ARMAND: "We do not belong here, old man. Our destiny lies in the Sahara."

GABRIEL: "What is this madness he is talking about?"

ANGELICA: "The oldest site of human existence."

ARMAND: "ANGELICA did research. We will find God's archives and the revelations of the origin of mankind."

GABRIEL: "This is fool's gold. We already know this from God's word, the holy bible."

ARMAND: "That is trash. Everyone knows all religions are full of bullshit. We want the truth and that is where we will find it, whether we have your blessings or not."

GABRIEL: "And then what? What will knowing such information show you?"

ARMAND: "The will of God."

FADE OUT

# INT. GABRIEL'S COTTAGE - EVENING

Both GABRIEL and BRUCE then get transported back into reality. They both slowly take off their ear pieces.

GABRIEL: "So now you know."

BRUCE: "I had no idea they were orphans."

GABRIEL: "They were family, until he decided to leave and pursue his lethal ambitions."

BRUCE: "That is all you know about his whereabouts? What about his siblings? Do you know if they still follow him?"

GABRIEL: "MISHA RENDON, his girlfriend at the time no longer follows him. She visited me several years ago only briefly to say she could not follow him into his diabolical crusade."

BRUCE: "Do you have her contact?"

GABRIEL: "She gave me this."

GABRIEL hands BRUCE a letter. On it is scribbled a foreign dialect, but at the bottom a clear address is written in English: Taj Mahal, Agra India.

GABRIEL: "She may still be residing there."

GABRIEL takes the empty bowls back to his sink.

GABRIEL: "My only wish is that you do not bring that evil back here. I am old and my days are numbered. My desire is to meet the maker without a guilty conscience."

BRUCE: "I am sorry this happened. But thank you for this information. I am a believer in justice, so I will do my best to see to it that this vile agenda ends swiftly."

He gets up and leaves.

# INT. HOTEL ROOM IN RIO DE JANEIRO - MORNING

BRUCE browses his secret service program looking up MISHA

RENDON and her whereabouts. He receives a video phone call from PAUL.

BRUCE: "Hey PAUL, what's going on?"

PAUL: "I hope you found what you were looking for, but right now we have an international emergency and we need you at a specific location."

BRUCE: "Give me the rundown."

PAUL: "Strange criminal activities going on in Jerusalem. Our embassy is in lockdown because some people are hunting down government agents."

BRUCE: "You think it's related to the transmission?"

PAUL: "It may be. We need you to take out their leader. He goes by the alias: Saint Lucifer."

BRUCE: "What a title."

PAUL: "Apparently, he's unstable."

BRUCE: "Where are they stationed?"

PAUL: "They're living in the outskirts in the mountains

nearby. We think they have a small compound from where they operate."

BRUCE: "They must be after something."

PAUL: "We don't know but this is urgent. We need you there now."

BRUCE: "I'll book the next flight out."

He ends the call.

FADE OUT

# EXT. OUTSIDE MILITARY AIRPORT NEAR THE EMBASSY - EVENING

BRUCE heads towards the military outpost near the embassy. The CAPTAIN walks up to greet BRUCE.

CAPTAIN: "Greetings agent, glad you could make it here." BRUCE: "I heard about the emergency. What's the status?" CAPTAIN: "Well, these past few days we've been losing U.S. men and women to outlanders." BRUCE: "How many of them are there?"

CAPTAIN: "There's a small group of them using hit and run tactics. We don't think there are that many, but they are very efficient."

BRUCE: "I want to know more about their leader and what they are after."

CAPTAIN: "Yes, Saint Lucifer they call him. Their attack patterns are very erratic. They are not going for important people in particular, but rather they seem to be doing this as a way to get attention. You know, this is not the only site being attacked as several others have popped up internationally within the last few days."

BRUCE: "Global chaos. Fear tactics perhaps. Something about all this doesn't sit well."

CAPTAIN: "People are tense. They want some sort of order. Everyone thinks World War III is going to happen very soon."

BRUCE: "Well, let's make sure that doesn't happen."

CAPTAIN: "We've reserved a room for you. In the meantime, I suggest you get some rest."

BRUCE: "Thank you CAPTAIN."

BRUCE walks into his room, throws his stuff into a corner, and loads his gun. He lies on his bed and drifts into slumber.

A few hours later...

A startling blast wakes BRUCE up. He pulls out his pistol and walks out into the night. Outside, the embassy wall has been blasted away from a car bomb. The CAPTAIN calls out the few soldiers stationed at the military base.

CAPTAIN: "Code red! They've entered the embassy!"

Soldiers are firing away at enemy targets near the blast of the embassy wall. BRUCE heads away from the firing and goes around the back into the opposite entrance into the embassy. Men and women are frantically exiting the complex while BRUCE moves in. All around are smoke bombs, and it is difficult to make out what is going on. The embassy hall is three stories in an open space with stairs leading to each level, but smoke is everywhere making it difficult to see.

BRUCE: "Lucifer! Where are you?"

(ALI (SAINT LUCIFER, 50s, male, tattooed, wearing a cross necklace) begins to laugh) ALI: "I knew you'd come, young Dominant." BRUCE follows the voice. A man runs by, BRUCE aims, but realizes it is a civilian.

BRUCE: "Get out of here that way."

(Ominously) ALI: "Do you know who we are?"

BRUCE: "What are you, some sort of terrorist organization?"

ALI: "Terrorist? That is an insult! We are Syndicate, those who follow the holy order."

BRUCE: "Did you send the transmission?"

ALI: "My brother, bless his heart."

BRUCE: "ARMAND, do you work for ARMAND?"

ALI: "I am his weapon, his tool for execution. He is my brother and now everyone will die for him."

A gun shot fires and then a lady screams.

ALI: "God's will!"

BRUCE: "Come out you coward! Leave the innocent alone, your quarrel is with me!"

ALI impales a man into a wall with his sword. He then backs away and begins crying on his knees.

ALI: "Oh lord, what have I done?"

BRUCE: "What? Where are you?"

ALI: "Bless his holy name, the one and only, let the light redeem us from this blemished earth."

BRUCE climbs the stairs to the second floor.

BRUCE: "WHERE ARE YOU?!"

ALI: "Only the penitent... SHUT UP FOOL!"

ALI gets back up and shoots the impaled man.

BRUCE: "What is wrong with you? Are you possessed?"

ALI: "Some may call it that. I like to call it my alter-ego. It is the saint inside me. My weaker self."

BRUCE walks by the man who is impaled and shot. Out from a

dark door, ALI comes out and punches BRUCE in the head, knocking his pistol to the ground.

ALI: "I have no more time for games. We will test you to see if you are fit, Dominant."

BRUCE gets up and lunges towards the shadow, but it evaporates in smoke. He gets thrown onto the wall, choked with one hand around his neck.

ALI: "You are weak!"

(Choking)

BRUCE whirlwind kicks ALI in the head and ALI falls to the ground.

(ALI wipes blood from his mouth)
ALI: "That's more like it, Dominant."

BRUCE catches his breath and then begins boxing with ALI. They exchange blow for blow.

ALI: "If you cannot defeat me, then how do you expect to rule?"

ALI lands a blow to BRUCE's face, knocking him down.

ALI: "I am Saint Lucifer! Half angel, half demon... born from the light of heaven and the fires of hell... an illness of the mind that has cursed me since birth! Only one of us will survive today, young Dominant. That is God's will!"

ALI charges BRUCE while he is slowly getting up, and as he braces to defend himself, in the moment his head starts to burn. His vision blurs, he hears a high pitched distorting noise, and he sees ALI as a demon.

(Covering his ears) BRUCE: "Fuck, not now!"

BRUCE yells in pain.

ALI runs through BRUCE and smashes him into the concrete wall as it crumbles. ALI backs off a short ways.

(Personality changing and looking at the blood on his hands) ALI: "What have I done?"

(BRUCE struggles to regain consciousness) BRUCE: "I need my fucking meds."

BRUCE grabs at his leg pocket and finds a small syringe. He injects it in his heart.

(ALI crying)

ALI: "All saints have a past, God, please forgive me!"

BRUCE sits up and shakes his head. He looks around and regains composure. His vision and hearing clears and he no longer sees a demon.

(ALI switching personality and closing his fist)
ALI: "You lucked out, young Dominant. The saint has saved
you, but now, you will die by the demon."

ALI walks towards BRUCE, steps on his chest, and brandishes his axe. As he draws it overhead and slices it downwards, BRUCE at the last moment trips up ALI and then uppercuts ALI in the chin, knocking him up in the air and having him fall flat on his back. BRUCE grabs his pistol on the ground as ALI slowly writhes on the floor.

BRUCE: "I will end this crusade starting with you, demon."

BRUCE fires his pistol at ALI's heart.

(Gasping for air and choking on blood) ALI: "May the light of the heaven redeem this unworthy soul..." ALI dies.

BRUCE wipes blood from his mouth coughing from the smoke in the air as he makes his way back to the entrance. As he exits outside he sees the soldiers have captured the remaining Syndicate responsible for blowing up the embassy. Their hands are tied and they are on their knees. BRUCE walks over to the CAPTAIN.

BRUCE: "Their leader is terminated."

CAPTAIN: "Thank you. What should we do with these prisoners?"

BRUCE: "We interrogate them, find out their headquarters."

BRUCE walks over to the first, and ungags him.

BRUCE: "Where is ARMAND?"

The SYNDICATE laughs maniacally.

SYNDICATE: "We will all be judged by him."

(Puzzled, then realizing) BRUCE: "RUN!"

The CAPTAIN, soldiers, and BRUCE bolt back to the military

base just as the Syndicates explode from bombs inside their cloaks.

BRUCE lands on the ground, face in the dirt, as debris rains down. He slowly gets up.

BRUCE: "Are you all alright?"

CAPTAIN: "Yeah I think we're okay. Good job reading that, agent."

They dust themselves off.

CAPTAIN: "What now?"

BRUCE: "I suggest you recoup, clear the mountains, and burn their hideout to make sure no one comes back. For now, I think their main operation has been sidelined."

CAPTAIN: "What will you do?"

BRUCE: "I have other obligations to see to. There is an important mission that is related to all this."

CAPTAIN: "Understood."

FADE OUT

### EXT. TAJ MAHAL - MORNING

The streets are bustling with people as BRUCE walks towards the Taj Mahal. He receives a phone call from PAUL.

BRUCE: "What is it, PAUL?"

PAUL: "BRUCE, I'm tied up here in D.C. What's your status?"

BRUCE: "Trail went cold at Jerusalem. Supposedly it was his brother running the operation. I have a lead here in the Taj Mahal."

PAUL: "Who is it?"

BRUCE: "GABRIEL said it was his ex. She might know more about all this foulplay."

PAUL: "Keep your guard up. You don't know who may be watching."

BRUCE hangs up. He looks at the letter. The only part that is decipherable is the English stamped Taj Mahal at the end of the letter. He walks up to a native.

BRUCE: "Excuse me, but could you tell me what this says?"

WOMAN reads the letter.

WOMAN: "It reads like a sad tale... a heart broken and the diverging of paths. She says he has turned into an abomination, his ambitions that are founded on revenge and absolute power have twisted him. She is taking their daughter to a place of refuge and peace, something she has not known for a long time. That is all I can gather."

BRUCE: "There is no mention of a location she is inhabiting?"

WOMAN: "It seems the Taj Mahal is her general dwelling. Perhaps you may want to seek out the Peace Corp. who take in the needy and homeless."

BRUCE: "This has been a great help. Thank you for your time."

BRUCE pays her in coin. BRUCE then walks down the path towards the central area of the Taj Mahal. As he enters the building's entryway, he looks around for any sign of volunteers. He approaches a young man.

BRUCE: "Do you know of the Peace Corp.?"

YOUNG MAN speaks Hindu and shakes his head.

BRUCE enters the main building and walks along the halls.

Along one corridor he notices people hanging up laundry and making bread. He walks over to them.

BRUCE: "Are you the Peace Corp.?"

One woman approaches him.

WOMAN: "We are. Do you need assistance?"

BRUCE: "I am looking for a woman named MISHA RENDON. Do you know of her?"

WOMAN: "She is here. Come with me."

The WOMAN leads BRUCE down the corridor along the outskirts of the Taj Mahal. In the area right on the outside of the Taj Mahal is MISHA (50's, female) weaving a basket showing her daughter FREYA (14 y/o, female).

WOMAN: "MISHA, this man was looking for you. I will leave you two to connect."

BRUCE: "Hi MISHA, my name is BRUCE."

MISHA: "Hello."

BRUCE: "Is this your daughter?"

MISHA: "Yes she is. Say hi FREYA."

FREYA looks down and waves.

MISHA: "I am sorry for her curtness. She is autistic."

MISHA to FREYA: "FREYA look at the gentleman and use your words. Act proper."

FREYA looks at BRUCE.
(Quietly)
FREYA: "Hi."

BRUCE: "Hi FREYA. Nice to meet you both."

MISHA: "Do you need something from us?"

BRUCE: "I am looking for a man named ARMAND. I heard you were connected to him at one point."

MISHA: "Stay away from me."

MISHA turns and grabs FREYA.

MISHA: "Let's go honey."

BRUCE: "Wait. I am only interested in his whereabouts. He is a dangerous man and he has killed many of our people."

MISHA: "I do not associate with that man anymore!"

MISHA and FREYA start walking away.

(Following) BRUCE: "Hold on. I have a letter you wrote from GABRIEL. I know you two were once friends."

BRUCE hands MISHA the letter.

(MISHA stops with tears falling on to the letter) MISHA: "So you know our family."

BRUCE: "I know you were once all close together. Something must have happened to break you all apart."

MISHA: "ARMAND fell from the heavens. That is what happened."

BRUCE: "Why?"

MISHA: "You know this is our daughter. I was once in love with him. I would have followed him to the ends of the earth. But he changed. He suffered and changed." BRUCE: "If you do not want to talk about it, I have another method to share your memories with me."

BRUCE holds out the Biostream devices.

(Glancing) MISHA: "What are these?"

BRUCE: "They tap into your consciousness, allowing me to see things you have once experienced."

MISHA: "Does it hurt?"

BRUCE: "No. It is like going into a daydream."

(MISHA pauses, then takes one of the devices) MISHA: "Very well."

(Sitting down and bringing FREYA with her) MISHA: "FREYA come sit. Mommy needs to help this man."

(Busy working on the basket, FREYA acts frustrated)

MISHA: "Okay I am ready."

They both put on the devices.

FADE OUT

## INT. BIOSTREAM MEMORY OF CAVE IN THE DESERT - DAY

Everyone (ARMAND, MISHA, RICKY, ALI, in their late 20s) is crying uncontrollably as they stand in a circle of ANGELICA who has committed suicide.

MISHA: "Why would she do such a thing?"

RICKY: "She told me inside she was burning. I thought it was just a temporary thing. Baby, I should have listened to you."

ARMAND: "Sister, I could have stopped this. I saw it in my visions. The voices told me so, I could have stopped it!"

MISHA: "You can't blame yourself ARMAND, we all ignored the signs."

(Holding ANGELICA's head) RICKY: "What am I going to do without you?"

MISHA: "When the doctor said bipolar, I did not understand the toll it would take on a person, how serious it would be."

ARMAND: "Fuck you God! What have you done to us?"

MISHA: "We were cursed at birth, ARMAND. Each one of us was an outcast with no family. Now this."

ARMAND: "All we have done, to seek and carry out your will, we have done for you! And you cast us down into hell for being loyal! What kind of God are you?!"

ARMAND breaks the cross in half, throws the pieces to the ground, and then walks off out of the cave.

RICKY: "Do you think he'll be okay?"

ALI: "ARMAND is the strongest one of us. He will be fine."

RICKY: "How are his symptoms?"

MISHA: "He says he can manage. But I feel like they are getting worse, eating away his sanity."

ALI: "I trust in my brother. He has overcome so much, he will get through this."

MISHA: "For now, we mourn."

FADE OUT

INT. BIOSTREAM MEMORY OF ARMAND'S HOUSE IN THE DINING ROOM -EVENING

MISHA (30s), ARMAND (30s), and FREYA (5) are sitting around a table silently eating dinner.

(Spits food back out and laughs) FREYA: "Yummy!"

ARMAND hits the table.

ARMAND: "You little bitch! Eat your damn food that your father has provided for you!"

MISHA: "ARMAND, she is just a child!"

ARMAND: "She is defective!"

MISHA: "Do not insult our daughter! She was born with an illness!"

FREYA laughs.

ARMAND: "Do you see? She is selfish and insolent. I do not call such trash my daughter."

MISHA: "How dare you call her trash!"

MISHA slaps ARMAND.

(Slowly rubbing the spot where she hit him) ARMAND: "You would touch the chosen one with your filthy hands?" ARMAND hits MISHA in the face, knocking her down.

ARMAND: "You would be best to bow before the one with God's blood."

ARMAND walks over to FREYA and force feeds her the slop.

ARMAND: "Eat your fucking food."

(Blood coming out of her nose) MISHA: "What have you become? You are no longer the man I once loved."

ARMAND continues to force feed FREYA who is crying.

ARMAND: "If you want to continue living with me, then you will live by my rules in my house."

MISHA: "Stop torturing her! She is innocent!"

ARMAND: "Then teach her how to act like a human being."

ARMAND throws the food back on the plate and wipes his hands. He pulls out a bottle of whiskey and pours a generous portion in a glass. He downs it rapidly, then pours another glass. ARMAND: "The time has come for me. I cannot wait for worthless people who take my precious time."

FADE OUT

EXT. BIOSTREAM MEMORY IN THE SAHARA DESERT NEXT TO RAZ'AZUL -

(Screaming)

MISHA: "What are you doing?!"

RICKY: "ARMAND, no!"

There are five men bound by the hands and legs, on their knees, and gagged.

ARMAND draws his sword.

ARMAND: "These men are nonbelievers. God's judgment awaits them."

In one clean swoop, ARMAND beheads all five men.

(Crying uncontrollably) MISHA: "What has happened to you?" ARMAND wipes his sword.

ARMAND: "This is the will of God."

MISHA: "You are no longer human. No longer a son of the heavens. You are a monster!"

ARMAND: "Shall we set our daughter up next?"

MISHA: "You demon! You stay away from her and me!"

RICKY: "There is no turning back from this, ARMAND. You have let your visions and voices get the better of you."

ARMAND: "I have awakened. This is destiny."

RICKY: "Do not follow us. If you ever lay a hand on MISHA or your daughter, I will hunt you down to the ends of the earth."

ARMAND: "Take them, ALI."

ALI marches towards them. RICKY quickly grabs MISHA and FREYA, both who are crying, into his truck and drives off.

FADE OUT

#### EXT. OUTSIDE TAJ MAHAL - DAY

They both awake out of the Biostream. (Gasping for air with tears streaming down her face) MISHA: "We need to get out!"

BRUCE: "It's okay. It was only a memory."

(Looking around to get her bearings and then calming down) MISHA: "What happened to me and my daughter was unforgivable. No one should ever have to go through such pain and trauma."

FREYA starts crying.

(Hugging FREYA) MISHA: "Dear, it's okay. Mommy loves you."

BRUCE: "You two must have been through a lot."

MISHA: "I suffer from PTSD. My nightmares take over me almost every night."

BRUCE: "You need to tell me where I can find ARMAND so I can stop his demonic crusade."

MISHA: "I can't say I know exactly how to find him. All I know is that he resides at Raz'Azul, the Temple of the Old

Ones in the Sahara Desert. It is cloaked in an Artificial Intelligence generated field that can only be bypassed by people who know how it works."

BRUCE: "Do you know of anyone who understands it?"

MISHA: "The only person is RICKY, his former best friend who helped us escape. He disappeared a few years ago though on his own spiritual quest heading to the Mecca."

BRUCE: "Have you heard from him since?"

MISHA: "No, but he told me he would find me once he was done. He was obsessed with the Kaaba and its spiritual significance, so that may be a clue as to where to find him."

(Reaching into her back pocket)
MISHA: "Here is a picture of him. It is a few years old, but
he shouldn't look much different from this."

BRUCE: "Thank you. I'm sorry to bring up such a painful past, but this mission is bigger than the both of us."

MISHA: "I'm glad I could help. Please bring justice to this world. I am disgusted I was ever associated with such a monster." BRUCE heads back towards the city.

#### EXT. AIRPLANE FLYING OVER THE MIDDLE EAST - DAY

Overlay a map showing a red destination path from Taj Mahal, India to Mecca, Saudi Arabia as the outside of the plane flies over mountainous regions.

# EXT. OUTSIDE THE MASJID AL-HARAM - DAY

BRUCE finds himself outside the sacred mosque, but it is littered with trash and homeless people lying on the streets. Some people are praying on mats, while others are sleeping or drugged up. He looks at the picture of RICKY and searches around looking for someone who matches the profile. As he enters the mosque, he climbs the stairs and the Kaaba becomes visible. All surrounding the Kaaba are drugged up homeless addicts. He circles the Kaaba looking for RICKY.

(Yelling)
BRUCE: "RICKY, are you here?"

Some people moan, some people say "shhh." He hears a bottle being shattered.

BRUCE: "RICKY, is that you?"

(Lazy tongued) RICKY: "Who is RICKY?"

BRUCE follows the voice and finds a man very unclean and unshaven but has the eyes of the man in the profile.

BRUCE: "So this is why you haven't returned. Addicted to the bottle."

RICKY: "What are you talking about? ANGELICA! Why did you leave me?"

BRUCE: "RICKY, that was a long time ago. C'mon we need to get you cleaned up."

BRUCE pulls RICKY's arm over his shoulders and lifts him up.

RICKY: "What is the fucking point?"

RICKY takes a drag. BRUCE begins carrying him to the exit.

BRUCE: "The point is that you cannot waste your damn life and there is much still to do. C'mon."

RICKY starts walking while BRUCE shoulders him.

RICKY: "You don't understand what she meant to me."

BRUCE: "Oh, I know all too well."

They exit.

INT. BRUCE'S HOTEL IN SAUDI ARABIA - EVENING

RICKY wakes up from his sleep.

(Grumbling)

RICKY: "Oh my head. Where is the bottle?"

BRUCE: "My friend, you need to detox."

RICKY: "Where am I?"

BRUCE: "Away from the devil's influence."

RICKY: "Who are you?"

BRUCE: "My name is BRUCE and I require some of your knowledge."

RICKY: "Give me the bottle and I'll tell you whatever you want."

BRUCE: "No. What happened to you after you left MISHA?"

RICKY: "MISHA, I haven't heard that name for a long time. How is she doing?"

BRUCE: "She is making peace with herself but has otherwise found the respite she deserves."

RICKY: "That's good to hear."

BRUCE: "What made you come here?"

RICKY: "I prayed to God for years to help me find purpose in this life, and it fell upon deaf ears."

BRUCE: "Perhaps the answer was all around you the entire time."

RICKY: "What do you need anyway?"

BRUCE: "I need you to help me find ARMAND."

RICKY: "That fucking bastard is evil trash."

BRUCE: "You are the only one who knows how to get to him. He is on a sinister crusade and if left unchecked, the world

will fall to ruin as he draws his power from terror and hatred."

RICKY: "He's still on a killing spree? That good for nothing scumbag used to be my best friend until he went on a power trip and completely lost it."

BRUCE: "Do you know how to disable the AI cloaking field?"

RICKY: "Do I? I built the damn thing."

BRUCE: "How do I get there?"

RICKY: "We, my friend. You won't be able to do it on your own. If you can get us a car, I can get you to the location. We'll have to wait until the sun and moon shine simultaneously as the sun sets. This only happens during a new moon on a fortnight."

(Tossing him a razor) BRUCE: "Alright well if you're coming along you better get cleaned up. We leave at dawn."

# EXT. THE SAHARA DESERT - DAY

BRUCE and RICKY drive a jeep rolling over the sandy dunes of

the Sahara Desert. RICKY holds open a map while locating on his phone GPS.

BRUCE: "You sure this is the place?"

RICKY: "23.05N, 13.13E exactly. These numbers are burned in my mind because I knew one day I would return here."

BRUCE: "Wait, what's that over the dune? It looks like a sandstorm."

RICKY: "That's it."

They drive heading straight for the storm.

RICKY: "Wait. ARMAND is a smart man. He'll probably have his goonies set up all around the perimeter. It will be safer if we keep a distance until the sun sets."

BRUCE brings the jeep to a stop on the outskirts behind a dune just a short ways from the sand storm. He climbs out of the car and opens the trunk and takes out a cargo of guns with ammunition and kevlar vests. He tosses a gun and vest to RICKY.

BRUCE: "Now, we wait."

### EXT. SAHARA DESERT NEAR RAZ'AZUL - EVENING

BRUCE bites a piece of bread.

BRUCE: "Is it almost time?"

RICKY has his binoculars peering over the dune towards the sandstorm.

RICKY: "Look to the sky. Do you see the moon and sun together?"

(Looking up) BRUCE: "There it is."

RICKY: "The scepter appears only during this short period. Have a look."

He hands the binoculars to BRUCE.

RICKY: "Look at the center base of the storm."

BRUCE zooms in and notices a soft glowing scepter.

RICKY: "That is our only access to the mainframe that programs the entire cloaking field."

BRUCE: "We should go then."

RICKY: "Wait. It is heavily guarded. Do you see them?"

BRUCE looks again and spots two masked Syndicate standing on guard.

BRUCE: "No problem."

He brings out his sniper rifle. He loads it and aims. Once he locks in to both heads, he fires. Both guards are killed.

BRUCE: "Two birds with one stone."

RICKY: "We gotta go now. Our window is short."

They both start heading over the dune.

BRUCE: "How did you build this thing?"

RICKY: "Engineer from MIT and Old One's magic."

BRUCE: "Old One's magic?"

RICKY: "You'd be surprised what you find in ancient relics at

Raz'Azul."

BRUCE: "The temple I presume."

RICKY: "The one and only Temple of the Old One's. You'll find everything and more than what you were looking for there."

They approach the glowing scepter. RICKY: "Alright let's open this sesame." RICKY opens the holographic mainframe of the scepter device. He tries the old code. An error pops up: "FAILURE TO INITIALIZE."

RICKY: "Shit, the old setup doesn't work. He must have changed it."

He keeps trying different combinations, but all fail to initialize. The scepter begins to blink and fade.

RICKY: "Our window is closing." BRUCE: "Hurry up then."

RICKY tries another series of algorithms. Suddenly out of the storm three masked Sand Syndicate fly out towards them.

SAND SYNDICATE: "Hakesh! We are God's will!"

BRUCE: "We have company."

Two jump on top of BRUCE with daggers attempting to stab him in the chest, but he blocks them with his forearm. He uses his other arm to fire bullets into their chests, but they reveal the kevlar they are wearing which renders the bullets useless. He throws one of them off and rolls under the other Sand Syndicate, fighting off the daggers that stab on either side of his face. He throws sand in the Sand Syndicate's eyes, temporarily blinding him. He then pulls out his own knife and stabs him in the eye. The other Sand Syndicate stands up and runs toward BRUCE, to which he dodges the knife, grabs the enemy's arm and twists it snapping it behind him. As the Sand Syndicate grimaces in pain, BRUCE pulls out his gun and fires it in the Sand Syndicates face, blowing his head off.

The third Sand Syndicate is on top of RICKY as they struggle in a knife fight. The Sand Syndicate is about to stab RICKY in the eye, but BRUCE runs up from behind and buries his knife in the back of his head as he falls to the ground.

BRUCE: "Are you alright?"

RICKY holds his side where it is bleeding.

77.

RICKY: "He got me but I think I'll be okay."

He quickly returns to the scepter which is fading fast.

BRUCE: "We have to go now."

(Furiously typing) RICKY: "I'm going to backdoor this."

RICKY accesses the mainframe's hidden path. It blinks green: "INITIALIZED."

RICKY: "Got it!"

A large mirror appears on one side of the cloaking field.

RICKY: "There! You see that mirror? Destroy it!"

BRUCE outstretches his arm and fires his pistol at the mirror, shattering it into pieces. One side of the pyramidal cloaking field dissipates and goes offline, revealing a whole entry way into the eye of the storm. Inside, a black and foreboding tower is shown in the distance with stormy dark clouds overhead.

(Beckoning) RICKY: "Raz'Azul, my friend." They both walk into the disabled face of the cloaking field, into the next dimension. They make their way on the black sand towards Raz'Azul.

BRUCE: "This is the dystopian future we are destined to have."

(Grimacing from his cut on the side of his torso) RICKY: "Not if I can talk him out of it."

BRUCE tosses RICKY a gauze bandage.

BRUCE: "Use this for your wound."

RICKY wraps up his side.

RICKY: "Thanks."

They approach the bridge that crosses the chasm into the large archway leading to the inside of Raz'Azul.

RICKY: "And now the real fun begins."

They enter into the dimly lit main chamber of Raz'Azul.

## INT. RAZ'AZUL - NIGHT

As they enter the tower, the only light comes from torches on the walls. A large central high ceiling open space is the first room with open archways encircling the entire floor. On the side is a large staircase leading up to the upper levels. In the middle of the room stands a masked Syndicate guard, dressed more royally with a red garb and plates of polished armor, carrying a massive two-handed sword on his back.

MYSTERY SYNDICATE: "BRUCE, we meet again, my old friend."

BRUCE: "Who are you?"

MYSTERY SYNDICATE: "I stand in your way to test your limits, to see if you are ready for what is to come."

BRUCE: "I'll take care of him. You go on and find ARMAND."

RICKY: "Copy that."

RICKY heads up the stairs to the next levels.

MYSTERY SYNDICATE: "Are you ready?"

He wields the huge two-handed sword.

BRUCE attempts to shoot the Mystery Syndicate but the bullet freezes midair.

"Your projectiles won't work here. The interior AI field destabilizes any high speed metal objects. Your firearms are useless."

BRUCE throws his guns to the ground. He looks around and then reaches behind him to pull out a rusty two-handed claymore from an ancient pot.

MYSTERY SYNDICATE: "The origins of man are right here. If you succeed you will discover your purpose."

They clash. BRUCE wobbles backwards from the ricochet of metal on metal. They match sword to sword as the MYSTERY SYNDICATE pushes BRUCE back towards the open arch.

MYSTERY SYNDICATE: "I can tell you are not awakened yet. You fight with too much reserve."

BRUCE: "Your speech is too cryptic."

BRUCE makes a surge and pushes forward trying to make gains

on the MYSTERY SYNDICATE. The MYSTERY SYNDICATE then makes a large slash that BRUCE matches but his claymore is cut in half.

MYSTERY SYNDICATE: "You have no more weapon. This is it for you. How disappointing."

The MYSTERY SYNDICATE draws up his blade to crash down on BRUCE, but BRUCE slides under him and kicks him up into a somersault flipping him over outside of the chamber onto a cliff. The MYSTERY SYNDICATE holds onto the cliff with one arm as his mask falls off into the chasm. He looks up and reveals that he is PAUL, BRUCE's old friend.

(Incredulously)
BRUCE: "PAUL? But why?"

PAUL: "Because the world is not ready."

His fingers slip from the cliff as BRUCE tries to grab hold of him.

BRUCE: "No!"

PAUL falls to his death in the chasm below.

BRUCE stares out for a while, soaking in what just happened

as the wind blows on his face. He turns and then walks back into the main chamber. He grabs a torch and begins climbing the stairs to the next level. As he climbs a few flights, he comes upon another large dome shaped room with paintings of angels, demons, and God on the ceiling. In a dark corner he notices movement. He walks over and sees RICKY who is shallowly breathing. As he draws the light over him, he notices he is on the brink of death.

BRUCE: "RICKY, what happened?"

(With his final breaths)
RICKY: "He is not human anymore."

RICKY bleeds out from multiple gashes and dies. A shadowy figure appears and steps in front of RICKY and punches BRUCE head on, knocking him out.

# EXT. BIOSTREAM VISION OF ARMAND'S EMPIRE - DAY

ARMAND and BRUCE sync Biostreams.

(In the background) ARMAND: "Do you see my visions?" Open up to a scene where ARMAND, wearing the garb of a king and a crown, is sitting on a throne in a decorated and royal hallway. Two guards walk up to him and kneel before him.

GUARD: "Emperor, king, and prophet, ARMAND. They are ready."

ARMAND takes a sip of wine from his diamond-studded goblet.

ARMAND: "The world desires the champion. I will give it to them."

He walks down the royal hallway of his kingdom into the open archway platform as the sun shines down on hundreds of thousands of people awaiting him below. They all cheer loudly. He holds up his hand and waves.

(Yelling)

AUDIENCE: "The prophecy is true, he has returned God to us!"

(Yelling)

AUDIENCE: "All hail the first world emperor!"

(Addressing the crowd) ARMAND: "This is only the beginning." In a swirl, the vision evaporates into a new Biostream.

FADE OUT

## INT. BIOSTREAM VISION OF A DARK ROOM - NIGHT

Young BRUCE (15 y/o) sits in a chair in a dark room with a dim spotlight shining on him. Across from BRUCE is a fatherly figure glowing faintly as a ghost.

BRUCE: "Dad is that you? I thought you died in the car crash."

FATHER: "Son, what I'm about to say will profoundly impact the remainder of your time here on earth."

BRUCE: "Wait Dad, I want to talk to you."

FATHER: "We don't have time for this. Son, when you grow up, you will see the world more clearly as it is. It is not a happy and pleasant place. In fact, it is full of disaster, disease, and cruelty. This is why you were chosen to lead." BRUCE: "I don't understand."

FATHER: "Listen to me. The reason you go to the top is to be the savior of people at the bottom. You play God to gift people the breath of life because this is the highest frequency to live at and what makes you immortal. You strive for the pinnacle so that you can rewrite nature and save the lives of those who were destined to be lost."

Slight pause as BRUCE digests this.

FATHER: "Why have a heart for these people? It is because you were once in their shoes. You were cursed, my son. You've taken the hard way out always. And now you will see the fruits of your efforts blossom in your final test."

BRUCE's father fades away, and the blackness swallows BRUCE up into the next Biostream.

#### FADE OUT

INT. BIOSTREAM VISION OF THE DEMON'S DEN - NIGHT

BRUCE (present self in tattered clothing) wakes up slowly to being shackled against a cold concrete wall in the darkness. He notices slight movement in front of him.

(Ominous voice)

DEMON: "Have you suffered enough, young Dominant?"

BRUCE: "Who are you?"

The gigantic demon in front of him ignites into a fiery flame.

DEMON: "I am the keeper of the three realms: flesh, mind, and spirit."

He turns and faces BRUCE.

DEMON: "Do you seek to unlock the trinity?"

(Painfully) BRUCE: "Is this even real?"

DEMON: "Answer me!"

BRUCE: "I do not understand what I am doing here."

DEMON: "Do you desire the powers of the S Dominant?"

BRUCE: "What is that?"

DEMON: "Free yourself and then you will know."

BRUCE: "I cannot I am bound impossibly."

DEMON: "Then you will burn alive!"

(Screaming as the demon gets closer blowing fire that burns at his flesh.)

The shackles snap and he awakens out of the Biostream breaking the shackles he is bound to on the concrete slab.

INT. RAZ'AZUL CHAMBER OF THE OLD ONE'S - NIGHT

ARMAND (cloaked) sits in a throne chair across from the concrete slab where BRUCE (in tattered clothing) broke the chains.

(Applauds)

ARMAND: "Bravo, bravo. You had me concerned there for a moment."

(Tosses two samurai swords to BRUCE)

ARMAND: "I would expect nothing less of my successor, an S Dominant, a spirit awakened and freed from the shackles of flesh and mind."

BRUCE: "I am not your puppet."

ARMAND: "So be it."

ARMAND gets up and walks behind his throne and throws SHEILA, who is bound and gagged, in front of him. She struggles but she cannot make any noise.

BRUCE: "What have you done to her?"

ARMAND: "I have her technology."

BRUCE: "You hacked the Biostream..."

ARMAND: "The Biostream? You think it is only a method of freeing your consciousness but it is so much more. How do you think I managed to enslave the leaders of the world into war and chaos?"

BRUCE picks up the swords.

BRUCE: "What you have done to this world is unforgivable."

(Laughing)

ARMAND: "You are like me, a man with visions and a man cursed. We are of the same tree, the S Dominant, a phenotype expressed when the spirit is awakened breaking the curse of mental illness. That is why we chose you as our successor."

BRUCE: "You became an S Dominant for the wrong reasons. You lost your soul in your ambition for absolute revenge and power."

ARMAND: "You have no idea how I have suffered that God would curse me so and all I ever did was follow him unconditionally. But I understood when enough was enough, and through it I have transformed myself into something greater than God himself. I would undo his precious humanity and usurp his throne and become supreme ruler. It would be my will to be carried out, no one else's. That my friend, is true power."

ARMAND uncloaks himself and all across his body are large scars. He wields two Hattori Hanzo samurai blades.

ARMAND: "The blades of Hattori Hanzo, the legendary hero of the Sengoku era, are a testament to the pinnacle of my power. Are you prepared to ascend?"

BRUCE runs in to face ARMAND, dual wielding his swords. They begin clashing.

ARMAND: "This pitiful world that God created only to curse those who he deemed were the biggest threat to his existence. I have his blood in my veins. I have the power to ruin his beloved humanity."

He strikes an X at BRUCE who blocks with one sword and then attempts to swipe, but ARMAND dodges.

BRUCE: "You used God in the name of power. That is who you are, a false prophet who wants to bend others to his own will. You have no desire to save others."

ARMAND: "Save? Why would I want to save those of whom I completely despise?"

They clash, and ARMAND kicks BRUCE backwards.

```
(BRUCE stumbles)
```

BRUCE's illness kicks in and he sees ARMAND as a vicious demon while the rest of his vision becomes static and he hears a high pitched noise.

ARMAND: "You hear the voices and see the visions do you not? You are cursed, young Dominant."

BRUCE: "I will not join you!"

ARMAND: "I will leave this life and enter God's domain and supplant God himself. That is my power. Very well, if you will not join me, then you will bleed."

ARMAND slashes at BRUCE who blocks but is knocked backwards by the force of vibration, to which then ARMAND slashes BRUCE across the abdomen, causing him to bleed.

ARMAND: "Do you know why God hates me so? He cursed my entire life, my friends, my family, myself with the illness of the mind. He knew I would come for him and take his seat on the throne."

BRUCE refocuses and takes a deep breath. His vision slightly clears.

ARMAND: "The cursed on the throne. That is me!"

ARMAND rushes in with both blades in a joust, but BRUCE intercepts them, by grabbing both of ARMANDS wrists. ARMAND pushes the blades further down to try to cut BRUCE's neck, but BRUCE holds steady. He then forces the blades back and into ARMAND's shoulders. BRUCE then slams his head into ARMAND's head, knocking ARMAND onto the floor, dropping his swords. BRUCE picks up one of the Hattori Hanzo blades and stands over ARMAND. (Chuckling)

ARMAND: "Realize your destiny and take my place BRUCE!"

BRUCE raises the blade and then slams it straight down into ARMAND's heart.

(With his final breath) ARMAND: "Beware, I am coming for you, God."

## ACT 3

BRUCE moves to untie and un-gag SHEILA.

(Rushes what she says) SHEILA: "Oh my God, BRUCE. I am so sorry, I didn't mean to..."

BRUCE puts a finger to her mouth.

BRUCE: "Shhh."

BRUCE kisses SHEILA.

SHEILA: "Wait does this mean...?"

BRUCE: "Yes, this means we're back together but hold on. Follow me."

They approach the vault where the archives of God that ARMAND burned are revealed in a desolate chamber. He scans his hand on the podium in front of the burned remains of an alien-like futuristic shattered glass tablet. It activates and allows access for an S Dominant.

WOMAN's VOICE: "S Dominant cleared."

A large holographic globe rises from the ashes and then expands to encircle BRUCE.

BRUCE: "This is... amazing."

SHEILA: "What is going on?"

BRUCE: "Can't you read it? It says: In the beginning, there was a spark of life to ignite the flame of mankind. In time, humanity would be my greatest creation with the power of consciousness. But with consciousness came an evil that even I could not undo - the curse of mental illness. But as I would not give up on my creations, I know too that my creations were created in my image and would not so easily be defeated. However, as the dust settled, the world was too young and divided to pass the ultimate test and thus know the exact truth about the nature of life. Religion was not the perfect answer and I would not be the savior but rather you would all be your own saviors. In order for this to surface, you would have to put the most broken, cursed, and tortured soul on the throne - not the son of God or a prophet but a human - and as he rose to power you would value human above God. Eventually I would fade away into the echoes of time while humanity would last until the last light faded in the universe. Humanity over God."

(BRUCE's voice as he reads it then becomes God's voice narrating the creation and revelation of life with

accompanying visuals as life has progressed through time. At first a bolt of lightning strikes the ground and in its place a small sprout emerges. As it grows into a large and powerful tree a flame radiates outwards and in its wake nature and life emerge. A kingdom is then shown as humans toil and build an empire. But in the dark corners, people with mental illness suffer, are brutally beaten, and mourn. A homeless child stands up, dirty and bruised, but gets to work performing theater in front of an audience. The scene shifts to one on a battlefield with large armies storming in to clash at each other, each bearing a flag of different religions. Speed up to the future, where a soldier is down but an enemy reaches out his arm in a peace gesture to pull him up. The next scene involves a man whose face is not revealed in the darkness, head down and chained to a wall, and bloodied. Then a beacon of life shines within his heart and he breaks the chains of bondage, while the world celebrates. God the creator who overlooks earth fades into the distance while earth shines ever brighter with a growing number of lights.)

BRUCE: "He knew this and he burnt it."

He goes back to the control room and turns on all the technology. The monitors focus on his face.

(Looking into the camera)

96.

BRUCE: "Wake up everyone."

FADE TO BLACK