

GODS OF EGYPT

by

Matt Sazama

&

Burk Sharpless

WGA registered

1/20/12

OVER BLACK:

We hear the voice of THOTH. A voice that knows all things:

THOTH'S VOICE

Listen, if thou wouldst be wise.
Weigh my words and hear their truth
-- though I've ceased being
surprised by the inability of some
to listen when wisdom speaks.

The RISING SUN crests the PEAK OF A PYRAMID. Not an ancient ruin. It's BRAND NEW, smooth as glass.

THOTH'S VOICE

Egypt was not always as you know it
now, dry and unforgiving.

PULL BACK to reveal towering FORESTS that stretch to the horizon. The air is lush with the breath of life. This Egypt is Edenic, primordial -- with no sand to be seen.

THOTH'S VOICE

Before history began, Egypt was a
paradise worthy of the gods who
created it. So the gods decided to
live there themselves amongst their
other, lesser creation... Men.

The Pyramid is just a small part of a glittering PALACE COMPLEX.

THOTH'S VOICE

Egypt was divided between two
mighty brothers...

EXT. GREAT PALACE ON THE NILE - DAY

What looks like a handsome MAN walks along the shore of the NILE RIVER, its surface sparkling in the sun. He is

OSIRIS

The God of Nature and Life. 40s. (The ages of gods are how old they appear -- many are ancient.) He wears a simple crown. His immense power belied by a gentle, open demeanor.

THOTH'S VOICE

The god Osiris had dominion over
the lands made bountiful by the
Nile. The power of its waters
flowed through him. And so he
could make life.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LOTUS FLOWERS magically BLOOM as Osiris passes, sprouting from his footprints on the silty shore in a ribbon of life.

EXT. RED DESERT - DAY

DESERT the color of blood lurks beyond the lush green land. Here stands another PYRAMID, made entirely of SAND... its surface in constant motion... held together by magic.

THOTH'S VOICE

Osiris' brother Set ruled the far Desert, where nothing can grow. He drew vast power from the fire that burned at the center of the world.

INT. TEMPLE OF SET - DAY

SET

Stands over a FIERY PIT IN THE EARTH, drawing sustenance from its molten depths. 40s. The God of the Desert. Physically powerful, yet cunning.

THOTH'S VOICE

But despite his power, Set was eternally jealous of his brother... because Osiris could give life -- and he could not.

Set is joined by a fearsome cabal of GODS and MEN...

THOTH'S VOICE

His jealousy corrupted him. Blessed with great cleverness, Set sowed confusion in others. Blessed with great strength, he exploited their weaknesses.

(beat)

And so the wicked were drawn to Set.

EXT. VILLAGE - DAY

VILLAGERS watch Osiris expectantly... as he plants SEEDS and waters them... Vibrant GRAIN SEEDLINGS magically SPROUT...

THOTH'S VOICE

Osiris shared his gifts with Men, teaching them to plant and harvest. To make laws and live in peace. In return, Men loved their king.

Thankful Villagers bow before Osiris. A sudden WIND blows...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HORUS

30s, bronzed skin, his form and features are perfection. He ENTERS boldly with a slain lion draped over his shoulder, the spoils of his hunt... clutching a jug of wine in his other hand. He leads a ROWDY band of GODS in celebration...

THOTH'S VOICE

Osiris had a son, Horus, who was
Lord of the Air.

(beat)

Osiris wished his son would rule at
his side...

Horus, full of wine, inadvertently tramples the seedlings his father planted.

THOTH'S VOICE

...but like the wind, Horus was
restless and volatile.

ON OSIRIS. Disappointment. He kneels to restore the seedlings his son crushed without even noticing...

EXT. OSIRIS' GARDEN - NIGHT

Osiris WALKS in his garden, enjoying the night with his wife, the Queen:

ISIS

40s. She radiates power, commanding respect, a goddess above all other goddesses. Uncompromising in all things -- especially her unyielding love for her husband.

THOTH'S VOICE

After eons of enmity, Set visited
his brother.

A strange and disturbing BEAST DARTS from tree to tree behind Osiris... It's like a jackal -- but bigger. A curved snout filled with fangs, square ears, forked tail, and canine body.

BEHIND Osiris, the beast TRANSFORMS INTO SET. His KNIFE flashes in the darkness...

THOTH'S VOICE

If Set could not give life, he
would take it.

Set STABS Osiris in the back.

Isis wails as Osiris DIES in her arms.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Set places the crown on his head as his CONSPIRATORS surround Osiris' body...

THOTH'S VOICE

That night, Set cut Osiris' body
into fourteen pieces. The heart
was never found.

BLOOD RED BANNERS are raised high... They depict a stylized profile of the beast with a long snout and tall ears. The symbol of Set.

The GODS OF OSIRIS' COURT huddle, cowed in terror.

THOTH'S VOICE

Gods bowed to Set or fled. Men
worshipped him or were enslaved.

Over the sound of Isis' lamentation, WE PUSH IN ON the banner of Set... Until RED FILLS THE FRAME.

EXT. TOMB OF OSIRIS

Horus kneels at his father's sarcophagus, grieving... The sound of his mother's sorrow still lingers, ever-present...

THOTH'S VOICE

Horus did not know how much he
loved his father until it was too
late.

EXT. A LONELY MOUNTAINTOP - DAY

The sound of Isis' crying becomes the WHISTLING WIND...

THOTH'S VOICE

Years passed.

HORUS' HAND grips a banner of Set...

THOTH'S VOICE

Those that loved Osiris prayed for
his son to return.

His hand releases the banner... The wind sucks it away... Toward a distant MOUNTAIN PEAK... The cloth getting smaller and smaller until it's just a red speck...

THOTH'S VOICE

They thought Horus would save them.
They thought he would be a wise and
just king, like his father.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BACKLIT against the sun, Horus pulls a SPEAR from a line of spears stuck upright in the ground. His EYES flare, unnaturally bright. Like twin stars, burning as they aim...

THOTH'S VOICE

But Horus' Eyes -- eyes that can see everything -- have been focused on only one thing.

Horus' muscled arm cocks back and HURLS the spear... The force parts the air in a SONIC BOOM --

THOTH'S VOICE

Vengeance.

WE FOLLOW THE SPEAR... Like a missile, it SAILS FOR MILES. A blur over forested landscape -- PINNING the BANNER OF SET to a FAR CLIFF. Bulls-eye.

ON HORUS. We finally see his face. There is no satisfaction from the feat, only relentless concentration.

Horus reaches for another spear -- surprisingly GRABS ONLY AIR...

WEPWAWET

It would be good day to kill him, wouldn't it? Very poetic...

WEPWAWET

Twirls the spear -- swiped from under Horus' nose. The God of Stealth and Horus' fiercely loyal friend and mentor. Late 30s, gray-haired. Squat as a barrel yet quick as a shadow.

WEPWAWET

I hear Set's celebrating the anniversary of your father's death with a big festival... Music, dancing. A grand time.

ON HORUS. It's no secret. Horus snatches back his spear...

HORUS

I'm ready.

WEPWAWET

You think so?

HORUS

If I'm not, you've been wasting the last ten years.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

WEPWAWET

(off the spear)

I taught you to throw it straight enough.

(prodding)

And every time you do, I suppose you picture Set cutting up your father's body while he forced your mother to watch.

Horus' anger flares. Why is Wepwawet provoking Horus?

WEPWAWET

But of course you didn't actually see it, did you? You weren't there at all. You were off wandering the earth, being a child. When your father needed a man.

The foliage near Horus BURSTS INTO FLAME. We see when Horus gets angry, his body literally RADIATES HEAT.

HORUS

You know I loved him. I should run you through...

WEPWAWET

(points at the far cliff)

Too easy. Hit the target instead.

Horus THROWS his spear again... As he does so, his head CHANGES, for a split second, into that of a FALCON --

His spear MISSES the banner he hit before. Instead, it shears off the side of the far cliff, causing an AVALANCHE.

A beat of silence between them. It's clear what the lesson is. Even if the student doesn't want to accept it.

WEPWAWET

If you fight Set in anger, you'll lose.

HORUS

The anger will never leave. And I can't wait that long.

Wepwawet slaps Horus on the back, trying to lighten the mood.

WEPWAWET

Let this day come and go.

Finally Horus nods, agreeing...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Horus THROWS his last spear with all his might... As if that could purge years of pent-up grief.

UP IN THE STRATOSPHERE

The SONIC BOOM creates a powerful WINDSTORM...

THOTH'S VOICE

But this is not just a story of
Horus' quest for revenge -- the
fate of all Egypt hung in the
balance...

FOLLOW THE WIND across Egypt... over FIELDS and FORESTS...

THOTH'S VOICE

Even the fate of overlooked,
unappreciated Man.

(beat)

One in particular. Not even I
could have imagined he'd help save
the immortal land of the gods...

CUT TO:

CLOSE ON A YOUNG MAN, passionately kissing a YOUNG WOMAN...

BEK

Early 20s. Wiry build. Sharp good looks. A devil-may-care
glint in his eye.

ZAYA

Also early 20s. She's beautiful by any measure, with emerald
green eyes. Steadfast in her beliefs.

We're too close to see exactly where they are -- but they
recline on luxurious pillows...

Bek playfully shows Zaya a bottle of PERFUMED OIL...

BEK

(off the oil)

Real Mendesian.

She's impressed. Bek opens the back of her dress, exposing
the skin. He kneads the oil into tired muscles...

ZAYA

Yes... Higher... That's it...

(eyes closed, off the oil)

Who did you steal it from?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BEK
An outrageous suggestion.

ZAYA
How about the money to buy it?

BEK
(shrugs)
Less outrageous.

This is not a thing Zaya approves of, but she's not judging.

ZAYA
In a different world you'd find an honest trade, right?

BEK
In a different world, absolutely.

ON BEK. But in this world, not a chance in hell.

Bek pulls her on top of him... She squeals, delighted, then covers her mouth. Was she too loud?

We REVEAL Bek and Zaya are in a RICHLY APPOINTED OFFICE. The pillows arranged in a makeshift bed on the floor... We realize there's something illicit going on here.

BEK
You know we can't go on like this.
It's too dangerous for you.

ZAYA
(kisses him)
It's worth it.

A GUST OF WIND batters the blinds. They both jump, startled.

BEK
Wind came out of nowhere...

ZAYA
Nothing in Egypt comes from nowhere.
(beat)
It's Horus. He's coming to end all this.

We SEE the view out the window:

A MULTITUDE of men and women toiling... SLAVES. A vast, pitiful tableau of tears, sweat and blood. All to build

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SET'S GREAT OBELISK

It blots out the sun. Millions of tons of rock cut and polished and assembled into a tower still UNDER CONSTRUCTION.

We see the hand of the gods in the uncanny height of the Obelisk... and GIANT SCARAB BEETLES, bigger than elephants, laboring as great beasts of burden. All six legs strain against their yokes to raise massive chunks of stone.

HIGH WALLS encircle the site. This place is a prison.

A familiar sight to Bek and Zaya, but they still hate it.

BEK

Sometimes wind is just wind.

ZAYA

(gravely)

Not today of all days -- the day
Set celebrates his murder of
Osiris.

BEK

Horus... Set... I couldn't give a
shit about either of them.

Zaya's learned to endure Bek's blasphemous provocations...

ZAYA

I pity the man who believes in
nothing.

BEK

(steals a kiss)

Never said I believed in nothing.

A BELL RINGS out in the construction zone...

ZAYA

Urshu will be coming back to take
his meal.

BEK

Of what, children?

As Zaya straightens her dress, Bek notices a SMALL FIGURINE hanging from a cord around her neck. A bright-blue ceramic representation of a man with a falcon's head: Horus.

BEK

(off the figurine)

I told you to get rid of that.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

ZAYA
 (indignant, hiding it
 under her collar)
 You *told* me? I'm not your servant.

BEK
 Me being here is dangerous enough.
 If you're caught, you'll be out
 there in the slave pits.
 (beat)
 And on top of everything you carry
 around an amulet of Horus?

An even more ferocious blast of wind KNOCKS open the blinds.
 Architectural plans BLOW off the desk and AROUND THE ROOM...

The SOUND of APPROACHING FOOTSTEPS out in the hall...

ZAYA
 (agitated, to Bek)
 Go. I'll finish.

Bek bounds OUT THE WINDOW with startling dexterity. He HANGS
 from the window ledge by his fingertips and peers in...

URSHU

Stalks in with an ENTOURAGE of Overseers. He's 30s, a former
 military hero, tasked by Set to oversee construction of the
 Obelisk. The most feared and envied man in Egypt.

Zaya's cleaning up... This is Urshu's house... and Zaya is
Urshu's servant. Urshu notes his jumbled desk...

URSHU
 (curt, to Zaya)
 You don't control the wind. But
 I'd think you could close a window.

ZAYA
 I'm sorry, my lord.

URSHU
 And why is my meal unprepared?

As Zaya leaves, Urshu GRIPS her wrist. She grimaces in pain.

URSHU
 If I ever find this room disordered
 again I'll throw you outside to
 push stone.

Zaya nods, terrified of Urshu and EXITS...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

BEK OUTSIDE

Jumps over to the NEXT WINDOW, opening into a HALLWAY. He speaks furtively with Zaya as she leaves Urshu's office...

BEK

This is the last day you'll be forced to serve him.

(beat)

I'm buying you from that bastard.

ZAYA

With what?

BEK

At the festival, there'll be tons of tribute for the king.

The idea is beyond comprehension to her.

ZAYA

You plan to rob a god? In his palace? Set can kill you with a touch.

BEK

He also has a lot of money.

ZAYA

You've never tried anything like that before.

BEK

You don't know what I've tried.

ZAYA

(grips her Horus figurine)
Have faith.

Bek dismissively waves away the wishful thinking.

BEK

Even if Horus comes and puts a spear through Set's skull -- then what? In Egypt you're either rich, poor...

(off the slaves outside)

...or nothing.

Zaya doesn't have a response. It's the hard truth.

BEK

I choose rich.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

Bek gives Zaya a last kiss and LEAPS OFF THE WINDOW LEDGE.

BACK IN URSHU'S OFFICE

As the Overseers summarize the day's progress... Urshu catches sight of an oddly bright dot on the floor... He bends to touch it -- a drop of OIL, reflecting the sun.

ON URSHU. Sniffing it. Suspicious.

URSHU

Mendesian.

EXT. GREAT OBELISK - DAY

Bek EXITS Urshu's luxurious FOREMAN'S PAVILION... Snatches an untended JUG OF WATER to blend in with the other FREE MEN running errands to and from the FRONT GATE...

SOLDIERS OF SET

Monitor the site. Uniforms emblazoned with Set's RED SYMBOL.

Bek sees a LINE OF NEW SLAVES file through the GATE in chains, fresh labor for the Obelisk...

BEK

(to himself)

Always someone's got more than you,
but always someone's got less...

Bek hears CRIES OF PAIN and the SIZZLE of burnt flesh.

HIGH PRIESTS OF SET stand before burning braziers. They MUTTER incantations. The flames turn an unnatural BLOOD RED.

The Priests heat BRANDING IRONS in the magical flames and BRAND the newcomers' shoulders, marking them as slaves.

NEARBY, a DESPERATE SLAVE in the work zone is delirious with dehydration... Bek inadvertently catches his eye...

DESPERATE SLAVE

(off Bek's jug of water)

Please.

ON BEK. He doesn't want to get involved... but he can't just leave the guy like this. Bek surreptitiously ROLLS THE JUG to the Desperate Slave...

A CRUEL OVERSEER'S BOOT comes down on the jug. He scans the crowd to see who sent the water... Bek keeps his head down.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The Desperate Slave's last bit of hope empties into the dust. He makes a MAD DASH for the GATE -- and accidentally COLLIDES with Bek...

BEK
(voice low to the Slave)
Don't. You bear Set's brand.
You're cursed now.

The Slave won't listen. He runs wildly, PASSING the Gate --

BEK
You can't leave --

The burnt flesh of the Slaves's brand SPREADS ACROSS HIS BODY like a cancer.

The dark magic turns the slave to DUST. This is "Set's Curse." For the branded, there is no way out...

ON BEK. Repulsed. But that's the way of things. He has other, more pressing concerns...

GUARD
(waving Bek through)
Enjoy the festival.

EXT. HELIOPOLIS - DAY

The capital of Egypt sits on the banks of the mighty NILE. Merchant ships crowd the river like an ancient superhighway.

It's as if Manhattan were carved from marble then gilt in gold. Engineering beyond anything we associate with the ancient world. Brand new pyramids shine, smooth as glass.

And towering over everything, like a buttress supporting the sky, is Set's Obelisk.

PUSH IN ON

A long procession of WEALTHY NOBLES steadily move up a GRAND AVENUE lined on both sides by towering golden statues... Toward the palace GATE.

There's anticipation in the air for the FESTIVAL celebrating Set's defeat of Osiris, those names on everyone's lips.

The POOR are pressed along the avenue... They stare longingly at the privileged wealthy as they pass...

ON BEK. Amongst the throng of poor. His expression isn't exactly longing, but that of a hunter locked on his quarry:

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

A caravan of tribute loaded with every TREASURE imaginable...
CHESTS of GOLD, IVORY, LAPIS and PRECIOUS STONES.

A simple FISHERMAN elbows Bek, making conversation.

FISHERMAN

Imagine having all that...

BEK

I can.

INT. GREAT PALACE COMPLEX - DAY

A grand, open-air "Hypostyle" COURTYARD that seats hundreds. It's surrounded by row after row of colossal PILLARS like a forest of stone.

AT THE GATE, Bek enters with the crowd...

A broad-shouldered HOODED MAN walks with purpose, accidentally shoulder-checking Bek.

BEK

Watch it.

The Hooded Man MOVES ON without noticing. Bek sniffs. Rude.

REVEAL the Hooded Man is Horus...

Bek DARTS stealthily behind a pillar, avoiding the watchful eyes of SOLDIERS... Bek's fingertips find seams in the limestone as he CLIMBS... No one the wiser.

Osiris' glittering Palace has changed since we last saw it. Now the seat of Set's power. His ARMED SOLDIERS are everywhere. RED BANNERS drape from the marble heights. They look like never-ending streams of blood.

SET

Sits on a THRONE on a raised dais. Implacable.

NOBLES file by Set's feet. Bow deeply. In fear. In awe. Blessed to be in his presence. Set does not look at them, nor the TREASURES they bear. He is consumed by his own thoughts.

HATHOR

Laughs. A sound beautiful as summer raindrops. The beautiful Goddess of Love, Music, and Alcohol, 20s, stylish in a turquoise sheath dress. She sits close to Set, her hand on his knee. The most desirable woman anyone has ever seen.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HATHOR
 (flicking her hair)
 How can you ignore such treasure?

Hathor is speaking of herself, of course, and Set knows it.

SET
 Today has a single purpose.

She's a perfect beauty. Perfect company. But we sense it's a mask. We can't see what's going on behind her eyes.

Festival-goers crowd in... MUSICIANS play pipes and drums. DANCERS SHAKE ceremonial rattles -- and everything else, too.

HATHOR
 (to Set)
 You really think he's going to come? After all this time?

SET
 (dry)
 I'm honoring his father. How can he not?

BEK HIGH OVERHEAD

HOPS from PILLAR TO PILLAR in a chain of death-defying leaps... Moving toward the PILE OF TRIBUTE...

IN THE GRAND COURTYARD

The music STOPS. Time for the entertainment to begin. An ORATOR sets the stage for today's performance...

ORATOR
 (speaking to the crowd)
 Today we mark the ascension of our King to Egypt's throne... as we celebrate the downfall of craven Osiris at his hand.

A brutish actor/warrior playing "OSIRIS" stalks out into the courtyard. The Audience BOOS...

Another actor/warrior plays "Set." He wears a RED HELMET that looks like a strange LONG-SNOURED BEAST with sharp ears.

ORATOR
 Witness, fine lords and glorious gods, a reenactment of the supreme Lord Set's brave vanquishing of the wretched pretender to the crown.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The Nobles in the stands wait expectantly for the action...
No less excited are a congress of

LESSER GODS

Chattering in low tones, lest they offend Set. They look like idealized humans, above lowly mankind. Notable among them a GOD OF VIRILITY with the personality of a Donkey. A humorless HARVEST GODDESS. And

MNEVIS

A bullish God of Butchers. Head of Set's Palace security.

There's also a HALF-DOZEN BABOONS off to the side of Set's throne. They hunch over papyrus scrolls, busily writing down what they see.

One Baboon accidentally spills his ink... staining Mnevis' sandal. Mnevis draws a sword to slay the offending creature.

SET

Mnevis -- it is my guest.

MNEVIS

The God of Wisdom was your guest.
He sent baboons.

SET

Thoth prefers his own company.

ORATOR

(to the crowd)
Behold the liberation of our
splendid Egypt!

"Osiris" ATTACKS "Set." "Set" fights back in self-defense.
A mockery of the true events. The Audience is riveted.

HATHOR

This isn't the story I remember.

SET

One of the spoils of victory is
chronicling your opponent's defeat.
And the cruder the performance, the
more likely Horus will be baited.

HOODED HORUS

Watches the "entertainment" from the shadows BEHIND THE
STANDS. Anger building...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HIGH ANGLE, AMONGST THE PILLARS

Bek DANGLES like a spider over the PILE OF TREASURE. Below, the GUARDS are distracted by the show... But a PORTLY PRIEST hovers over the gifts, cataloguing them.

Bek scoops a fingerful of accumulated DUST from atop a column... Lets it DRIFT DOWN...

The Portly Priest SNEEZES... giving Bek the chance to silently DROP behind the treasure. Bek fills his pockets with jewelry. But there's only so much he can carry...

Bek's eyes a fancy CHARIOT... It'll fit the bill nicely.

IN THE COURTYARD

The "Set" actor WINS, pinning the "Osiris" actor beneath his boot. CELEBRATION ERUPTS at "Set's victory." The God of Virility BRAYS. A fine show, indeed.

HOODED HORUS

Has seen enough. He takes a step toward the throne...

A HAND clamps down on Horus' shoulder --

WEPWAWET

(voice low)

This is what he wants.

It's Wepwawet. Also disguised. Horus is surprised to see him -- and irritated to be caught by his teacher.

WEPWAWET

Let's get out of here while we can.

With a colossal act of will, Horus FOLLOWS Wepwawet away...

SET

On his throne. His eyes searching the crowd, disappointed...

HATHOR

Oh well. Guess you'll have to wait another ten years.

SET

I'm not finished.

Set steps INTO THE COURTYARD. The audience watches with bated breath... as Set circles the trembling "Osiris."

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SET

(addressing all present)

It is important that the manner of
Osiris' death be known... That the
scribes mark the record true.

The Actor "Osiris" weeps with fear, GROVELLING at Set's feet.

SET

Osiris begged before dying.

ON HORUS AND WEPWAWET

Horus stops in his tracks. Seething...

WEPWAWET

Keep walking...

SET

Touches the "Osiris" Actor... The man DRIES into a mummified
husk, shrivelling like salt poured on a slug. The body turns
to dust. Same fate as the cursed slave at the Obelisk...

SET

No King of Egypt should beg.

HORUS

Is pushed to the limit. He throws off his cloak, uncovering
a clutch of SPEARS --

WEPWAWET

Don't --

SET

Senses something --

A SPEAR

STREAKS at him like a missile. It creases Set's ear, as he
barely DODGES out of the way --

The God of Virility, however, is PINNED TO A PILLAR.

Horus strides into the courtyard, SPEAR in each fist... The
eyes of Osiris' son burn with vengeance. A hush falls...

HORUS

Today I bring truth. Today I
avenge my father for the evil done
to him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ON BEK. Seeing Horus in the flesh for the first time, he can't help but be in awe.

ON THE NOBLES. Whispering in fear, "He's come."

ON THE LESSER GODS. Nervous they've chosen the wrong side.

ON THE LOWER CLASSES, peering in from outside. Their savior is here.

ON HATHOR. She catches Horus' eye. There's history here. He sees her as an enemy. She doesn't see him that way -- but won't let it show.

Set grips his SCEPTER, a deadly 5,000 pound iron monstrosity.

SET

I was hoping my nephew was coming
to swear his eternal devotion.
(a half smile, to Horus)
It's not too late to bow before me.

HORUS

I'll bow to your dust.

It begins. Their WEAPONS CLANG loud as a thousand swords.

SET

(genuinely impressed)
I mistook your absence for
cowardice. But you've been
practicing.

Lesser gods JUMP ASIDE. Mnevis draws his sword halfway... then stops. All afraid of Horus.

HORUS

(to the lesser gods)
Now, later... it doesn't matter.

Horus ferociously CHARGES -- sends Set BACKPEDALING into

THE FOREST OF PILLARS

Bek SCAMPERS UP A PILLAR like a monkey to get out of the way... Priests and Nobles run hither and thither...

Horus SHOULDERS PILLARS ASIDE like a battering ram... The gods' fierce duel takes them

RIGHT BELOW BEK. His high perch TOTTERS like a gargantuan bowling pin...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Bek LEAPS onto another pillar. Safe until a mighty swing of Set's scepter CRACKS that pillar, too.

BEK

Oh come on.

High above the clashing titans, Bek BOUNDS from pillar to pillar as they fall like dominoes...

Bek eyes the CHARIOT OF TREASURE below -- at least the god-combat scattered the Soldiers...

Bek SLIDES DOWN a tipping pillar like a ramp... HOPS A RIDE on another pillar about to grind him to a pulp...

...and drops TO THE FLOOR, next to the Chariot.

HORUS

Loses sight of Set in the maze of Pillars... Now he hunts.

But every time he has a bead on Set, he's GONE the second Horus STRIKES. Set is everywhere and nowhere...

SET

I thought your sight was perfect,
but you aim like a drunk.

HORUS

God of Confusion, I can see
everything.

HORUS' P.O.V. Looking through the pillars with X-RAY VISION. Sees multiple Sets -- but only one casts a shadow. His vision focuses to a narrow beam, pinpointing his target --

Horus THROWS. The SPEAR flies true --

It punches through two pillars on its way to Set, STRIKING HIM IN THE CHEST. Set FALLS.

The CROWD GASPS. Nobles, in horror. The poor, exultantly...

HORUS

Die god of rot. Your body will be
given to the cats, and the offal
cast to the reptiles.

But Set RISES, very much alive. SNAPS the spear.

HORUS

(stunned)
Why aren't you dead?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SET

Maybe you should have practiced more.

ON HORUS. It makes no sense. Frustration fans his anger.

BEK

STRAPS the Chariot's BRIDLE around his shoulders.

BEK

Second thing I'm going to buy is a horse...

Bek hears an inhuman screech. He thought he'd seen it all:

Horus transforms into a GREAT FALCON.

Set responds by becoming the massive, four-legged JACKAL-CREATURE. Wings beating, the Falcon digs CLAWS into its foe.

Bek DUCKS as the god-beasts GRAPPLE... It's only a matter of moments before the whole temple collapses.

Bek PULLS the chariot like a mule, teeth gritted -- but the Portly Priest and two SOLDIERS block his way.

PORTLY PRIEST

You're a thief.

BEK

And you're a priest.

(looks him in the eye)

The question is, which one of us is more committed to his job?

A chunk of stone HITS right beside them. The Portly Priest and Soldiers RUN. So much for commitment.

Bek throws his weight into the bridle as pillars SMASH DOWN all around him. He HEAVES the Chariot, threads the needle --

OUT OF THE PALACE

As the whole structure comes CRASHING DOWN. Bek made it.

From out of the wreckage, the Jackal-Creature CLAMPS its jaws on the Falcon and FLINGS it into the giant PALACE GATE.

The Falcon TRANSFORMS back to HORUS, getting his bearings.

The impact CRACKED the GATE... If it falls, it'll hit Bek's chariot of treasure.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Bek sees a NOBLEWOMAN near Horus, her dress pinned by RUBBLE.

NOBLEWOMAN
 (to Horus)
 Help me...

Horus RUSHES Set, oblivious to the Noblewoman and her fate.

The stone gate TEETERS -- she's sure to be crushed --

Bek makes a split-second decision. He pulls the Noblewoman OUT OF THE WAY as the Gate starts to FALL...

NOBLEWOMAN
 Thank you, kind sir --

But Bek's already RUNNING BACK to the chariot. LUGS IT out of the way in the nick of time as the Gate HITS --

The Noblewoman pats at her throat. Her NECKLACE is missing.

BEK IN THE CROWD

Casually tosses the necklace he just stole into the chariot, adding it to the rest of his treasure.

SET

In human form again, backs down the avenue lined with towering GOLDEN STATUES of Ra. Baiting Horus to follow...

SET
 With no father to protect you, your mother came to me one night. Willing to do anything to keep you safe... Anything at all...

HORUS
 Shut up...

As Horus' fury grows, heat distorts the air around him...

SET
 Which, it turned out, was quite a lot.

HORUS
Shut up.

As super-heated Horus pursues his enemy, cloth banners BURST INTO FLAME at his passing...

Set smirks as Horus gets angrier and angrier.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SET

Wrath thy name is Horus. And by
thy name undone.

Horus feels a DROP on his shoulder. It's MOLTEN GOLD.

The giant golden statues are MELTING from Horus' heat. They
crumple like soft wax on top of him... He's KNOCKED DOWN by
the weight...

Set STRIKES him with the full might of his scepter. Horus
FLIES BACK in a spray of liquid gold --

Horus STRUGGLES to rise, but Set HAMMERS him... until Horus
lies defeated. Set reaches down...

And PLUCKS out both of Horus' EYES.

Horus' eyes appear as JEWELS glinting magically in Set's
fist. A theft of Horus' very essence.

SET

(addressing the crowd)

Even though I was provoked, Horus
still lives. I am Set the
merciful.

Horus CRAWLS AWAY, BLINDED... gold running like a stream
around him...

ON HATHOR. A thousand emotions flash across her face before
she successfully feigns disinterest...

ON WEPWAWET. His worst fears have come to pass.

THE CROWD is stunned. Even Set's faithful are staggered by
what's transpired. For the Lower Classes, all hope is gone.

BEK

(to himself)

This is why praying's a waste of
time.

Bek COVERS his treasure with a torn banner and ROLLS IT AWAY.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Dense forest. Horus CRAWLS, seeing only with his
fingertips... his eyes BLINDFOLDED with torn cloth.

HORUS

(to the North Winds)

Father... I failed.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Horus pounds the ground in frustration. Trees tremble.

INT. FORGE - GREAT PALACE

CLOSE ON A HAMMER brought down on an ANVIL -- each blow bright as a meteor strike.

A HELMET has been forged. The metal glows red as blood spilled by hate. Set admires his handiwork... and fits ONE JEWELLED EYE of Horus into the faceplate.

SET

Finally. The Right Eye of Horus.

EXT. FARMLAND - DAY

Wepwawet follows a TRAIL OF DESTRUCTION, accompanied by SIX OTHER GODS in the form of athletic men and women... Allies of Horus.

They see crops flattened. Boulders split. A granary reduced to rubble. Like a tornado cut a path through the farmland...

FARMERS hurry past, fleeing the source of the mayhem.

FARMER

Turn back. He's mad...

Horus' Allies keep following the trail... They find

Horus on the move, blindly swinging his fists. Horus rips off branches, stiff-arms trunks into SPLINTERS. His eyes are wrapped with a BLINDFOLD torn from his tunic.

WEPWAWET

Easy, Horus...

Horus HALTS, recognizing the voice. There's nowhere to go anyway. Hot, impotent rage withers the grass at his feet.

HORUS

My anger did not defeat me.

(baffled)

He withstood a mortal blow from my spear... I don't know how.

Wepwawet does not want to provoke him by arguing the point.

WEPWAWET

Set's trickery is famed.

Wepwawet presses a bottle into Horus' hand. Horus takes a drink. It calms him an iota.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HORUS

She was with him. And I doubt she was tricked.

Emotion plays across Horus' face at the thought of Hathor.

WEPWAWET

You're always in Hathor's heart, you know.

HORUS

(bitterly)

Yes, she's got a big heart. Room enough for a crowd in there.

WEPWAWET

The Goddess does what she needs to survive Set's rule... And we will do what we need to end it.

ON HORUS. Despair sets in.

HORUS

The last thing I saw was the face of my father's murderer. Now it's all I'll ever see.

WEPWAWET

I've learned one of your eyes is secured in his treasury. We're going to steal it back.

Wepwawet, steely-eyed, stands ready. His six Comrades, too.

HORUS

(that's madness)

Set's treasury is surrounded by deadly traps no god can pass. You told me that.

WEPWAWET

(gathering his courage)

Any trap that can be sprung can be dodged. It's time I tested my mettle against Set's.

HORUS

It's too dangerous.

WEPWAWET

In all the years we've been friends, when has it ever been safe?

EXT. FOREMAN'S PAVILION - GREAT OBELISK - DAY

Set observes the countless slaves building his Great Obelisk. As he walks into the massive shadow it casts, the structure's unfinished tip eclipses the SUN...

URSHU

(off the Obelisk)

No one has so honored the great god Ra, who rises on the horizon day by day.

SET

I'm sure my father will find this pile of stone a worthy substitute for the son I killed.

Set squints up at the sun... then turns to Urshu.

SET

You only have three days before the sun is at its closest... The Obelisk must be finished by then.

URSHU

It will be. Ra will pass by its high peak and marvel at the greatness you have built in his name.

SET

Truthfully, I honor myself as well.
(ordering him)
You will entomb these slaves within the Obelisk upon its completion.

Urshu does not pause at the impending mass murder...

URSHU

It will be their honor to serve you even in death.

ANGLE AROUND THE CORNER

Bek overhears, alarmed. In rich man's clothes, waiting beside his treasure-laden chariot for an audience with Urshu.

SET

Many of these mortals worshipped Horus. They will die with their prayers unanswered.

ON BEK. He has got to get Zaya out of here, now.

INT. OFFICE - FOREMAN'S PAVILION - LATER

Urshu's busy going over the plans with his Engineers... His Guards bring "wealthy" Bek before him...

BEK

I'm here to purchase one of your servants.

URSHU

I can't spare any.

BEK

Are you sure?

Urshu sees the CHARIOT in the courtyard, full of treasure. Can't help but be impressed. He gestures to his SERVANTS...

URSHU

Pick one and leave.

But Bek doesn't see Zaya among them...

BEK

Don't you have one with green eyes?

At this, Urshu and the GUARDS exchange a look...

URSHU

(cool, to the Head Guard)
Fetch her.

While they're waiting, Urshu gets conversational...

URSHU

You're a man of wealth. Have you had much problem with thieves?

BEK

Just have to be smarter than them.

URSHU

I've found evidence of an intruder. But I could find nothing stolen.

Bek doesn't like where this is headed... especially when he sees that GUARDS have blocked the windows and doors.

URSHU

So I had the place searched again, not to see if anything was missing... but to see if anything unusual could be found.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Urshu holds up Zaya's HORUS FIGURINE for Bek to see...

Zaya's DRAGGED IN by Guards, her clothes dirty and torn.

BEK

Zaya --

Zaya's terrified. Urshu strokes her cheek...

URSHU

As if using my home for your
fornicating wasn't sufficient.

(off her figurine)

This didn't save you, did it? Set
is your god.

Guards with DRAWN SWORDS encroach on Bek...

Bek grabs Urshu's ARCHITECTURAL PLANS -- Holds the plans in
one hand, a burning LAMP in the other...

BEK

Be a shame if our beloved god's
obelisk wasn't finished on time.

Urshu signals his Guards to MOVE AWAY FROM THE DOOR...

URSHU

(nonchalant, to Bek)

Take her, then.

Zaya SNATCHES her HORUS FIGURINE off the floor... She and
Bek BOLT OUT, tossing the plans once they're clear.

EXT. GREAT OBELISK - DAY

Bek and Zaya RUN through the construction site, teeming with
activity... Soldiers CONVERGE...

AHEAD, two massive BLOCKS OF STONE, big as boxcars, are being
pushed toward each other, the gap between them CLOSING FAST --

Bek and Zaya DASH THROUGH THE NARROWING GAP a moment before
they would've been crushed. The Soldiers ARE CUT OFF, for
the moment. Bek and Zaya reach

THE MAIN GATE

The SENTRIES here haven't been alerted yet...

BEK

We can make it --

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ZAYA

Just you.

Zaya STOPS and pulls up her sleeve, revealing the brand of Set. She can never leave.

ZAYA

(with a grim smile)
It stings a little.

Bek reels...

ZAYA

I'll manage...

BEK

(off the Obelisk)
They're going to kill the slaves
soon as that thing's done.

ZAYA

(shaken)
How long?

BEK

Three days.
(impotent fury)
I'll break the curse. I'll kill
Set myself.

ZAYA

(unwavering)
You can't. Only Horus can.

BEK

He fought like a fool and now he's
blind.

ZAYA

You always said you can steal
anything...
(presses the Figurine in
Bek's hand)
Steal his eye. Give it back to
him.

The Soldiers are CLOSING IN, led by Urshu...

ZAYA

It's the only way you can save me.

BEK

I'm not putting my faith in him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Zaya gives Bek a kiss goodbye -- a lifetime of passion pressed into seconds --

ZAYA

We'll argue about it later.

Before Bek can stop her, Zaya runs into the clutches of the Soldiers.

ON BEK. Slipping THROUGH THE GATE to freedom... He feels like his guts have been ripped open.

INT. SET'S TREASURE VAULT

A vast CHAMBER. Pillars, walls, ceiling -- every surface is METAL polished to a shine. Austere as a bank.

A SHORT GUARD ENTERS, carrying a covered birdcage. It's Bek in disguise.

ON BEK. Focused. He won't let Zaya down.

Turning a corner, he sees the last thing he expected -- all the GUARDS are sprawled dead on the floor.

Bek peers over the EDGE OF THE BALCONY...

A DEEP ROOM the size of a football field. Endless GOLD BARS from wall to wall. The wealth of a god in ordered stacks.

A LONG BRIDGE traverses the cavernous vault. Bek's eyes are drawn to something among the treasure UNDER THE BRIDGE...

A groaning BODY. It's Wepwawet, dying.

The other SIX GODS lie dead among the gold. Wepwawet got the furthest, which isn't very far at all.

WEPWAWET

You're not a guard...

BEK

Tell me about the traps. What killed you?

Wepwawet EXPIRES before he can answer.

As a test, Bek TOSSES his helmet OVER THE BALCONY --

The helmet hits the floor of gold bricks... the bricks MOVE, attacking the helmet with STINGERS --

Underneath every brick lies a SCORPION, plump with venom.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

When the Scorpions realize there's no flesh within the helmet, they rearrange themselves into neat rows, carrying the Bricks on their backs. You'd never know they were there.

Bek scans the multitude of bricks with a shudder...

BEK

Where do you even get that many
scorpions?

The bridge is divided into THREE SPANS. The closest is made of SILVER. The next span is GOLD. The last he can't see.

Bek swallows hard... and considers the first hurdle:

THE FIRST SPAN -- THE BRIDGE OF SILVER.

Metal STATUES OF SET as a Jackal-Creature line the bridge on both sides, facing each other at ten foot intervals. To cross you have to walk past them. It's unnerving.

Bek removes the hood from his CAGE. Frees a pair of PIGEONS.

Bek FLICKS a handful of BIRDSEED along the bridge... Watches the pigeons HOP along the tiles, PECKING --

The birds SPRING THE TRAP. Two statues of Set facing each other FLEX their METAL ARMS -- pulling a RAZOR SHARP WIRE taut between them.

The pigeons COO, unscathed. It would have cut a man in half.

BEK

Be a mess to clean up.

The trap RESETS. Pressure-sensitive floor-tiles? Maybe that's what he's supposed to think... Bek looks closer...

ON BEK. So that's Set's secret:

BEK

(to a pigeon)
It's a bait-and-switch. Set
doesn't think like a god. He
thinks like a criminal.

Bek notes the BIRD SHADOWS cast by the light of a BURNING BRAZIER...

SNAP. It's the bird's shadow that triggers the trap.

Bek LIGHTS a torch... Holds it out in front of him to ERASE THE SHADOW... And is able to cross the first span...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

THE SECOND SPAN -- THE BRIDGE OF GOLD.

Also lined with Statues of Set -- but these grip long curved DAGGERS.

Bek throws more seed. The pigeons trot over to eat it... Nothing happens until they FLUTTER INTO THE AIR --

The entire Bridge of Gold FOLDS IN ON ITSELF like a bear trap. The statues' daggers slice together like giant scissors. The pigeons flit up out of danger.

The bridge clanks OPENS, trap RESET. But what triggered it?

Bek sees a PIGEON FEATHER dancing on an unseen WIND...

Bek grinds a handful of birdseed into a fine POWDER under his heel... and BLOWS it into the AIR... revealing:

A crisscrossing web of nearly invisible LINES -- jets of air blowing in all directions from the Statues' mouths. If anything disrupts their stream, the trap is sprung.

Bek BLOWS clouds of seed powder in front of him... navigating the maze of air "tripwires," as he CROSSES THE SECOND SPAN...

THE THIRD SPAN -- THE BRIDGE OF MAGIC.

Built of BLACK STONE. Obsidian Statues of Set line the bridge, each holding an OBJECT of wonder and magic...

A FEATHER OF THE PHOENIX, exquisite as a rainbow. The SKY NECKLACE OF SHU, made of cloud. A TAMARISK SAPLING, bare and withered. A GOBLET filled with milk from the breast of Nut.

A GEMSTONE bright as the noonday sun. The Eye of Horus.

BEK

That's it.

Bek tosses a handful of birdseed... but the pigeons are hesitant to go further, spooked.

BEK

This is how you thank me for all the meals we've shared?

Bek SPRINTS full bore down the bridge... SWATTING magic items off the statues as he passes --

TRAPDOORS open in front of each magic item as he KNOCKS THEM OFF... But Bek's moving fast, one step ahead. He doesn't fall in --

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

The Feather flutters down... The Necklace floats away...

Running, Bek GRABS the Eye of Horus. He's going to make it --

In front of him, a thirsty PIGEON lands on the Goblet of Milk...

BEK

Oh no --

The pigeon TIPS OVER the goblet, tripping the trapdoor. Which is, unfortunately, right under Bek.

Bek FALLS --

DOWN INTO THE VAULT

Bek SLAMS onto gold bricks... Hears thousands of tiny legs skittering... Shuts his eyes and waits for stinging death.

But death does not come. Bek opens his eyes...

A MASS OF SCORPIONS surround Bek, stingers raised... all held at bay by the glowing Eye of Horus in his hand. The scorpions RETREAT from the light in a polluted tide.

Bek looks at the Eye warming his palm... and triumphantly closes his fist over his prize.

EXT. CANYON - SET'S TREASURE VAULT - DAY

Bek EXITS the vault, making haste down the CANYON protecting Set's treasury... The Eye GLOWS in Bek's hand...

HORUS (O.S.)

Where are my allies?

A SPEAR swings out of the shadows -- Bek barely DUCKS --

Blind Horus EMERGES from behind a boulder, smoldering like a volcano... Tracking Bek with keen ears.

BEK

They're all dead.

The news is like a knife through Horus. It can't be true.

HORUS

You've got my eye. I can feel it.

BEK

It was there for the taking. I took it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HORUS

No mortal could rob Set's vault.
You must have pilfered my eye from
Wep's corpse...

BEK

He never even got close.

Horus STRIKES again, smashing a rock. It's only because the
god is blind -- and Bek is quick -- that Bek survives.

BEK

Stop. I have a proposition --

HORUS

You dare bargain with me for what
is mine?

Horus JABS AGAIN. Bek dodges.

BEK

You're lucky I'm willing to. You
can't hit a thing.

HORUS

He was the god of stealth. I knew
of no one braver or more loyal.
(dismissive)
What are you? Some thief?

BEK

Yeah. Some thief.

HORUS

You want a reward I suppose? Gold?

BEK

Gold I can steal.
(beat)
There's a slave I want freed.

HORUS

A lot of work for a slave.

BEK

I'm dedicated. She's been cursed
by Set.

ON HORUS, cooling. He lowers his spear...

HORUS

And cursed she will be until Set's
death.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

HORUS (CONT'D)

(holds out his palm)
Seems we want the same thing. So
give me my Eye.

BEK

I only have three days.

HORUS

Three *days*?

BEK

Set won't need slaves after he
finishes his little construction
project. And he kills what he
doesn't need.

HORUS

I trained ten years for my first
battle with Set -- and still I was
not ready. Maybe twenty more --

BEK

I don't have twenty years. I don't
have a week. I have three days.

HORUS

It can't be done.

BEK

(edge of desperation)
Well figure it out.
(off the Eye)
Or maybe I should toss this in the
Nile.

HORUS

Wait.

ON HORUS, thinking.

HORUS

Did you really sneak past Set's
traps or was that an idle boast?

BEK

I boast, but I don't lie.

HORUS

(mind working)
Wep and I would sit up at night...
talking of all the ways to kill
that dung-eater. There was one mad
plan, born of an excess of wine...

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

HORUS (CONT'D)

But even Wep did not have the skill.

(to Bek)

Today you did what he could not.
Maybe tomorrow you can do more.

BEK

Me?

HORUS

I will kill Set in three days -- if you assist me.

ON BEK. He wasn't expecting to actually work with Horus...

HORUS

My eye, mortal. Do we have an agreement?

BEK

My name is Bek.

Bek tosses the eye to Horus -- who pops it back in his head with a BURST OF LIGHT. Horus can see again, his empty socket still covered with the strip of cloth.

Horus is able to look Bek up and down for the first time...

HORUS

You're small, Bek.

EXT. ROCKY GULLY - LATER

Bek and Horus are in a secluded, rocky place. The two unlikely allies warily taking stock of each other.

HORUS

The God of the Desert will die if we destroy the desert itself.

BEK

All of it?

HORUS

Why, are you fond of sand?
(beat)
Within Set's temple is the Fire that is the source of his power. Extinguish that, and he fades away. The whole of the Nile could not quench that fire... But a few drops from the waters of creation can.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HORUS (CONT'D)

I will fly to the heavens and
collect some from the prow of Ra's
boat.

Bek raises an eyebrow. Wow.

BEK

That's a good job for you.

HORUS

Plainly.

(continuing)

However, Set's Fire is guarded by
the Sphinx.

ON BEK. Worried. He's heard the stories...

BEK

You know the answer to its riddle?

HORUS

No.

BEK

It'll tear us to pieces.

HORUS

Which is why the second thing we
must do is convince the God of
Wisdom to answer it for us.

(beat)

A formidable task in its own right.

BEK

So what do you need me for?

HORUS

The hardest job of all.

(beat)

Set's pyramid of sand is ten times
the challenge his treasury is.
Guarded by the deadliest traps he's
devised. Walls, floors, nothing
stays still. Always moving. Made
of crushing sand and stone.

BEK

A maze only the cleverest thief
could conquer.

HORUS

I will settle for you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Horus and Bek CREST A RIDGE. A panoramic view of the land. In the distance, a malevolent strip of red: the Desert.

HORUS

Set will hunt us every step of the way.

BEK

Let him.

Horus likes that answer. He looks at the SUN, low on the horizon...

HORUS

Keep out of trouble until I return. I go to collect water from creation or die in the doing.

Horus TRANSFORMS into a Falcon and TAKES TO THE SKY --

Bek watches Horus FLY AWAY... Wondering what he's gotten himself into.

EXT. NEPHTHYS' STRONGHOLD - SUNSET

A mountain-top Aerie... UNDER SIEGE from Set's SOLDIERS. Arrows fill the air, shooting down BIRDS trying to escape.

SET

(to his Archers, off the birds)

Do not let a single messenger escape.

INT. NEPHTHYS' STRONGHOLD - SUNSET

POUNDING at the gate...

NEPHTHYS

Is cornered. 40s, plain-faced. The Goddess of Weavers. Her great feathered WINGS are folded against her back.

Great doors BREAK OPEN under a withering assault. Set RUSHES IN, flanked by his Soldiers. They engage a DOZEN GOD BODYGUARDS in fierce HAND-TO-HAND COMBAT.

The Bodyguards flash various animal heads in the melee, but none of them can withstand Set's mighty scepter.

Nephthys shrinks back from Set, afraid but defiant... Set picks at a length of LINEN spilling from a loom.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SET

Is it right that a goddess should
perform such labor?

They clearly have a past. They were once husband and wife,
before the death of Osiris.

NEPHTHYS

Since you became king, the need for
burial shrouds has been great.

SET

(brushes back her hair)
You could have been a queen.

NEPHTHYS

Your brother was already married.

Set fumes at the mention of Osiris, forever jealous.

SET

What if I told you I would pardon
you for leaving me at my moment of
triumph? You could wear the crown
that is your right.

NEPHTHYS

(coldly)
After all the years we shared, you
should already know my answer.

SET

That makes this much easier.

Set rips ONE OF NEPHTHYS' WINGS from her body -- it clatters
to the ground as GOLD.

Nephthys looks to Set in horror. This is unthinkable. She
uselessly flaps her remaining WING in a pathetic corkscrew
attempt at escape, CRASHING back to the ground...

Set TEARS OFF Nephthys' other wing. She sinks to the floor,
listless but conscious.

NEPHTHYS

(weakly, off her wings)
You would rob me of my very
essence... The others won't stand
for this.

SET

No one will know what's happened
here until it's too late.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

NEPHTHYS
 (can't understand)
 Why? You're already king...

Set keeps the answer to himself...

The bullish god Mnevis ENTERS.

MNEVIS
 Lord. Your royal treasury has been
 breached.

SET
 By who?

MNEVIS
 A mortal. The smell is
 unmistakable.

SET
 (alarmed)
 What did he steal?

EXT. EGYPT AS SEEN FROM SPACE

Horus the Falcon FLIES HIGH into the STRATOSPHERE... so high
 the curvature of the earth can be seen. From up here, the
 Nile's blue line looks like the artery of creation.

Above, through a break in the clouds...

A magnificent SAILING SHIP cruising at the edge of space.

RA'S BOAT. Its hull and splendid sails of purest gold. A
 titanic CHAIN rises from the ship's deck into the heavens.
 Ra's boat pulls THE SUN itself around the Earth each day.

Horus the Falcon pushes himself higher... INTO THE CLOUDS...

The air here is TURBULENT... for this is the chaotic,
 primordial stuff from the time before creation... Gusts tear
 violently at Horus the Falcon, throwing him back...

The wind strips feathers from his wings, threatening to rip
 him apart... Battered, he FALLS...

Plummeting to earth, Horus retakes the FORM OF A MAN, stunned
 like a pugilist...

HORUS
 Father, let your strength be mine.

Still falling, Horus finds it within himself to press on...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HORUS

I am the Lord of the Sky. I will
enter the celestial waters --

Horus TRANSFORMS back into a Falcon and redoubles his
efforts, again thrusting into the CLOUDS...

...until, with a final burst of strength, he BREAKS THROUGH --

EXT. RA'S BOAT

The Falcon LANDS on the deck, TRANSFORMING back into Horus.

What looks like a man in his 50s sits sharpening his SPEAR on
a GRINDSTONE... Sparks spit and pop off the shining blade.
Battle-scars mark his sinewy body. Deep crows-feet line eyes
fierce as a storm. He is

RA

Lord of the Cosmos. Majestic and mighty, moral and wise. He
does not look up as Horus drops to a knee and bows.

HORUS

Hail, thou Great God Ra.

RA

Normally when a bird lands on my
boat uninvited I kill it before it
can shit.

HORUS

Forgive me, grandfather. I would
only ask something of you...

RA

In that case I'll stop what I'm
doing and heed your bidding.

HORUS

I mean no disrespect --

RA

You don't know the difference.

Ra's keen eyes plumb the SHADOW brewing on the HORIZON...

RA

Sit and be silent. I have work to
do.

Ra CRANKS a massive WINCH... Letting out miles and miles of
the mighty chain...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The Sun, thus released, DIPS below the horizon...

Ra's boat passes into NIGHT... A chill wind whips the sails... Horus finds his knees weakened by dread...

A SHADOW uncoils from the abyss, size beyond imagining...

APOPHIS

Rises like a thunderhead... The Demon of Chaos. Defined by blackness, its gargantuan silhouette is REPTILIAN...

Ra stands tall on the ship's bow... and readies a SPEAR glittering with cosmic power. Apophis ROARS --

The demon's TAIL, wide as a cyclone, SMACKS the hull --

Horus is THROWN against the mast, grabs on for dear life...

Ra answers with stabs of WHITE FIRE from his spear.

Apophis' head opens like a mile-long red chasm... revealing a MOUTH wide enough to swallow Ra's boat... It seems to Horus, wide enough to swallow the whole world...

Ra stands his ground, STRIKING the beast in the darkness. Apophis' ear-spitting HOWL rocks the boat as their duel SHAKES THE FIRMAMENT...

RA

Crawl back to shadow, you stinking worm.

A final jab of his spear... and Apophis SHRINKS BACK into the black primordial sea...

RA

You shall not feast on creation.

(beat)

Until tomorrow, at least.

Ra leans against his spear, tired... As his boat SAILS on, a beautiful canopy of STARS envelops them.

Ra uncorks a jug of wine and drinks with gusto. Enjoying the taste of life the way only one who faces death can. Horus shows his respect with silence.

RA

You know when to keep quiet.

HORUS

There are no words for that.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

We see how heavily Ra's burden weighs upon him.

RA

How different things would be if I could dwell amongst my children in the garden of the Nile... Instead it is my burden to fight the demon Apophis night after night. So that Egypt is not destroyed by chaos.

(pointed)

There are things worse than Set.

HORUS

You're wrong.

RA

You'd say that? Even after what you've just witnessed?

HORUS

That demon isn't the one who murdered my father, your son.

RA

They are both my sons. Speak to me in that tone again boy, and I will slap you into the abyss.

HORUS

Allow me to fill my flask with these waters.

RA

(considers this)

The waters are not mine.

Horus leans over the side of the hull and dips his flask into the WATER OF CREATION. Water, but not water... Air, but not air... It sparks with life as it flows into the container...

RA

You plan to quench the desert fire? Bold. But if you kill Set, you will be king. How will you rule?

HORUS

I don't plan to rule at all.

Ra frowns.

RA

How did you get your eye back?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

HORUS

A mortal.

RA

Intrepid of him.

HORUS

He had the gall to strike a bargain with me. But I need him to break into Set's Temple of Sand.

RA

He will surely die there.

HORUS

There are many sacrifices on the path to vengeance.

RA

Does he know he's one of them?

HORUS

He's a mortal. He doesn't know anything.

RA

I had hopes for you. But all you want is revenge.

Ra turns away from Horus in disgust.

RA

I do not approve of Set or how he rules Egypt. But I don't know that you would be much better.

(terse)

Now get off my boat.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Bek RUNS for his life through THICK FOREST...

Mnevis and a gang of FOUR BRUTISH BULL GODS (in their human form) are hot on his tail.

Bek ZIGZAGS through trees... but his pursuers CUT HIM OFF...

Mnevis SEIZES Bek, dangles him inches from his slimy snout...

MNEVIS

(sniffs him)

Found you. Where is the Eye of Horus?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BEK

Up your behind, alongside the goat
you keep there.

Mnevis slams Bek against a tree.

MNEVIS

I've seen all the ways a man can
die. Fast, slow, dirty, clean.

Mnevis presses the tip of a NASTY BLADE under Bek's ribs...

BEK

I choose fast, but I'll settle for
clean.

MNEVIS

Where is the Eye of Horus?

HORUS

(from off-screen)
Right here.

Horus walks into the middle of the Bull Gods... Holds his
spear like a bolt of lightning.

MNEVIS

(surprised)
I thought you were crawling
sightless in the mud somewhere.

Mnevis RELEASES Bek. The Bull Gods exchange uneasy
glances... Even five against one, this is *Horus*.

MNEVIS

(mustering his courage)
Cut him down.

The Bull Gods CHARGE Horus, blades drawn --

Horus JABS at Mnevis, but something's off. He's not as fast.

Mnevis BRINGS HIS SWORD down on Horus' spear shaft -- KNOCKS
the weapon out of Horus' hand.

Surrounded, Horus ROLLS to recover his weapon -- DEFLECTS two
strikes, but a third SLASHES HIS RIBS... Gods don't bleed,
but their wounds shine, raw and real. Horus WINCES...

MNEVIS

See, brothers. Without his other
eye he is weak...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Bek watched Horus bring down a stone temple like it was made of twigs. What's wrong with him now?

Horus backs into a defensive stance BETWEEN TWO TREES. The first Bull God attacks, overeager --

Horus SHOULDERS him against a tree trunk, PINNING HIM as --

A second Bull God strikes... Horus spins the second attacker into the first. A WET SLICING SOUND... and both COLLAPSE.

Horus made them stab each other.

Horus levels his gaze at Mnevis and the two remaining Bull Gods, who feel cold fear spread through their guts.

HORUS

Even if I was blind...

Horus TRIPS the Bull God to Mnevis' left, who SLAMS flat on his back --

Mnevis' sword stroke MISSES Horus...

HORUS

Deaf...

Horus THRUSTS upward two-handed, delivering a LETHAL BLOW to the Bull God on Mnevis' right --

HORUS

And bereft of limbs...

BELLOWING, Mnevis SLASHES at Horus again, hitting only air...

HORUS

...I'm still a match for you.

Horus JAMS his SPEAR through Mnevis' chest.

ANGLE BEHIND HORUS. The last surviving Bull God GETS UP... Because of his EYE PATCH, Horus can't see him coming --

BEK

(warning him)

Horus --

Horus WHIPS AROUND and SLAYS the last Bull God.

BEK

You have a blind spot.

There's no "thank you for saving me" forthcoming.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

HORUS

I told you to do one thing. Stay
alive until I got back.

BEK

Last time I saw you fight you were
knocking down pillars like they
were nothing. Now you need me to
keep you from getting skewered?
Are you sure you can do this?

Horus turns on Bek in fury... The troubling implications of
his newfound weakness is not something Horus wants to face.

HORUS

The only reason I saved you,
mortal, is you are useful to me.
Don't test my patience.

Bek sees the hypnotically swirling Water of Creation in
Horus' flask...

BEK

That's really Water of Creation?

HORUS

Yes.

BEK

What would happen if I drank it?

HORUS

You would be refreshed. And then
you would die.

BEK

It doesn't seem right that the
Water of Creation would kill.

HORUS

I would kill you. For wasting my
water.

BEK

Now that we've got it, let's go get
our answer from the God of Wisdom.
We only have two days left.

HORUS

We may have less time than that...

Worried, Horus scans the world for miles in every direction.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

HORUS

The roads will be watched now...
 (off Mnevis' body)
 And Set will send better hunters.

INT. SET'S PALACE - DAY

Set sits on his throne. Hathor at his side looks bored.
 Dead Mnevis and the Bull Gods are lined up on display.

ANAT and ASTARTE

Poke at the bodies, examining the wounds... Two warrior goddesses. Exotic beauties, 20s.

Quick-tempered Astarte wears a wicked helmet topped with the horns of a bull. Anat's clad in panther skin, battle axe at the ready -- she's calculating and sadistic.

ANAT

(off the bodies)
 This one dropped his guard... This one must have misjudged his speed... This one badly missed a side-stroke... And these two killed each other.

ASTARTE

Too bad for them you didn't summon us sooner.

ON SET. Brooding on the return of his enemy.

SET

I didn't know Horus had his sight back.

HATHOR

(to Set, off Anat and Astarte)
 Why bring this trash into your home? They're only worshipped by cannibals and rapists.

Astarte kicks her spear to Hathor's exquisitely shod feet, inviting a fight. Hathor toes it away, declining the offer.

ASTARTE

As I thought.

SET

(to Hathor)
 The *desert* is my home.
 (MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SET (CONT'D)

(to Anat and Astarte)

Find Horus and you may keep his remaining eye. I have the only piece of him I need.

ANAT

We will deliver him to you.

SET

No. Incinerate him, along with the thief.

ON HATHOR. A distressing thought, but she can't let it show.

SET

(to Hathor)

Unless you want to see his face one last time?

HATHOR

Good hunting, ladies.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

ON HORUS, WALKING briskly over rough ground and underbrush...

HORUS

We should be at Thoth's library soon if...

Horus stops, realizing he's talking to nobody.

Bek's LAGGING BEHIND, breathing hard.

BEK

I need... to rest.

HORUS

We've only been travelling nine hours.

Bek SITS, exhausted.

BEK

You can fly.

HORUS

I can. Can you?

BEK

Couldn't you carry me?

Horus doesn't dignify that with an answer.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Horus impatiently waits for Bek to recover...

HORUS' P.O.V. Locking onto a SAPLING a half a mile away.
From this distance invisible to the human eye.

Horus hefts his spear, AIMS AT THE SAPLING... But his vision isn't crisp like it was. It wavers now, unstable...

Horus lets the spear FLY with such speed the SONIC BOOM
knocks Bek flat on his back --

The spear MISSES the sapling... ATOMIZING a massive tree.

Bek doesn't know it was a miss.

BEK

You don't have to keep trying to
impress me.

HORUS

Wasn't even close.

ON HORUS. Doubt. A new feeling for him. He hates it.

Horus sits straight-backed on a rock near a STREAM. He hands
Bek a CUP from his belt...

BEK

What's this?

HORUS

So you don't have to bring me water
cupped in your hands.

BEK

I'm not your slave.

HORUS

My father taught me it was unworthy
of a god to smite a man.

BEK

He should've taught you to get off
your ass and get your own water.

Horus BACKHANDS Bek INTO THE STREAM with a splash.

HORUS

(to the North Winds)
Sorry, Father.

As Bek CLIMBS OUT OF THE STREAM... the SMALL FIGURINE of
Horus falls from Bek's pocket.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Horus considers the falcon-headed statue's likeness...

HORUS
The brow lacks majesty and the beak
is crooked.
(shrugs)
I've seen worse.

BEK
It's not mine.

ON BEK. A stab of emotion as he thinks of Zaya...

BEK
Let's go. We're losing time.

Horus can see Bek's still exhausted...

HORUS
You look weak.

BEK
I'm fine.

HORUS
(it occurs to him)
I think you need food. Humans need
food.

BEK
What do you know about humans?

Bek stubbornly keeps moving...

HORUS
I insist.
(gesturing)
This land is bountiful. Eat.

Bek relents. Not because he's tired and hungry -- which he is -- but because he can't help but be amused at this god who doesn't understand the first thing about men.

BEK
We don't eat trees.

EXT. ELSEWHERE IN THE FOREST - LATER

A blur through branches... something moving fast... A CHARIOT pulled by a pair of HORSES with the speed of gods.

Astarte yanks the reins to halt the beasts -- the violence of the stop cuts a trench beneath their hooves.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Anat steps from the chariot to push her hand into the earth.
They're tracking Horus and Bek...

ASTARTE

What do the worms tell you?

WORMS wriggle to the surface in a line, pointing the way to a
SMALL CITY ahead...

ASTARTE

He's close.

Anat puts a wooden FLUTE to her lips. Plays a shrill NOTE...

Far away, a chilling sound like a LIVING WINDSTORM ANSWERS...

INT. KING'S QUARTERS - SET'S PALACE

Hathor and Set recline on cushions, sipping wine... Discrete
Musicians play captivating MUSIC, promising sensual delights.

Hathor takes another hearty sip. Half-drunk. Trying to
forget the past, anxious to reach sweet oblivion.

SET

You're thirsty this evening.

HATHOR

With wine this good, no excuse is
necessary.

SET

Your wine is always good.

Set leans in to kiss her... Hathor smells something on him:

HATHOR

(teasing)
Who is she?

SET

What do you mean?

HATHOR

I can smell her on you.

SET

Jealous of my hunters?

HATHOR

(shakes her head)
I know that scent... Feathers and
linen. Bland and boring.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HATHOR (CONT'D)

(realizing)

Why would you go see your former wife?

SET

I haven't seen Nephthys since the night she left me.

ON HATHOR. She knows he's lying. Her questioning was all in fun -- but now she's stumbled on something more. If Set suspects her, she's dead.

HATHOR

(quickly covering)

My mistake.

(laughs it off)

I can smell a woman on a man years later. Drives me crazy -- and my men too.

Set nods, amused. Hathor gets up...

HATHOR

I'll light incense --

SET

(pulls her back to him)

Later.

INT. HALLWAYS - PALACE - LATER

Hathor slips from Set's bedchamber... Pads down the halls... careful to stay out of sight from patrolling Guards...

INT. FORGE - SET'S PALACE

Hathor ENTERS silently... Eerie shadows play off WEAPONS forged by Set... Hathor's gripped by a wave of foreboding... as she sees the ARMOR Set has been fashioning.

The HELMET with Horus' eye in the VISOR... and a BREASTPLATE with a JEWELLED HEART.

SET

Did you find what you were looking for?

Set stands behind her, blocking the exit.

SET

(off the breastplate)

Osiris' heart was never recovered.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HATHOR

That's why Horus couldn't kill
you...

Hathor backs away from Set... and collides with Nephthys'
golden WINGS... She recoils from the dismembered parts...

HATHOR

You're waging war on the gods?

Set SEIZES her arm -- his touch starts to DECAY HER FLESH...

A jeweled BRACELET on Hathor's wrist GLIMMERS SUPERNOVA-
BRIGHT. Her skin HEALS as Set's curse is repelled.

Set shields his eyes -- the bracelet's too bright to look at.

Hathor SPRINTS out the door. She's got a good head start,
but she better keep running...

EXT. SMALL CITY - DAY

Horus CONCEALS HIS FACE under the hood of a cloak... as he
and Bek WALK through narrow, quiet alleys. Here and there,
SOLDIERS of Set keep watch...

INT. TAVERN - DAY

Bek and Hooded Horus ENTER a working-class tavern.

HORUS

(off Bek, to the Barkeep)
Bring him some food.

The BARKEEP raises an eyebrow at Horus' imperious tone, but
doesn't recognize the god beneath his hood.

BARKEEP

To drink?

HORUS

Your finest beer. Quickly.

BEK

(to the Barkeep)
I guess two.

The Barkeep moves off...

BEK

(to Horus)
That's not how mortals talk if they
want good service.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HORUS

I am used to more than service. I expect worship.

Bek eats the food provided. Horus drinks from his cup.

BEK

(to Horus)

Do you even get thirsty?

HORUS

I like the taste.

Horus wipes his mouth with the back of his hand, raps his fist on the table. Satisfied.

HORUS

(to the Barkeep)

This place pleases me. Ask, and find me generous.

BARKEEP

It's called paying.

Horus pats his waistband... He has no money. Why would he?

HORUS

I, uh...

BEK

(irritated)

I've got it.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE CITY - DAY

Bek and Hooded Horus cross a FIELD dotted with ROCK PILES. This is where the poor are buried.

They happen upon a POOR MAN'S FUNERAL. His linen-wrapped body is lowered into a simple pit. His WIFE weeps. The man may not have been rich, but he was loved by many.

HORUS

(to Bek, confused)

What is this?

BEK

You've never seen a funeral?

HORUS

I have. Not like this. This man takes nothing with him to the Afterlife.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HORUS (CONT'D)

(beat)

Without treasure, he won't be granted entry.

BEK

(terse)

Not everyone has treasure.

A grand funeral PROCESSION passes through, disrupting the Poor Man's memorial... headed toward a city of low brick buildings: MASTABA TOMBS for the wealthy dead.

Dozens of NOBLES and their SERVANTS transport a Rich Charioteer in his SARCOPHAGUS. They also carry a dazzling display of gold and jewels.

The RICH CHARIOTEER'S WIFE is infuriated that their passage is being inconvenienced by the poor man's funeral.

RICH CHARIOTEER'S WIFE

(to the Poor Man's Wife)

Only dogs lack the sense not to run out of the way of a chariot. At least my husband will not be troubled by dogs in the Afterlife.

The Poor Man's Wife absorbs the insult.

Horus is troubled. He approaches the POOR MOURNERS with his hood pulled low. They have no idea he is a god...

HORUS

What happened here?

POOR MOURNER

Our friend was selling fish in the market, when a Rich Man's chariot came galloping down the street -- didn't care who was in his way. He struck our friend and died himself when he was thrown.

EXT. MASTABA TOMBS - DAY

Horus and Bek WALK ON... Mastaba Tombs in every direction. Bek's surprised to see Horus introspective...

HORUS

His murderer journeys to the Afterlife, but the poor man does not...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BEK

This is the way things are down in the dirt with us mortals. Better to be a gold-plated bastard than a beggar full of charity. Dying's a rich man's game.

(beat)

Why do you think I'm a thief? When I die -- many, many years from now by the way -- I plan to stroll into the Afterlife like him.

Bek points back at the Rich Charioteer's funeral procession.

ON HORUS, none of this seems quite right...

The quiet is broken by the sound of the LIVING WINDSTORM...

BEK

(with a chill)

What is that?

Horus knows. He pulls Bek behind cover...

HORUS

Get down -- or your plan to live many years will be ruined.

HORUS' P.O.V. Far-off, Anat and Astarte's chariot... cutting like a streak across the horizon.

HORUS

(grimly)

Anat and Astarte. Set's hunters.

In the distance, a SPRAY OF FIRE rakes the farmers' fields...

A huge SHAPE UNDULATES WITHIN THE SMOKE... The source of the terrifying windstorm sound.

HORUS

A pet of theirs. I can't withstand its fire.

(off his missing eye)

Not as I am now...

ON HORUS. At a loss what to do...

BEK

Then I guess we should run.

HORUS

Run?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BEK
Mortals do it all the time.

Horus and Bek ZIGZAG through the grid of SQUAT TOMBS... A hushed city of the dead, enfolding them like a maze...

BEK
We're going in circles.

The WINDSTORM fills their ears, louder now... The pursuing creature getting closer...

Bek and Horus hurry down a ROW OF TOMBS... A STREAM OF FIRE suddenly BLOCKS their way, close enough to curl the hair of Bek's eyebrows. They've run out of options...

Horus and Bek hear ROCK SCRAPING ROCK behind them --

It's Hathor, standing in the DOORWAY of a SECRET PASSAGE.

Bek can't help but be captivated by her beauty.

BEK
Hello, my name is --

Horus' good eye shoots daggers at Hathor.

HORUS
You.

HATHOR
Just shut up and come with me.

Horus TURNS BACK to face the oncoming creature instead...

BEK
(to Horus)
I thought we were running away from
the thing that burns up gods...

HORUS
Its company is preferable.

HATHOR
(off Horus' missing eye)
You know you have no choice.
You're half the god you used to be.

ON HORUS. She's right and he hates it. Horus FOLLOWS her
INTO THE SECRET PASSAGE

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

HATHOR

(over her shoulder)

Lucky those bitches don't know the history of this place. While he was constructing the tombs, the architect built a hidden passage here... so he could have secret liaisons with the Queen.

They reach an UNDERGROUND RIVER. Hathor DIVES IN...

BEK

Uh, how long do I have to hold my breath?

Horus DIVES IN, too. A BLAST OF FIRE cooks the passage. Bek JUMPS IN after them --

EXT. LAGOON - DAY

A coughing, waterlogged Bek trudges from the water... The underground river led to a SECLUDED LAGOON.

Horus and Hathor wait on shore in chilly silence. Neither offers Bek a hand.

BEK

Don't worry. I'm still alive.

No response. Bek flops down to rest.

Hathor dips an empty wine sack in the WATER and magically TRANSFORMS it into WINE.

HATHOR

(off Horus' missing eye)

I think it makes you look roguish. It's sure to become a trend.

Hathor offers Horus some wine. A peace offering. He doesn't take it.

Bek reaches out his hand -- he'll have some wine. Hathor ignores him like he doesn't exist. Typical.

HATHOR

(to Horus)

You're welcome for saving you.

Horus finally looks at her, furious.

HORUS

Explain yourself.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HATHOR

Don't talk to me like I'm your
wife.

HORUS

So while I was crawling blind
through a forest, you consorted
with the god who pulled out my
eyes?

Hathor's fingers trace the length of her curvy frame...

HATHOR

Why would I waste this on someone
who can't see?

HORUS

You're a demon.

HATHOR

(playing with her hair)
So you've said. For years.

HORUS

I don't know why you even bothered
rescuing me.

Bek looks back and forth, trying to figure them out...

HATHOR

He tore the wings off Nephthys...
It was horrible. He's forging some
kind of armor.
(after a beat)
He kept your father's heart.

Horus takes in that appalling revelation...

HORUS

And now my eye.
(gravely)
He's making a full suit of it then.

HATHOR

Why? He already has everything.

HORUS

He wants to finish what he started.
To humiliate and destroy all who
championed my father.
(beat)
Once Set finishes his armor, he'll
be too strong to stop.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BEK
Does that change our plan?

HORUS
No.
(to Hathor)
We're breaking into Set's desert temple to kill him once and for all.

Hathor's shocked. No one's ever tried to do that before.

HATHOR
How were you two jesters planning on getting in?

Horus nods toward Bek...

HATHOR
(off Bek, it's ridiculous)
Him?

HORUS
After we see Thoth.

HATHOR
(unenthusiastic)
Why would you ever do that on purpose?

HORUS
Can you answer the riddle of the Sphinx?

EXT. MARSH - DAY

Bek, Horus and Hathor SLOG thorough a SWAMP of tall, reedy PAPYRUS PLANTS... Hathor lags, fatigued. She sips from her wine sack...

HORUS
Not the best day to be hungover.

Horus scoops her up and CARRIES her. Hathor doesn't complain.

Bek smiles to himself. Horus won't show it... but it's obvious how much he cares about her.

HORUS
You drink too much.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HATHOR

I'm the Goddess of Too Much.
There's plenty I've given you
you've never found excessive.

Horus can't argue with that.

HATHOR

(to Bek)

So why are you here? Are you
seeking treasure?

BEK

I used to.

HATHOR

Never stop.

(to Horus)

When am I getting some?

HORUS

Look to your wrist, if the effort
is not too great. There you will
see the Bracelet of Forty-Two
Stars, one for each of the demons I
slayed in the getting. To keep you
safe from any curse.

(pointed)

To remind you of the one who gave
it to you.

Hathor admires her BRACELET. So does Bek. It sparkles like
the Big Bang.

HATHOR

This old thing?

Hathor drains the last of her wine... Still thirsty, she
beckons Bek... Her eyes are mesmerizing...

HATHOR

Be a dear and fetch me something
wet. There must be a pool of clean
water somewhere.

BEK

(not seduced)

You're all the same, aren't you?

Hathor stares quizzically at Bek, who braces for her
temper... But instead a genuine smile spreads over her face.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

HATHOR
(intrigued, excited)
What's her name?

BEK
Who?

HATHOR
I can make any man, woman, god or
beast do my bidding -- unless their
heart belongs to another. You're
in love.

HORUS
He is?

BEK
(after a beat)
Her name's Zaya.

HATHOR
(chin cupped in her hands)
Tell me everything.

BEK
We grew up in a nothing village.
Maybe if we'd had more, the way
people in the city do, I wouldn't
have noticed the little things...
Like how just before the sun hid
behind the mountains the light
would catch her eyes... It was
prettier than your bracelet.

Hathor sighs, transported by Bek's words...

HATHOR
That was the first time you kissed
her, wasn't it?
(backhands Horus)
Why don't you ever talk about me
that way?

Bek looks off, barely containing his emotion...

ON HORUS. He's risked death beside this mortal... and now
realizes how little he knows him.

HATHOR
(hinting, to Horus)
I'm still thirsty.

Hathor WAVES AWAY Horus: give her a minute with Bek alone.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Her gaze seems to plumb the depths of Bek's heart.

HATHOR

What happened?

BEK

We thought we needed more. So we ran away from home. Stupid. We had no idea how dangerous the world was.

(beat)

We were captured by slavers and crammed below the deck of a boat. I tried to break us free... But there were too many men with too many swords. I went overboard, left for dead. Zaya stayed on the boat, in chains.

HATHOR

Now she's one of the thousands building that hideous obelisk, no doubt.

BEK

This time, I'm going to save her.

HATHOR

I believe you will.

HORUS NEARBY

Has unearthed a spring. He kneels, filling Hathor's wineskin with water... Bek approaches...

HORUS

I didn't know about your woman.

BEK

You didn't ask.

(an awkward beat)

With your eye, can you see her?

Horus gazes at the horizon...

HORUS' P.O.V. Miles away, AT THE OBELISK... Zaya puts all her strength into inching a heavy stone forward... An OLDER WOMAN SLAVE next to her drops in exhaustion...

Zaya kindly helps the Older Woman to her feet before a CRUEL OVERSEER notices. The Older Woman is thankful. They muster their strength to keep working...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

BACK TO HORUS AND BEK

HORUS
She has courage.

Bek's relieved Zaya's alive. But he's still afraid for her.

BEK
We have what, two days until Set
sacrifices Zaya and all of them --
Why? Some piggish gesture?

HORUS
She'll be freed in time. I
promise.

BEK
(sincere)
You know, seeing her from so far
away doesn't do her justice. You
can't hear her voice. Right now,
she'd be saying "I told you so."
(off Horus' questioning
look)
She's the one who told me to trust
you.

Bek WALKS BACK to Hathor...

ON HORUS, ALONE. Feeling guilty for using Bek, Horus pounds
the ground in frustration. Looks up at the sun...

HORUS
(speaking quietly, to Ra)
What would you have me do? I have
no choice. I need him.

A thicket of papyrus reeds PARTS -- A BABOON sticks his head
out and SHRIEKS in surprise...

HORUS
I guess we're here.

EXT. THOTH'S LIBRARY - DAY

Busy BABOONS harvest papyrus, cut it into strips, beat it
with mallets, press it under rocks. They're making PAPER.

THOTH'S LIBRARY stands beyond this assembly line. Stark,
clean, and modern, it's known as the "House of Life."

The DOORS are small as the baboons who stream in and out...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BEK

I thought I was short...

HORUS

The doors are for the baboons.
Thoth never leaves.

They bend down and SQUEEZE THROUGH the under-sized doors...
Horus' shoulders barely fit. He swears under his breath.

INT. THOTH'S LIBRARY - DAY

No windows -- just shelves lined with billions of SCROLLS.
Baboons CLIMB up and down, organizing all the world's
knowledge...

THOTH

Hunches over a chaotic mess of scrolls. 20s, eccentric,
socially awkward, convinced of his own genius. Fingers black
with ink, Thoth rapidly inscribes hieroglyphics... Baboons
come and go, rolling and unrolling scrolls in front of him...

HORUS

Wise Lord of the Sacred Word, we
come before you seeking counsel --

Thoth silences Horus with a raised finger... Finally, he
looks up, impatient.

Thoth shields his eyes from Hathor...

THOTH

(to Hathor)

You. Turn around.

HATHOR

You prefer the view from behind?

THOTH

(flustered)

No, I... Yes. You know I can't
lie. I'm not going to risk looking
at those tricky eyes of yours.

Thoth turns to Horus, giving him his priceless attention.

HORUS

I need --

THOTH

The answer to the riddle of the
Sphinx.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

THOTH (CONT'D)
 (off Horus' surprise)
 A child could deduce why you're
 here.

Thoth leans back in his chair, fingertips pressed together.

THOTH
 I'm feeling magnanimous, so I'll
 help you.

Horus and Bek share a look. That was easy.

THOTH
 Go ask the riddle, then come back
 and relay it to me. I'll solve it.

HORUS
 Uh, one of us would have to die...

THOTH
 Draw lots.

HORUS
 Come with us.

The notion actually makes Thoth laugh.

HORUS
 Are you afraid you'll get it wrong?

THOTH
 Playing on my vanity? This is the
 cleverest strategy you could
 devise?

HATHOR
 (still facing the wall)
 One night. I'll give you one
 night.

HORUS
 (to Hathor)
 No, you won't.
 (turns back to Thoth)
 Set is forging some kind of armor
 made from the stolen essences of
 gods... What little vulnerability
 he has shrinks by the day.

Thoth snorts. But behind his eyes, this information impacts.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

HORUS

Set must be stopped before he
eradicates us all. You see the
wisdom in that...

(no answer)

Don't you?

THOTH

(under his breath)

I made a deal with him.

HORUS

What?

Horus' anger starts to SMOLDER...

THOTH

Set doesn't bother me, I don't
bother him.

(explains)

Study requires quiet. Set may keep
the peace at the edge of a sword,
but it is peace.

HORUS

Cockroach. I'll snap your neck.

THOTH

(back to his studies)

I have work to do.

Horus's uncontrolled rage sets scrolls on FIRE... Baboons
rush to douse the flames...

THOTH

Get out.

Bek sees this has turned into a disaster.

BEK

I know something you don't.

THOTH

(noticing him)

I thought you were one of the
baboons...

BEK

(continuing)

But you have to come with us to
find out what it is.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

THOTH

I can recite the true names of the stars. I've seen the world created from sand and water. You think there is anything you know that I don't?

BEK

What does the sun feel like on your shoulders?

ON THOTH. He doesn't know.

EXT. THOTH'S LIBRARY - DAY

Thoth looks up at the SKY... Dreary clouds hide the sun.

THOTH

(grumbles, off Bek)

It's not even sunny... pfft.

EXT. DEAD FOREST - DAY

A FOG settles... Horus, Bek, Hathor and Thoth WALK through a graveyard of once-great trees. The ground is grey, ruined forever.

RUINS emerge from the fog like spectres... A giant statue of OSIRIS lies on its side, its decapitated HEAD big as a whale.

To Horus, it feels as if his father's eyes are judging him.

Bek keeps pace alongside Horus, indifferent to the ruins...

BEK

Your temper almost cost us back there.

HORUS

My anger has helped keep you alive. What was that worth?

BEK

Not much if it costs me Zaya's life. What do you have to be angry about?

Thoth and Hathor look at Bek. Doesn't he know where they are?

THOTH

(quietly, to Bek)

Here is where Osiris fell.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BEK
 (looking around)
 Set salted the earth?

HORUS
 It wasn't Set. It was my mother's
 tears.

BEK
 I think it's more than his murder
 eating at you.

HORUS
 I don't care what you think.

BEK
 Even with one eye, you complain
 about being weak. Weak is not
 throwing spears for miles. Weak is
 not flying up to the sun. Weak is
 not winning when you're outnumbered
 five to one.

HORUS
 I did not choose a path of revenge.
 I did not choose to be king. I
 chose none of this.
 (beat)
 So you tell me -- what kind of
 power do I really have?

BEK
 You sound like a mortal. Tough to
 feel powerless, isn't it?

They all hear the "living windstorm" blow out of nowhere...
 Horus, Bek and Hathor know this sound...

THOTH
 The wind sounds alive...

HORUS
 It is.

Horus readies his spear. They all peer into the fog...
 Ahead, a giant FALLEN PILLAR blocks their way.

THOTH
 That pillar was not there before.

The pillar MOVES... RISING UP --

It's a GIGANTIC BLACK COBRA.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

The Cobra towers over them. The "wind" is its vicious HISS.

BEK
Run?

HORUS
It's too close.

HATHOR
So what do we do?

Horus doesn't know. His confidence is shaken... But Bek realizes Horus is their only chance...

BEK
Is strength all that makes you a
god?

Horus gathers himself, holding forth his spear...

HORUS
Serpent, depart from us now or I
will divide your head in two.

The Cobra's HOOD FLARES, preparing to strike...

Horus squints his good eye, aiming... lets his spear FLY --
The spear GRAZES the Cobra's scales... but MISSES.

Horus curses. Now his weapon is gone, lost in the fog.

A SECOND COBRA, this one WHITE, rears up to join the first.

BEK
Well, its head is divided in two.

The Cobras bare FANGS like ivory scimitars and SPIT streams
of BURNING VENOM like napalm --

Horus raises a flat CHUNK OF STONE to SHIELD them. The
marble DISINTEGRATES under the onslaught of burning venom...

HORUS
(to the rest of them)
Now run.

Bek, Hathor and Thoth SPRINT into the fog...

Horus is alone with the monsters. A SLURPING sound as the
Cobras draw more venom, reloading...

They SPIT -- Horus DODGES twin annihilating sprays. He knows
he can't outrun this doom...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Horus CIRCLES BACK... straight at the Black Cobra.

The Cobras abort their attack to avoid burning each other.

But now Horus is close enough to be bitten. He barely twists OUT OF THE WAY as fangs scissor the air...

BEK, HATHOR AND THOTH

Take cover behind some ruins... Hathor sees a STREAK cutting a trail through the fog --

HATHOR
(shouts to Horus)
Look out!

THE CHARIOT

Speeds toward Horus, pulled by supernaturally swift horses. Almost too fast to see.

Astarte AT THE REINS. Anat beside her, teeth bared in blood lust, swings her BATTLE AXE at Horus as they ZING PAST --

Horus DUCKS, feels the blade whistle past his ear...

ANAT ON THE CHARIOT

PLAYS a series of notes on her wooden FLUTE...

THE BLACK COBRA obeys the musical command. GRABS Horus in a coil of its tail...

ON THOTH. He hears the FLUTE... Realizes their method.

THOTH
Of course, the tones...

Thoth scans the ground...

THOTH
Now to find a suitable branch and
carve a simulacrum.

Crouched nearby, Hathor rolls her eyes. Typical Thoth.

Bek BOUNDS UP a broken ramp of stones, on a mission...

HORUS

Trapped in the Black Cobra's embrace... He struggles to free his arms as the serpent's JAWS OPEN...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

ANAT AND ASTARTE

Circle back on the chariot, relishing Horus' predicament...

ANAT
He's no falcon.

ASTARTE
Leave a piece for me.

Astarte HANDS THE REINS to Anat... and DISMOUNTS at a run...

Astarte HEADS INTO THE RUINS after the others, using her own FLUTE to call the White Cobra to her...

HORUS

Pulls one arm FREE as the Black Cobra STRIKES --

Horus HAMMERS the Cobra's FANG with his FIST. The force of the blow SNAPS OFF the giant tooth. The Black Cobra RECOILS, leaking venom from the broken stump.

Horus sees Anat steer the CHARIOT around for another run... He can't DISENTANGLE from loosened coils fast enough...

Anat raise her AXE. This time she'll have Horus' head...

BEK

JUMPS from a high wall ONTO THE MOVING CHARIOT --

Death defying. Bek shoulders Anat's arm, so that she MISSES Horus with the axe...

Anat SLICES at Bek... Bek GRABS THE REINS and PULLS --

The HORSES dig in. The Chariot BRAKES HARD -- Anat and Bek are both THROWN FREE...

HORUS

Finally ESCAPES the Black Cobra's coils... Picks up its BROKEN FANG...

BEK

Lays on the ground, stunned.

Anat gets to her feet, unfazed by the tumble. Raises her axe high over Bek... ready to separate his head from his body...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

ANAT

(to Bek)

Be honored. I'll keep your skull
as a souvenir.

Suddenly Anat looks down: the Cobra's FANG protrudes from her chest.

Anat FALLS DEAD. Horus stands behind her holding the fang like a sword. One goddess down.

Bek and Horus catch their breath. It's obvious to both that they make a good team... but being men, neither say anything.

BEK

(pointing behind Horus)

Um --

The Black Cobra REARS UP over Horus, its malice bent toward the one who hurt it. Horus ZIGZAGS into the ruins, the giant serpent in PURSUIT...

ASTARTE AND THE WHITE COBRA

Nose through the fog... Find

Hathor, alone. Unarmed. Seemingly helpless.

ASTARTE

Pretty girl. You don't belong in
battle.

Astarte blows a sharp tone on her FLUTE... The White Cobra bares its fangs, dripping liquid fire...

ASTARTE

Burn her.

Hathor STARES into the reptile's eyes...

HATHOR

(to the Cobra)

What a beautiful creature you are.

The Cobra's pupils WIDEN, hypnotized. Astarte frantically BLOWS the Flute, but the White Cobra isn't listening now...

ASTARTE

(to the Cobra)

Burn her --

HATHOR

No.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The giant snake FREEZES in place, in Hathor's control.

Astarte CHARGES Hathor in a fury --

Hathor defiantly holds her ground. We've never seen this side of her. Strong. Angry. Powerful.

HATHOR

You think I'm not a fighter? I
just don't like getting my hands
dirty.

Hathor flicks a finger as if she had a speck under the nail --

At Hathor's command, the White Cobra VOMITS AN INFERNO on Astarte. She desperately blows into her Flute... It's BURNED AWAY a second before she is.

The White Cobra then rakes a stream of fire across its own skin. INCINERATES itself to please its Mistress Hathor.

One cobra and one more goddess down, but Hathor collapses from the strain...

HORUS

Scrambles up onto the giant stone head of Osiris... as the Black Cobra hunts him through the fog...

Horus LEAPS ONTO the Black Cobra's WRITHING BODY, gripping the scales. The Cobra furiously thrashes, trying to shake him -- while Horus CLIMBS hand over hand onto its HEAD...

As he's whipping around, Horus spots his SPEAR -- it's punched through a monolith of stone, STUCK TIGHT. Its sharp point sticks out the other side...

Horus STRIKES a blow between the Black Cobra's inky eyes. Dazing it. Horus wrestles the Cobra backwards... A controlled fall, guided by Horus -- STRAIGHT ONTO THE TIP OF HIS SPEAR.

The Cobra's own weight drives the spear through its skull, which BURSTS into a bubbling mass of fire...

Horus drops to the ground. Tired, dirty, victorious.

HORUS

I am Horus, son of Osiris, and I
will never be overthrown.

Thoth RUSHES UP, playing a HOMEMADE FLUTE he carved from a branch... Then he sees the battle is over.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

THOTH

Oh.
 (off his flute)
 This would have worked.

HORUS

(concerned)
 Hathor?

THOTH

Fine. Tired. She killed the other
 one with greater ease than you.

Horus shrugs as he wrestles his spear out of the rock...

THOTH

And your mortal?

HORUS

Capable, as always.

THOTH

Yes, about that. I was thinking --

HORUS

Always thinking.

THOTH

...if we do vanquish Set, all the
 artifacts his power has raised up
 will fall down.

HORUS

Good riddance.

THOTH

Set's pyramid is made of sand.
 We'll be standing under it.

HORUS

So we'll dig out.

THOTH

How will the human survive?

Horus avoids Thoth's gaze.

THOTH

Evidently you've already considered
 this.

WE REVEAL BEK, listening from the other side of a statue...
 Neither of them knows he's there.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

HORUS
I'll shield him.

THOTH
That might work. Might not. You
should tell him.

HORUS
And if he declines to take the
risk? We can't get in without him.

THOTH
I just believe the truth should
always be told.

HORUS
(hard)
I'm standing on my father's grave
and my mother's tears. I will have
justice.

ON BEK. Rocked by betrayal. So that's how it's going to be.

BEK
(under his breath)
You'll never get your justice.

BACK AT THE CHARIOT

Bek EASES toward the HORSES, who bare their teeth at him. He
takes FIGS from his pack, tosses one to each horse.

BEK
(patting their neck)
You know the way to Heliopolis?

Hathor comes up behind Bek as he gets on the Chariot.

HATHOR
What are you doing?

BEK
Ask Horus.

Hathor sighs sadly. It doesn't take a genius to do the math.

HATHOR
I could stop you...

Bek puts his hand on Hathor's arm. Squeezes it with emotion.

BEK
You won't.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Hathor watches the Chariot ACCELERATE AWAY, faster than the speed of sound...

ONBOARD THE CHARIOT

Bek holds tight as the world RUSHES BY in a hallucinatory trail of light...

Bek glances down at his palm: he stole Hathor's Bracelet of Forty-Two Stars.

EXT. GREAT OBELISK - DAY

Zaya labors to complete the Obelisk amongst the thousands...

The Older Woman just can't keep pace... The Cruel Overseer raises his baton to deliver additional motivation...

CRUEL OVERSEER
(to the Older Woman)
You don't stop.

Zaya KICKS the Overseer from behind. She staved off the Older Woman's punishment, but now Zaya's facing a beating...

ZAYA
(to the Overseer)
Do what you have to. I did.

Before the Overseer can strike Zaya... he's HOISTED INTO THE AIR, raised up the Obelisk like a flag up a pole --

LOOKING CLOSER, there's a rope hooked to the Overseer's belt. He SHOUTS OUT, dangling from up high, drawing everyone's attention --

BEK
Hey.

Zaya turns to see Bek standing next to her. She gasps.

BEK
(off the Overseer)
Pretty good distraction if you
didn't even notice me...

There's no time to celebrate their reunion. Zaya rubs her shoulder. The brand's still there.

ZAYA
Set's not dead...

Bek puts Hathor's bracelet on Zaya's wrist...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BEK
Doesn't matter.

Bek leads her away, heads down, while everyone else's eyes are on the Overseer...

URSHU AT THE PAVILION

Sees the disorder in the slave area... But Urshu is not so easily fooled. He looks elsewhere...

...and spots Bek and Zaya. They're headed toward the Gate.

BEK AND ZAYA

Reach the threshold of the gate. Bek RUNS PAST. Zaya STOPS, afraid. Stepping past will trigger the curse...

BEK
Trust me.

Zaya closes her eyes... and WALKS OUT OF THE GATE... Immediately, the BRAND on Zaya's shoulder BLOOMS WITH DECAY --

ZAYA
Bek...

The bracelet SHINES BRIGHT, repelling the dark corruption and completely ERASING THE BRAND.

Zaya's eyes go wide with wonderment. Her curse is lifted.

BEK
Told you I'd save you.

They JUMP IN the waiting chariot --

FSSST. What was that sound? One of the horses snorting, ready to speed them away?

BEK
(turns to Zaya)
Let's go...

Bek sees an ARROW buried in Zaya's chest.

ZAYA
I...

She sinks onto the chariot floor.

BEK
Zaya?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

For a moment that seems endless, Bek doesn't know what to do.

URSHU AT THE PAVILION

Stands with a BOW. He coldly notches another ARROW and shoots again --

BEK IN THE CHARIOT

WHISPERS into the horse's ear. They TAKE OFF --

Urshu's second arrow IMPACTS A WALL where the chariot was. Now just swirling dust.

Bek cradles Zaya in his arms in the moving chariot. The world around them a blur.

EXT. RED DESERT - DAY

Horus stalks forward, furious. They've now reached the RED SANDS of Set's land... Hathor and Thoth lag behind.

HORUS

He'll meet the fate earned by all traitors.

HATHOR

You could have averted this.

HORUS

I'll do it without him.

Thoth is about to contradict this falsehood... then thinks better of it.

THE CHARIOT speeds out of nowhere. Comes to a HALT.

HORUS

(to Bek, livid)

If you've come to beg, you may begin.

BEK

Can you help her?

The gods see Zaya barely clinging to life. Thoth examines her... but it's clear to Horus her condition is dire.

Hathor gives Zaya a sip from her wineskin.

HATHOR

I can take away her pain.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Zaya relaxes, soothed by Hathor's drink. But her breathing is shallow. She's fading...

ZAYA
 (to Bek)
 I'm glad we're together.

Zaya's eyes close... A final exhale...

BEK
 I can't feel her heart...
 (to Horus)
 Save her.

HORUS
 We can't.

ON HORUS. He knows what he needs to do.

HORUS
 (in a quiet voice)
 Come to me, O Mighty Isis.

A mournful CRY pierces the air. A majestic bird, a KITE, swoops down, transforming into

ISIS. The wife of Osiris stands before them in all her majesty. The gods take a knee before her... Isis turns up her nose at Hathor like she's a cheap tramp.

ISIS
 (to Horus)
 By what right do you summon me?
 The one who widowed me remains upon
 my husband's throne.

HORUS
 I know.

Isis rests her palm on Horus' empty eye, disapproving.

ISIS
 How I wish I had other sons who
 could honor their father, but Set
 robbed us of them before they could
 be born. I only have you.

Isis finally notices Bek. He's distraught, beside the body of the woman he loves.

HORUS
 Help him, mother.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Bek bows before Isis, tear-streaked face in the dirt. It's heart-rending.

BEK

Please...

Isis sees Bek's tears... and her own eyes well with emotion.

Isis cradles Zaya in the crook of her arm, gently plucks out the arrow. Isis cups her hand to her own mouth, and exhales life into her palm. It's BRIGHT as the noon sun.

Isis presses her life-force into Zaya's chest. The wound seals. Zaya seems to glow from within... Isis WHISPERS into her ear, gentle but insistent...

Bek silently prays...

The glow fades from Zaya's body. Isis turns sadly to Bek...

ISIS

She has passed beyond where I can reach her.

BEK

But you're a goddess...

Isis' shoulders sag under the weight of another defeat. Another death.

Horus' fists clench with helpless grief. Hathor tears up. Thoth bows his head in respect.

Bek sits in the dirt, staring vacantly. He's empty.

Isis removes her own silky cape to wrap the dead Zaya, cocooning her in a BURIAL SHROUD worthy of a god.

ISIS

May she find the joy denied to us.

Isis transforms and FLIES AWAY, alone once more.

Bek hands Hathor the bracelet he stole...

BEK

Punish me.

HATHOR

That's not what I do.

Horus PUNCHES a nearby cliff side... creating a small CAVE.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

HORUS
She needs to be buried.

INT. ZAYA'S TOMB

The proper burial HIEROGLYPHICS are inscribed on the cave's walls. Zaya's wrapped body is laid in state.

Thoth waves incense... The smoke does not rise. It burrows into the earth...

THOTH
O thou who art Everlasting, send
your servant Anubis to guide the
dead to new life.

A PASSAGE OPENS in the SMOKY VEIL cloaking the floor...

ANUBIS

Rises. The intimidating guide to the Afterlife. A JACKAL'S HEAD with fur black as the grave. A man's body, taut and sinewy. Yet his eyes are strangely calming, promising absolute peace.

ON BEK. Unnerved...

Anubis nods to the gods, who return the courtesy.

Hathor puts her BRACELET on Zaya's wrist.

BEK
You would give her that?

HATHOR
Of course.

Anubis touches the bracelet, and a SMOKY OUTLINE OF THE TREASURE flows down into the passage...

ANUBIS
(to Zaya's body)
She is made mighty before Ra. She
shall enter the hidden gate with
power.

Anubis reaches into the shrouded body as if it were intangible, and PULLS OUT ZAYA by the hand.

ANUBIS
(to Zaya's body)
You are released.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

At first glance, Zaya seems alive... but her skin has a smoky movement to it as well...

BEK

Zaya --

But Zaya can't hear him. She can only see that which lies before her...

ANUBIS

The doors of earth are opened to you.

Anubis leads Zaya DOWN THE PASSAGE opened in the floor... The path tunnels into the darkness of ANOTHER DIMENSION...

TWELVE GATES mark the path -- ancient arches hewn from stone older than time. Each Gate must be passed to reach the warm, bright LIGHT at the end.

ON BEK. The light is beautiful, beckoning in the distance...

Anubis LEADS Zaya by the hand toward the First Gate...

ON HORUS, looking at Bek losing his love forever... There must be something he can do... Maybe there is.

HORUS

Anubis, who directs your path?

ANUBIS

He who wears the crown of Egypt rules all Egypt.

HORUS

If I take the crown from Set, I can command you to turn back?

ANUBIS

If I have not yet escorted her through the Twelfth Gate, she may return. But no one may leave the Afterlife once entered.

BEK

How long?

ANUBIS

The journey takes twelve hours, one for every hour of the night.

HORUS

Do me a favor. Walk slowly.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ANUBIS

As slowly as I dare.

The smoke BLOWS AWAY, erasing the passage. Zaya is gone.

HORUS

(to Bek)

If Set is slain before Zaya reaches her journey's end, I can bring her back to you.

ON BEK. A rush of determination. And hope.

EXT. RED DESERT - DAY

Horus, Bek, Hathor and Thoth trudge through a SANDSTORM... Can't see more than a few inches in front of them...

All at once the storm CLEARS as they reach the calm eye in the center of this hurricane...

SET'S TEMPLE

A massive PYRAMID. It seems smooth and sharp-edged... but it's made of blood red SAND held together by Set's magic.

The Pyramid's surface is in constant motion, as if each grain of sand were alive... The grinding movement is as deafening as a waterfall.

They MOVE CLOSE enough for grains of sand to spit off and bite their cheeks... but Bek can't see any visible openings.

Then the sand parts, opening a DOORWAY into the Pyramid... After a moment it's erased. ANOTHER DOOR OPENS, then CLOSES... A repeating invitation...

HATHOR

I was here once...

BEK

Did you go in one of those doors?

HATHOR

It was late. I was drunk.

Hathor would rather not talk about it...

HATHOR

Set told me to keep close or I'd never get out. I thought I was going to be crushed, but I followed him to a big metal wheel...

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HATHOR (CONT'D)

He turned it, and just like that,
everything went still.

ON BEK. How to get in? The Pyramid's doors continually OPEN and CLOSE... Beckoning just long enough to seem like a real option...

BEK

(to Horus)

How long have we got?

Horus focuses his eye beyond our earthly realm...

HORUS' P.O.V. Zaya and Anubis walk under another arch on the Afterlife path...

HORUS

She passes the Eleventh Gate. Be quick.

Bek studies the pattern of doors opening and closing... He sees the answer. Maybe.

BEK

Ever seen the shell game?

(they haven't)

We mortals use it to swindle coins from fools. Three shells, pick the right one and you win. Only you can't win. It's fixed.

Bek hopes he's right...

BEK

See you inside.

Bek IGNORES the opening and closing doors. Instead, Bek SPRINTS straight at the Pyramid's WALL --

Hathor grips Horus' wrist -- she thinks Bek's going to die --

Bek RUNS THROUGH THE WALL like a knife through a red wound --

INT. SET'S TEMPLE OF SHIFTING SAND

Bek's in a cavernous, disorienting SPACE out of M.C. Escher's nightmares. Millions of tons of sand flowing in a mad architecture of ARCHWAYS, STAIRWAYS and BRIDGES... Forming into SOLID STONE for a moment... than reverting back into rivers of sand.

Ahead, Bek sees THE WHEEL Hathor mentioned -- the mechanism that shuts off the Pyramid's shifting sand.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The Wheel is the only thing not moving, attached to a solid post like the steering wheel on a ship.

Bek feels a rush of euphoria. Maybe this is going to work --
The floor begins to DISINTEGRATE underfoot --

A FLIGHT OF STAIRS sails past... No time to think about it. He LEAPS ONTO THE STAIRS... BOUNDS UP as steps MELT behind him...

At the top, Bek has a choice between TWO identical BRIDGES straddling the swirling space... But which one?

BEK
Roll the bones...

Bek SPRINTS onto one BRIDGE... as the other BRIDGE is SWEEP AWAY in an eddy of sand. Lucky, lucky. He's still alive, but this is not sustainable.

Bek LEAPS from SOLID ROCK to SOLID ROCK... He glimpses the Wheel through the flowing maze. Before it's gobbled up again, Bek JUMPS OFF THE EDGE --

ONTO A STONE ARCH. He holds on... riding the arch like a wave. Just before it crumbles he JUMPS one last time...

FALLING through the red void --

Bek GRABS onto the Wheel for dear life. BUFFETED on all sides... Bek won't let go. He manages to CRANK the WHEEL --

All at once the sand of Set's Pyramid turns SOLID --

Horus, Hathor and Thoth ENTER from a HALLWAY that's now just normal stone.

HORUS
(slaps Bek on the back)
Well done.

THOTH
(cracks his knuckles)
Which way to the Sphinx?

INT. INNER CHAMBER - SET'S PYRAMID

Horus, Hathor, Thoth and Bek ENTER a great CHAMBER. Lit from below by flickering FIRELIGHT.

Horus girds himself, spear raised... as SOMETHING HUGE emerges from the shadows:

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

THE SPHINX

Stares down. The head of an implacable man in royal headdress, atop the fearsome body of a lion. Golden fur rippling. Spiked tail swaying...

THE SPHINX

Trespassers in the house of the king, answer my riddle or cease to be.

Horus confronts the Sphinx himself.

HORUS

Why do you serve that murderous backstabber?

THE SPHINX

A riddle for me, son of Osiris?
(answers matter-of-fact)
I serve the king.

HORUS

You were created to serve Egypt.

THE SPHINX

Egypt and the King are one.
(beat)
Now answer my riddle, or cease to be.

THOTH

Go on. I'm waiting.

The Sphinx focuses its menace on Thoth. Asks its riddle:

THE SPHINX

I never was, am always to be.
No one ever saw me, nor ever will.
And yet I am the confidence of all
who live and breathe.
(beat)
What am I?

Seconds tick by as Thoth thinks... Horus, Bek and Hathor wait...

THOTH

(with certainty)
Order. You are order.

The Sphinx ATTACKS Thoth, blindingly fast --

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Horus GRAPPLES the Sphinx, fur in his fists, barely preventing Thoth's decapitation. Hathor and Bek dodge the Sphinx's WHIPPING TAIL...

HORUS
(to Thoth)
Try... again... please...

THOTH
That was a completely suitable answer.
(to the Sphinx)
You are... purity.

Wrong. The Sphinx SLAMS Horus into the wall with earthquake force.

Thoth racks his brain. Rattled now, off his game.

THOTH
"I never was, am always to be. No one ever saw me, nor ever will."
(stream of consciousness)
In the future. Nonexistent. Yet it exists. Ephemeral. Imaginary.

Horus braces his forearm under the beast's chin, JAWS inches from his face... Its tail LASHES HIM... Horus can't keep this up long... Hathor and Bek can only watch...

THOTH
"And yet I am the confidence of all who live and breathe." Live and breathe... Live and breathe...

BEK
Stop thinking like a god.

THOTH
(snaps)
Then I might as well stop thinking.

Thoth glances at Bek. Clarity coming...

THOTH
What is the confidence of mortals?
Their lives are so short, but their hope remains undimmed for... for...

The Sphinx finally FLINGS Horus aside... It rears up, ready to slay Thoth --

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

THOTH
(answers the riddle)
You are tomorrow.

The Sphinx sinks to all fours and TURNS TO STONE. Do we detect relief on its face? Fairly defeated, it no longer must serve Set.

THOTH
Ha! I am Thoth, God of Knowledge,
Master of Truth.

Horus advances to

A VOLCANIC PIT. It seems to go down forever. It is the primordial fire that begat the desert sands...

Horus kneels at the edge and unslings his flask, filled with WATER OF CREATION...

BEK
Do it.

Horus POURS the water into the pit... In moments, the fire will be doused, and Set's power with it...

But the water merely splashes onto SOLID GROUND. Wasted.

HORUS
(confused)
What?

Where's the pit? The room seems to warp...

Horus staggers, his senses CONFOUNDED... Bek and Hathor are DISORIENTED, too... Horus realizes they're in a trap.

HORUS
He's here.

ON THOTH. He stops short, stunned:

Set stands before him. He appeared out of nowhere.

SET
You are Thoth, God of Fools.

Set magically punches his hand through Thoth's forehead and pulls out his BRAIN. Thoth's essence looks like smooth blue LAPIS in Set's hand. Thoth crumples, BABBLING NONSENSE.

Horus squints in Set's direction... unable to get a bead on him. Set's POWER OF CONFUSION has addled his sight...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

SET
 (to Horus)
 Thank you. You lured Thoth from
 his library so I didn't have to.

Set secures Thoth's brain into its place on his HELMET.

SET
 The final piece.

Set stands back and beholds his terrible masterpiece. The
 ARMOR gleams with the spellbinding power of the gods.

HORUS
 Why steal so much power? You're
 already stronger than anyone,
 except...
 (realizing, alarmed)
 Ra.

For this is Set's true target...

SET
 Ra had two sons... but he only
 granted one the power to give life.
 (bitterly)
 Unlike Osiris, I can never have a
 child. My children are nothing but
 wind and sand.

Horus has to snap himself out of Set's spell... He slides
 his palm down the BLADE of his SPEAR. Welcoming the PAIN...

SET
 You are a failure, but at least my
 brother had someone to seek
 vengeance in his name. All I am
 will end with me... So I choose
 never to end. I will take Ra's
 place in eternity.

The pain allows Horus to see Set clearly:

Set seizes Hathor and drags her to the actual pit --

Horus THROWS HIS SPEAR at Set -- the best aim he can muster --
 But it only glances Set's cheek.

SET
 (to Hathor)
 I'll miss the wine.

Set FLINGS Hathor OVER THE EDGE OF THE PIT --

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

HORUS

No --

Horus DIVES after her --

INTO THE PIT

FALLING... Horus GRABS Hathor, both plummeting toward the FIRE at the center of the world.

Horus GRABS a jutting ledge of STONE. Horus and Hathor hang on for their very existence...

HATHOR

(to Horus)

Don't let go...

SET ABOVE THEM

Casually glances down... Horus hugs Hathor to his chest... KICKS a TOEHOLD. JAMS FINGERS into STONE. He CLIMBS, inch by inch... But it's clear he's already lost.

BEK

Leans his shoulder against Set's armor, pushing it to the edge of the pit... It totters precariously. Another shove and it'll fall in.

BEK

(to Set)

This important to you?

Bek has Set's undivided attention.

SET

Stop.

(re: Horus)

Why would you fight a god's war?

BEK

Maybe he's my friend...

SET

Or maybe you have a deal with him.

(probing)

The girl who walks with Anubis?

Set can see he's right.

SET

It's too late.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BEK
You're lying.

SET
Look into the Eye.

Bek stares into the "Eye of Horus" GEMSTONE on the Helmet... Its magic allows Bek to see into the beyond...

BEK'S P.O.V. Set is telling the truth. Anubis guides Zaya through the Twelfth and final Gate. She DISAPPEARS into the light of the Afterlife.

Bek is undone by sadness, the ARMOR SLIPPING in his grip...

SET
Spare my armor, and I will help you.

BEK
(hollow)
You can't.

SET
No King of Egypt can bring her back, now or ever... But I can make you wealthy enough to buy your way into the Afterlife.
(beat)
Only there can you be reunited with your love.

ON HORUS, down in the pit... still a long way to climb...

HORUS
(shouts up to Bek)
Don't.

ON BEK. In the depths of despair, he makes his choice:
Bek pulls the armor back from the edge and gives it to Set.

SET
Unlike some, my oath is good.

ON HORUS. His anger at Bek blazes hot as the fire below.

HORUS
You white-livered mortal...

SET ABOVE

Stands beside Bek. Bek's shoulders bow. A broken man.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Set waves his hand -- and a WALL DISSIPATES... Revealing a HOARD OF TREASURE.

SET
My temple shall be your burial
chamber. Now you may pay Anubis,
and find the way open.

Set hands Bek a bejeweled DAGGER... Bek stares at it numbly.

SET
If you haven't the stomach for it,
just wait a moment...

Set gestures at the roof. Obeying his spell, the Pyramid SHUDDERS. In a few minutes it will collapse...

Set EXITS with his ARMOR.

ON BEK. Forlorn. Fine showers of sand already falling...

BEK
(bitterly, off the
treasure)
Always wanted a big funeral.

Bek positions the knife over his heart... None of this is right and he knows it...

BEK
(to himself)
Just close your eyes and do it.

Bek puts everything out of his mind. Stop thinking about what you've done... Countdown to suicide: three, two...

Horus SWATS away the knife before Bek can drive it in --

The Son of Osiris BURNS, wreathed in the FIRE of his anger.

HORUS
You denied me my vengeance...

HATHOR
Horus, don't --

Horus SHOVES the treasure INTO THE PIT. It melts to nothingness. With this vindictive act, Horus denies Bek the Afterlife.

HORUS
(to Bek)
You will never see your love now.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Horus is surprised Bek does not rage back, or plead. But Bek has something to get off his chest.

BEK

The night I lost Zaya to the slavers, I didn't know what to do. I was lost. So I called out to you. To save her. And me.

(beat)

Growing up, I thought you were the bravest thing in all creation. So I hated you for not coming to our rescue.

Horus doesn't know how to react to this...

HORUS

I didn't hear.

BEK

No, you didn't listen.

A section of the ceiling falls behind them... Soon the whole place will come tumbling down... Bek sits and waits to die.

BEK

(despairing)

I've finally learned the lesson of the gods. We don't matter to you. Even if we wish we did.

ON HORUS. Profoundly moved. Here is this mortal, so fragile and yet so strong. But the selfish actions of the gods -- especially Horus -- have crushed Bek's spirit.

Horus' anger subsides. The flames WITHER AWAY. Molten sand cools to red glass.

HORUS

You do matter.

Horus humbly TAKES A KNEE before Bek.

HORUS

I am sorry.

ON BEK. Of all the improbable things he's seen, Horus on bended knee is the least likely.

HORUS

Perhaps one day you'll forgive me.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

BEK

We've both made mistakes.

Avalanches of sand COMING DOWN all around them now...

HORUS

Then there's much we still must do.
But first, I swear you will not be
buried here.

Horus spots the GIANT WHEEL through crumbling walls... and
TEARS IT OFF ITS POST. Hathor scoops up Thoth's body...

Horus holds the Wheel over their heads like a shield...

HORUS

Stay close --

The entire Pyramid of sand comes CRASHING DOWN around them --

ON HORUS, muscles straining against the thundering
downpour... Until we can see only RED.

EXT. GREAT OBELISK - HELIOPOLIS - SUNSET

The Great Obelisk stands like a colossal stone sword. Now
FINISHED, stabbing the heavens...

Set is pleased. Urshu, the Overseers, and thousands of
Slaves bow before him.

SET

(addressing the Slaves)

Your task is complete at the hour I
demanded. You have earned a great
honor.

Overseers force the Slaves INSIDE THE OBELISK...

SET

You will serve me for eternity.

Set slides a massive slab across the door, sealing them in.

INSIDE THE OBELISK

Slaves POUND desperately against unyielding stone. Enveloped
in DARKNESS. The Older Woman Slave drops to her knees...

OLDER WOMAN SLAVE

(praying)

Hail Horus, Son of Osiris, he with
golden eyes like the noonday sun.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

OLDER WOMAN SLAVE (CONT'D)

We are your followers. Please
deliver us.

HOPELESS MAN

Why pray? He isn't coming.

EXT. TOP OF THE OBELISK - SUNSET

At the Obelisk's high peak, the evening sky's purple canopy
is close enough to touch...

Set fastens his ARMOR. Dons his helmet. Extends his wings.

As the SUN dips to the horizon... Ra's boat sails ABOVE him.

Set LAUNCHES himself off the Obelisk. FLIES like a GLIDER...
Air currents silently lift his wings through the darkening
sky, toward Ra's boat...

EXT. RA'S BOAT - DUSK

Ra cranks out the last links of the chain to the sun...
letting his boat drift into DARKNESS. He stands at the bow,
spear ready...

Set LANDS quietly behind Ra... and pulls his cloak around
himself to conceal the armor.

Set gazes down at the shimmering NILE...

SET

(off the view)

It was never supposed to be so
green.

Ra turns at Set's voice -- surprised to see him.

RA

Set. It must have taken great
effort to get up here. You always
were clever.

SET

How else could we speak? You do
not let your feet touch Egypt's
sand.

RA

Your contendings with Horus are not
my concern. Leave me to prepare
for my nightly chore.

Movement in the deep as Ra's boat nears the demon Apophis...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SET

You have nothing more to say? Much history has been written since last we spoke.

RA

You came all this way to hear my words? Hear them then, and carry them in your heart.

(harsh)

If my feet were on Egypt's sand, Osiris would not have been the son who died.

ON SET. It cuts deep, even after all that's come to pass.

The echo of Apophis' starved GROWL shakes the boat...

RA

(to Set)

Now go. The hour comes for me to turn back chaos.

SET

Why?

Set brandishes his scepter... Ra turns on Set with fury...

RA

You raise your arm against me?

Ra STRIKES the upstart Set with a BLAST OF SOLAR FIRE from his spear.

BURNING LIGHT envelops Set... Ra watches with emotion the seeming death of his son at his own hand.

But as the light dims, Set REMAINS STANDING.

RA

No god could withstand that...

SET

I'm not just one god.

Set's cloak has burned away, revealing the ARMOR beneath... the jeweled body parts still hot with Ra's light.

Set HAMMERS Ra with his scepter --

Ra tumbles OFF THE BOAT, stunned, into the OCEAN OF DARKNESS...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SET
Apophis, quench your thirst.

The darkness UNCOILS...

EXT. RED DESERT - NIGHT

A FIST punches up from the sand...

Horus RISES, helps up Hathor. Bek behind them. They all gulp in cool night air.

The STONE SPHINX is revealed, half-buried, rising from the desert floor... Where it can still be seen to this day.

What looks like a BRIGHT STAR falls from the heavens... Ra.

HATHOR
(re: Set)
He did it.

At the far rim of the world, a BLACKNESS darker than night is brewing...

INT. GREAT OBELISK - NIGHT

The Older Woman Slave still prays... Around her, moans and the occasional sob. The air in the Obelisk is running out.

OLDER WOMAN SLAVE
(weakly)
Hail Horus, Son of Osiris... He with golden eyes like the noonday sun... We are your... followers. Please...

From outside, a FIST hammers through the stone... LIGHT pours in... Slaves blink at the radiance...

HORUS
(from outside)
I hear you...

OUTSIDE THE OBELISK

Horus smashes OPEN the DOOR...

HORUS
...and you shall be freed.

Bek watches the Slaves RUN OUT OF THE OBELISK... their faces shining with gratitude.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BEK

That was a great thing you did.

HORUS

I did what any king would do for his people.

ON BEK. Did Horus just say "king?"

BEK

Thought you didn't want to be king?

HORUS

(clasps Bek's shoulder)
I just hadn't gotten to know my people.

Horus radiates a power and grandeur Bek's never seen in him before.

HORUS

(off the Slaves)
They won't truly be free until Set's curse is cleansed from their flesh.

Apophis' infernal ROAR makes the ground tremble. Unnatural night cloaks the horizon. This thing of nightmares travels in a HAZE OF DARKNESS. Approaching fast...

BEK

What is it?

HORUS

Apophis. The Demon of Chaos. It's drawn to the Nile, the source of all life.

BEK

Why?

HORUS

To drink it.

Bek looks around at lush, green Egypt... His home. He pales at the thought of its destruction.

HORUS

Only Ra can banish Apophis.
(pointing)
But he needs that.

RA'S SPEAR sticks up from the center of an IMPACT CRATER.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

HORUS

If we return his spear to him,
he'll be revived.

The SOUND OF BEATING WINGS overhead...

Set DESCENDS from the sky... BLOCKING Bek and Horus from Ra's spear.

Set's surprised Horus is alive -- but not that surprised.

SET

You could have gone peacefully into
the fire.

(to Bek)

And you rejected my gift.

Behind Set, Urshu leads a CADRE OF SOLDIERS to Ra's Spear...
Urshu wrenches the heavy spear from the ground...

SET

(to Urshu)

Take it into the Obelisk. Ten
mountains-worth of stone will bury
Ra's spear forever.

Urshu heaves Ra's Spear over his shoulder, carries it TOWARD
THE OBELISK. The rest of the Soldiers flank their god...

...as Set readies his scepter to take on Horus.

HORUS

(to Bek)

Get the spear.

BEK

(off Set)

He'll kill you.

HORUS

Not right away.

(a farewell)

You're a good man.

Bek SPRINTS after Urshu...

Apophis' ROAR rattles the world. The blackness blotting the
horizon takes SERPENTINE FORM...

Set comes at Horus, scepter swinging. Horus PARRIES --

But Set is stronger since they last fought. And Horus
weaker. The force of Set's BLOWS knocks Horus to his knees.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

SET

You overestimate yourself. I suppose the son always becomes the father.

HORUS

Not always.

Set cocks back for another brutal swing --

Suddenly Set's own Soldiers attack him. Harmless, yet distracting as a swarm of flies.

SET

(angrily, to his Soldiers)
What are you thinking?

HATHOR

Maybe they've finally realized what a jackass you are.

ON HATHOR, nearby. She's using her power of suggestion to control Set's Soldiers like marionettes.

Set KNOCKS ASIDE his mesmerized Soldiers... but it allows Horus precious seconds to get to his feet...

HORUS

(to Hathor)
Get back --

Too late. Set SLAMS Hathor with his scepter. At the sight of his fallen beloved, Horus' rage explodes.

HORUS

If you've killed her...

Horus rushes to Hathor's side. She's alive, but unconscious.

SET

I won't until I've had her one last time. We'll use your corpse for a bed.

EMANATING HEAT, Horus CHARGES Set --

Set OVERTURNS a big URN from among the stockpile of building supplies. LIQUID flows across Horus' path...

It's OIL. Set smirks. He's baited Horus once again.

SET

Burn.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

A flood of oil that could light a thousand lamps now splashes across Horus' scalding feet... His anger sparks a small FLOWER OF FLAME. The fire licks the surface... GROWING...

Horus takes a breath. Bek's words echoing in his head...

HORUS
(to himself)
Remember who you are...

Horus cools. To Set's dismay, Horus presses his palm on the growing flame... and EXTINGUISHES it.

SET
Aren't you angry? Surely your mother's cries still echo in your ears? Your father's sundered corpse still stains your mind?

HORUS
Today I'm not a son avenging his father.
(beat)
I'm a king protecting his people.

SET
You're not king yet.

Horus ATTACKS. Drives Set down a LOADING CANAL used for ferrying blocks of limestone... All the way to the

DOCKS ON THE SHORE OF THE NILE

Hundreds of BOATS here -- all abandoned now.

Horus JABS Set in the chest. Set staggers... But in his armor, Set cannot be harmed.

SET
Angry or calm, it makes no difference. It's too late now.

Horus watches in horror as the FOREST on the FAR SHORE SHAKES... Trees uprooted...

THE DEMON APOPHIS

Slithers INTO THE NILE, sending WAVES crashing ashore...

A wall of water SWEEPS Horus and Set ONTO A SAILBOAT.

Apophis begins to DRINK the Nile. Its gargantuan MOUTH sucking in water like a vortex into hell.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

Horus and Set's boat is PULLED AWAY FROM SHORE by the current, along with EVERY BOAT ON THE RIVER...

INT. GREAT OBELISK - HELIOPOLIS

Bek ENTERS the Obelisk's PITCH BLACK cavernous space...

He can hear Urshu's FOOTSTEPS ahead... then the quiet echoing of a CRANKED LEVER --

An ominous RUMBLE... Whether by machination, magic, or both... the Obelisk is starting to FALL.

SHAFTS OF LIGHT angle through CRACKS in the miles-high interior... As the light increases, Bek notices he stands amongst ROPES ON PULLEYS, hanging like cables to the stars...

Bek spots Urshu in the center of the Obelisk... Urshu places Ra's Spear on the floor and awaits his doom...

BEK

You picked the wrong god to follow.

URSHU

Oh? Horus is out there dying.

Chunks of stone RAIN DOWN around them...

BEK

So will you.

URSHU

I'm the richest man in Egypt. Soon I'll be in the Afterlife. But you'll be nowhere.

Urshu grins at Bek as a massive piece of stone PLUMMETS down at them --

Bek grabs a rope and SWINGS... PLUCKS Ra's Spear off the floor in the nick time --

Urshu is CRUSHED.

Bek, Ra's spear in hand, runs for the EXIT...

HORUS AND SET ON THE RIVER

DUEL on the out-of-control sailboat...

Every time Apophis SWALLOWS, it pulls their sailboat a little closer to its giant maw...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HUNDREDS OF BOATS clog the river, all COLLIDING... A growing LOGJAM drawn inexorably toward destruction...

Horus' spear sends up SPARKS every time it glances off Set's impenetrable armor...

SET

Why keep fighting?

Horus is flagging... None of his blows matter.

A Galleon SMASHES into the sailboat, as boats PILE ON TOP OF ONE ANOTHER in the diminishing space --

Apophis' GAPING MOUTH rises over them like a black hole --

Horus TRANSFORMS into a Falcon... FLIES OFF THE SAILBOAT just before it's EATEN by the Demon.

Wings beating to ESCAPE the gale force draft, the Falcon barely makes it --

BACK TO SHORE

A SCEPTER slams the Falcon OUT OF THE SKY -- wielded by SET in his FLYING ARMOR.

The Falcon CRASHES... TRANSFORMING back into the shape of a battered man.

SET

(savagely)

I want you to hurt. Because they all loved you, no matter what you did...

ON BEK. Watching helplessly...

Set hefts his Scepter two-handed... Brings it down upon Horus with such force the earth SPLITS beneath him. Horus lies stunned...

SET

No matter that you were not worthy.

Bek desperately RUSHES Set, a meaningless attack --

Set SEIZES Bek by the THROAT, holds the mortal close.

SET

You could have been in the next life with a gentle breeze at your cheek.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BEK

I wanted to give you back your dagger.

Bek STABS Set with the bejeweled dagger --

BEK

For Horus.

The dagger melts against the god's armor like butter.

Set SWATS Bek aside with an awful crack --

Bek lands in a heap, fragile bones shattered. Horus kneels by him.

HORUS

"For Horus?"

BEK

(painfully chuckles)

Too much?

They clasp hands. Brothers in this battle for creation. Horus wheels on Set, raises his spear --

Set looks upon Horus... But something's different:

Horus is looking at him with both his eyes.

ON BEK, smiling through the pain.

QUICK FLASHBACK:

Set's eyes misdirected on the dagger in Bek's right hand, while the left snatches Horus' eye from the helmet...

BACK TO SCENE

Alarmed, Set claws at his Helmet's visor... There is a HOLE where HORUS' EYE used to be.

SET

No...

HORUS' P.O.V. A clear shot at the chink in Set's helmet --

Horus THROWS his spear --

This time, it flies RAZOR-STRAIGHT, cleaving Set's head with a burst of white fire.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Horus stalks to Set's twitching body, tears off the armor,
and PULLS SET'S HEART FROM HIS CHEST.

HORUS
Go back to nothing.

Horus THROWS Set's essence INTO APOPHIS' HUNGRY MOUTH. As a
billion teeth gnash it...

Set turns to dust. His armor an empty shell...

The multitude of Slaves feel their skin HEAL, as their brands
vanish along with Set's curse...

But the unquenchable Apophis keeps drinking...

Horus transforms into a FALCON... soars INTO THE SKY with
Ra's Spear in its talons --

EXT. THE OCEAN AT THE EDGE OF THE WORLD

Ra floats unconscious in the storm-tossed sea of darkness...

The Falcon Horus bites Ra's shoulder... Ra's eyes snap OPEN.

EXT. ALONG THE NILE RIVER - NIGHT

Ra DESCENDS in all his glory.

RA
Enough, beast.

Ra unleashes a STORM OF SOLAR FIRE from his spear --

Apophis BELLOWS, but this time in fear. The Demon RETREATS
across the horizon... Gone back to the darkness.

Horus rushes to Bek's side... He's dying. But he looks at
the world he's saved with satisfaction.

HORUS
Are you sure you're not a god?

BEK
What would I be the god of?
Stupidity?

HORUS
The Impossible.

Bek likes that... until the pain edges thought away. Bek's
wounds finally overcome him. He dies.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Horus bows his head in grief.

ANUBIS

My king.

Grim Anubis salutes the new ruler of Egypt.

ANUBIS

Command me as you will.

ON HORUS. It hadn't occurred to him until now that the crown is his... He gazes at the body of his fallen friend.

HORUS

Take him to his love.

EXT. THE PATH TO THE AFTERLIFE

Anubis guides Bek along the path, emptiness to his left and right... Past the Twelfth Gate, the Afterlife beckons...

Bek leaves all the burdens of the past behind as he gratefully STEPS INTO THE LIGHT.

INT. ZAYA'S TOMB - LATER

Horus sadly places Bek's linen-wrapped body next to Zaya's...

He feels a thrum of power as

Ra himself ENTERS. The tomb distorts around him -- for what earthly room can hold the majesty of the sun?

RA

I have never been in debt. And yet I am in debt to you, grandson.

(beat)

Ask whatever you will that we might balance the scales. Mountains will kneel before you. The winds will do your bidding. Answer quickly, for Apophis still hungers, night is always coming, and my blade is dull.

HORUS

Once I'd have taken such power for myself...

(off Bek's body)

But now I want nothing -- except what's impossible for me to give.

WE PUSH IN to Bek's wrapped body...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

A BURST OF pure light and Ra is GONE. The room reshapes...

Bek sits up, bound in the linens. Horus unwraps his friend. Bek looks around, trying to get his bearings...

BEK

Am I?

HORUS

Back? Yes.

(points)

You might want to help her.

Bek sees Zaya is similarly struggling to unwrap herself. Bek unwraps Zaya... Her green eyes flash, alive and happy.

The lovers embrace. Together at last.

Horus gathers them both in a big bear hug.

HORUS

(greeting Zaya)

I'm Horus.

ZAYA

My lord...

Zaya bows to him, overwhelmed.

BEK

(to Horus)

I thought this was impossible?

HORUS

Impossible? Yes.

Bek smiles. Touche.

EXT. SET'S PALACE - DAY

A great CROWD. HUMANS from all walks of life. GODS of all shapes and sizes. Everyone gathered for the coronation.

Behind the throne, Bek stands dressed in royal finery, Zaya at his side.

All the major gods are present. Among them, Nephthys flexes her restored wings...

Above, the sun shines. Squint and you can see Ra's boat, dependable as clockwork...

Thoth finally soaks up the sun's embrace with pleasure...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Hathor gazes at Horus, beaming with love...

Horus kneels... as Isis places the Double Crown of Egypt on his head. A reconciliation for mother and son.

ISIS

My heart is found.

Horus ADDRESSES the crowd...

HORUS

What happens to a man when he must buy his way into the life after death? He will lie, cheat, steal, kill, and enslave to gather the treasure he needs. And what of those men who will never be rich enough? If their cause is hopeless, why would they act any better?

(beat)

From this moment on, the Afterlife must be earned not with gold, but by good deeds, compassion and generosity. To you who have little worldly treasure, the door is now open to you. To you who have much, your riches will mean nothing when you die.

(beat)

This life matters.

CHEERS for the King.

ON HORUS. He feels the North Wind softly blow... and he knows that his father is proud.

BEK

(low, to Horus)

The day you finally make me rich, you do this?

THOTH

(to Horus, peeved)

Just like that you're changing the rules of the Afterlife? Without first consulting the God of Wisdom?

HORUS

Yes.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

THOTH

This system will never work. Who's to judge whether a man is worthy or not?

HORUS

You recognize truth, don't you?

THOTH

Yes, but...

HORUS

You're hired.

EXT. PATH TO THE AFTERLIFE

Urshu arrogantly passes through the Twelfth Gate on his way to the Afterlife -- when Anubis STOPS.

URSHU

(to Anubis, irritated)

Have you not been paid?

Thoth blocks the path to the Afterlife.

THOTH

You need only answer my question and I will judge its truth.

(beat)

Are you a good man?

URSHU

The best.

THOTH

The only one who believes that is you.

Thoth jerks his head to Anubis, who TOSSES Urshu off the path, into NOTHINGNESS.

EXT. HELIOPOLIS - DAY

All across Heliopolis, the PEOPLE are rebuilding... No longer slaves.

HORUS AND BEK ON A BALCONY

Look across the Nile Valley... and beyond, at the encroaching DESERT. They're blown by a gritty gust of wind...

HORUS

I hate the sand.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BEK
Get used to it.

Horus spots Hathor below, surrounded by admirers... She won't meet Horus' eye even though she knows he's watching.

HORUS
She's in a mood. I can't tell if she's mad I haven't yet asked her to be queen -- or if she's mad that I *am* going to ask her and she doesn't want a husband.

BEK
You want my counsel as Chief Advisor to the King?

HORUS
Tell her about the first time I saw her, right? Something about sunsets...

BEK
Just go to her bedchamber.
(beat)
And bring the crown.

EXT. DESERT - DAY

THOTH'S VOICE speaks to us... Egypt looks like the arid land we now know.

THOTH'S VOICE
And so Egypt was saved. But the God of the Desert forever left his mark on our once green paradise...
(sighs)
So much for our greatest creation -- which I suppose must now be Man, by default. Perhaps in time you will be ready to rule yourselves. Until then, remember well as you travel your path toward the Afterlife...
(beat)
Be good -- or I'll know.

THE END