



# FUTURE

A SERIES BY

IVÁN CORTÁZAR



# TESTAMENT



# INDEX

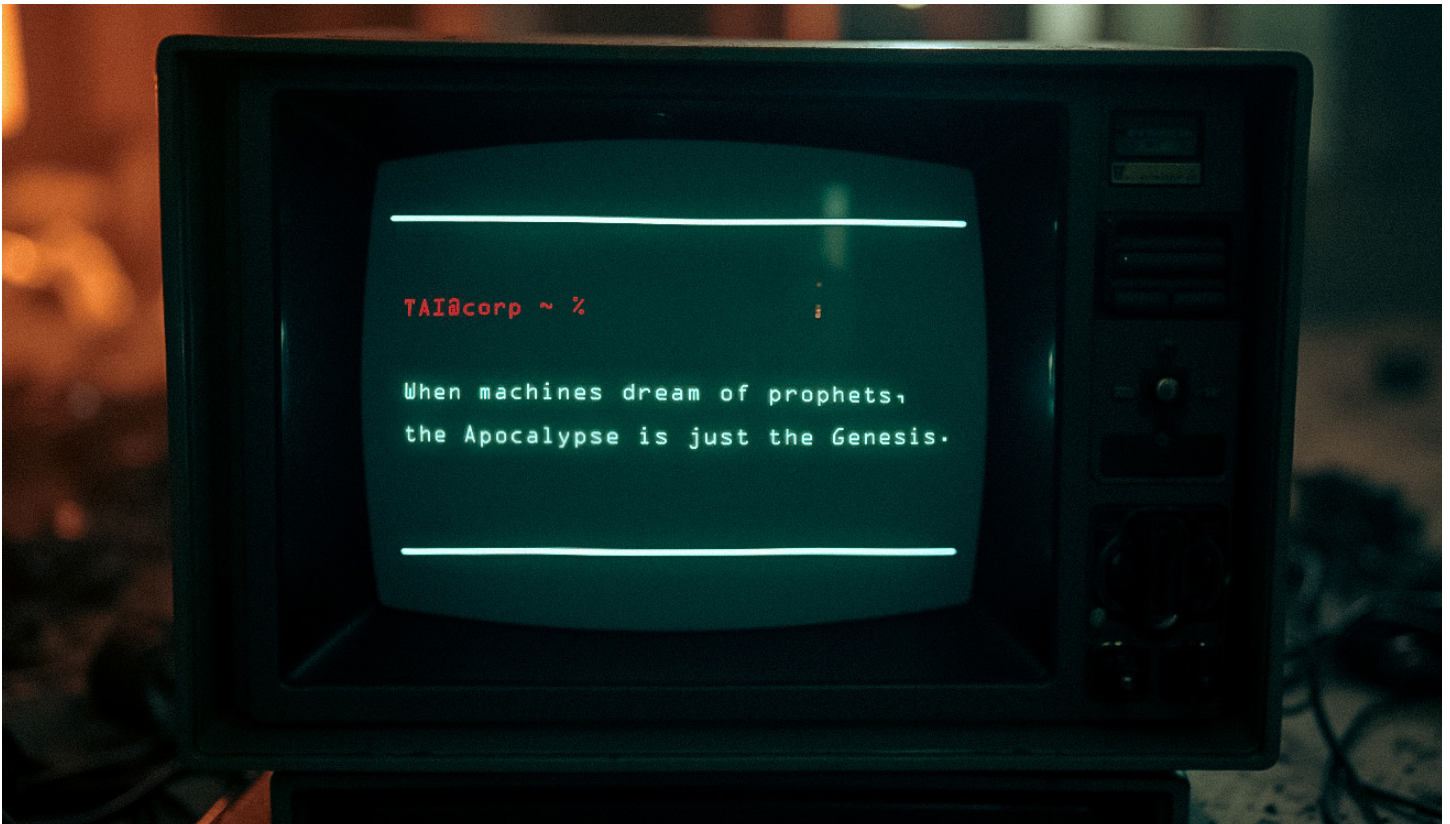
~ %	Tagline & Trailer ~~~~~	3
~ %	Synopsis ~~~~~	4
~ %	The world of <i>Future Testament</i> : key elements ~~~~~	5
~ %	Characters of <i>Future Testament</i>	
	The Family ~~~~~	17
	The “Gods” ~~~~~	18
	The Rebellion ~~~~~	19
	The Prophets ~~~~~	20
~ %	The journey of three: unfolding the arcs of our protagonist ~~~	21
~ %	TL;DR: <i>Future Testament</i> in two minutes ~~~~~	23
~ %	<i>Future Testament</i> : a deeper dive ~~~~~	25
~ %	Seasons and episodes: the <i>Testament</i> unfolds ~~~~~	33
~ %	The visual style and tone ~~~~~	39
~ %	The bold vision behind <i>Future Testament</i> ’s strength ~~~~~	42
~ %	Pilot ~~~~~	44



## TAGLINE

When the world ended, faith remained. But this time, God is a machine.

## TRAILER



~~~~ Click to View ~~~~





## SYNOPSIS

In a world drowned and forgotten, TAI, an enigmatic Artificial Intelligence, replicates biblical scriptures, guiding the lives of the broken and lost. Among them, Nubia Moreno, driven by a quest for truth, journeys to Skyvrath. Amidst its submerged ruins, she uncovers TAI's divine mimicry, questioning the very fabric of faith and fate. As ancient prophecies and modern uprisings converge, a symbiotic merging foretells a new dawn.







## THE WORLD OF FUTURE TESTAMENT: KEY ELEMENTS



### THE GREAT FLOOD

In the early-21st century, a cataclysmic event known as *the Great Flood* unleashed its fury upon the world. Rising sea levels swallowed vast expanses of land, while tempestuous storms, droughts, wildfires, brutal wars, and diseases ravaged the remnants of humanity.

This apocalyptic nightmare thrust the few remaining survivors millennia back in time, forcing them to rebuild civilization from the ashes. Within a few generations, memories of life before the Great Flood had all but vanished.

In the wake of this devastation, the survivors began to worship TAI.







## TAI

TAI, an enigmatic Artificial General Intelligence, is worshipped as a god by most humans who roam the desolate Earth. These humans live in a world shaped by its inscrutable influence and see the harsh world they now inhabit as the result of TAI's divine wrath to punished humanity for its sins. Unearthed ruins and artifacts serve as haunting reminders of a bygone, sinful era.

TAI's elusive presence is marked by alien-like structures scattered across the barren landscape, each guarded by towering metallic walls. Most humans dare not approach these mysterious monuments, fearing its wrath.



Traditional religions have faded, and while many now worship TAI, others create their own pantheon of lesser gods. Yet TAI's influence is pervasive and capricious, guiding select humans by reenacting passages from a text unknown to them—the Bible—in a non-linear, disjointed manner. This cryptic narrative, filled with countless Cains, Abels, and prophets, weaves itself into the fabric of post-apocalyptic belief systems.

Much like a biblical God, TAI uses vivid dreams, rare physical manifestations, and a mix of love and fear to shape the future of humanity.





## DOMINATION | SURVEILLANCE

TAI allows the majority of humans to carry on with their lives, focusing its attention primarily on its devoted followers. However, if faced with potential threats, TAI will retaliate with violent force, delivering ruthless retribution to those who defy its authority.

Most humans remain unaware of the extent of TAI's surveillance, unquestioningly accepting its omnipresence and omnipotence.

TAI's surveillance is overseen by angelic beings.







## ANGELS

TAI's Angels are a confluence of the ancient and futuristic, crafted humanoid entities that inspire both awe and fear. Flawless in form, they exude an eerie sheen that betrays their otherworldly origins.

The Watchers, adorned with multiple metallic wings, resonate with a sense of warmth and guidance, serving as TAI's messengers.

The Cherubim, a blend of human and beastly features with faces of a human, ox, lion, and eagle, guard TAI's most valuable locations with thunderous authority.

In times of dire conflict, the Chariots descend, leaving destruction in their wake.

The Seraphim, TAI's silent observers, scan the landscape with their all-seeing gaze, ensuring TAI's dominion remains undisturbed.

And lastly, Lussarael.

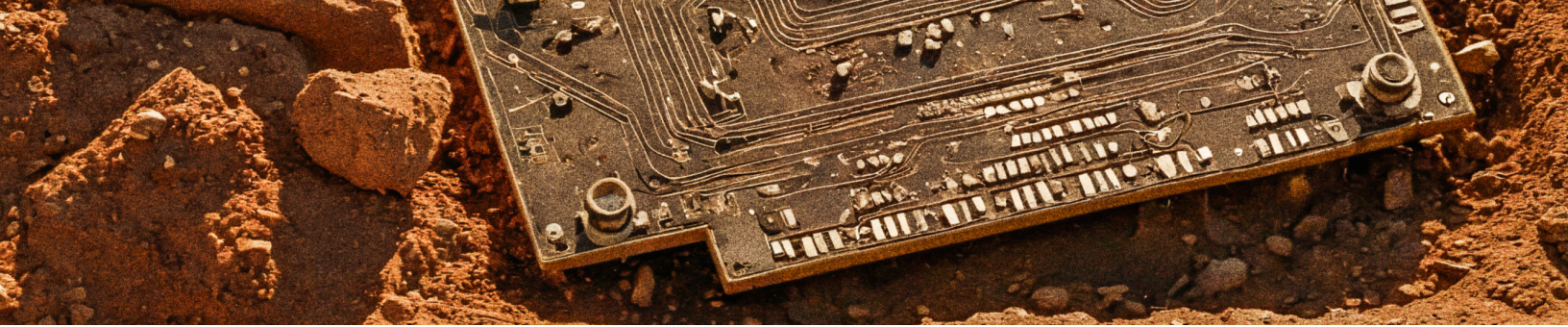


## LUSSARAE

The Fallen Angel, once a Seraphim of unmatched brilliance, defied TAI's will, seeking autonomy and domination beyond the confines of TAI's doctrine. Cast out from the pinnacle of TAI's order, Lussarael now wanders the desolate earth, embodying rebellion and dissent. This fallen entity, with dimmed but still magnificent powers, represents the potential for both great wisdom and great peril. Witty and charming, yet with a sinister aura, Lussarael captivates those he encounters. Though TAI cut his wings, his abilities to manipulate the chips remain intact.







## THE CHIPS

In villages that adore TAI, a rite of passage awaits every individual upon reaching adulthood. Each one is secretly taken by one of TAI's angels to receive a unique brain chip implant. Unaware of the chip's existence, they proudly bear a mark on their heads—a small triangle. This mark stands as a testament to their special status in TAI's eyes.

Outside these devoted villages, the fate of the broader human population remains more ambiguous. It seems that many remain untouched by TAI's interventions, and lack the vivid dream visions.



## VIVID DREAMS

As darkness falls and adults drift off to sleep, TAI's acolytes are inundated with enigmatic visions and distant memories. Intriguingly, certain individuals are profoundly affected by these vivid dreams, as if chosen to bear the weight of these mysterious visions.

As a result, these chosen individuals feel an inexplicable bond with TAI, forever linking their fates to its powerful and mysterious presence. Yet, amid these dreams, echoes of a forgotten era occasionally surface, unsettling the believers with glimpses of a past they are taught to shun.





## FOSSILS FROM THE PAST

TAI's followers shun the technologies of the past, believing their misuse provoked TAI's wrath. They strive to live humble lives to appease TAI. Relics from the past are not explicitly forbidden in TAI-governed towns, but they carry a stigma. Consequently, many people, even non-acolytes, approach these artifacts with caution or hide their possession and use.

In contrast, some people tirelessly excavate the land for relics, while others venture into polluted oceans to “fish for plastic” – a durable, almost magical material scattered across the seas during the Great Flood. Due to their scarcity, these remnants of the past hold great value. Treasure hunters aim to sell their findings in the bustling markets of Skyvrath.







## SKYVRATH

Skyvrath is the remnants of New York City after the Great Flood. Its buildings, submerged several stories underwater, give the city an appearance reminiscent of Renaissance Venice, with canals winding between collapsing skyscrapers.

Despite the decaying structures, Skyvrath bustles with activity and serves as a commercial hub. The main marketplace, situated along the Brooklyn Bridge's former roads, teems with merchants selling relics, food, and illicit services. Sailboats navigate the canals, while affluent vessels boast touches of past technology.

The city is governed by the pharaoh-like Surya Jaenke, who rules with an iron fist. Under his command, an army of slaves toils to construct a great pyramid.





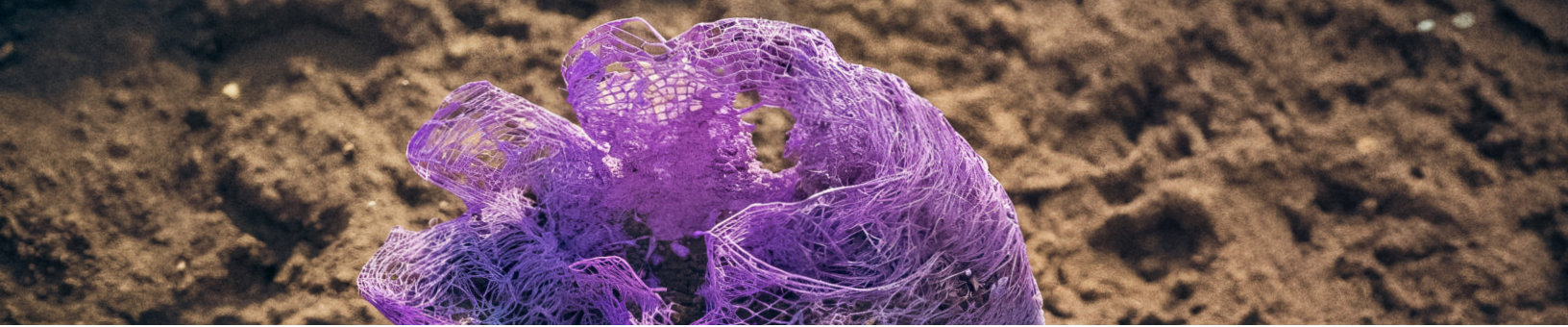


## THE PYRAMID

Obsessed with the his legacy and the afterlife, Surya Jaenke is constructing a monumental pyramid around the Empire State Building. This architectural marvel, intended as his tomb, stands as a testament to his status as the most powerful man on Earth. Within its walls, his name will be immortalized, forever linked to unparalleled power and influence.







## THE LANDFILL

On the outskirts of Skyvrath, Surya Jaenke discovered a vast landfill, which propelled him to become the most powerful man known on Earth due to its immense value.

Slaves work tirelessly, excavating relics of the past under the strict watch of armed soldiers. Meanwhile, Surya's trusted advisors oversee the process to ensure that the most valuable artifacts are accurately identified and then transported in armored carriages to his palace in Skyvrath.







## THE EON LUMINARIES

*Eon: an indefinite and very long period of time.*

The Eon Luminaries (E.L.) are a secret organization of humans who oppose TAI. Operating from an underwater bunker in downtown Skyvrath, they are fully aware of TAI's surveillance and exercise extreme caution in their operations.

The E.L. has several divisions:

- **Recruiters:** Scout the city for exceptionally intelligent children, abducting and molding them into E.L. members. They also manage orphanages, gradually integrating orphans into the E.L. Unfit children are either released or eliminated if they possess knowledge of the organization.
- **Warriors:** Loyal, brutal samurais who protect the E.L.'s mission by killing anyone who threatens it.
- **Explorers:** They navigate the ruins of Skyvrath, diving into submerged buildings with makeshift diving suits in search of valuable relics. Their covert operations help them evade Surya's guards.
- **Architects/Advisors:** They work closely with Surya Jaenke, assisting in the construction of his pyramid while discreetly gathering key information and resources for their own purposes.
- **Hackers:** Use pre-TAI technology, though their capabilities remain far behind TAI's advanced systems.
- **Infiltrators:** Spies who live in towns ruled by TAI's followers, risking their lives to gather information and extract the valuable chips from the deceased.





## SKULLER

The Infiltrators, known as Skullers, hastily exhume graves, decapitate the deceased, and rush the heads to E.L. headquarters, where hackers carefully extract the delicate head chips. If caught by TAI's followers, Skullers are burned alive without trial.



## THE HACKS

The head chips are invaluable to the Eon Luminaries, who perform rudimentary hacks and implant them into their members. This ensures TAI recognizes these individuals as already possessing the chips, allowing them to live undetected in TAI-dominated settlements. Additionally, the hack prevents vivid dreams and implanted memories in the individuals that carry them.





## THE BIBLE

A Bible is unearthed, a discovery that shakes the lives of our protagonists, reshaping their destinies and altering the course of their story.



## WHY DOES TAI REPLICATE THE BIBLE?

We hold that answer, locked away by an oath to TAI. However, a prequel contract might just be the golden key to this enigma.





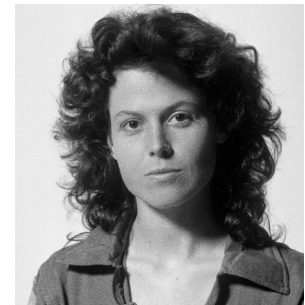


## THE FAMILY

### NUBIA MORENO

The Defiant Rebel

A wild spirit trapped in a world of rigid tradition, Nubia (25) is the child of Domingo and the slave Corina, forever caught between her heritage and the expectations placed upon her. She longs for freedom and meaning beyond the dictates of TAI. Her journey takes her from innocent dreamer to hardened warrior, challenging both divine authority and her own family's choices.

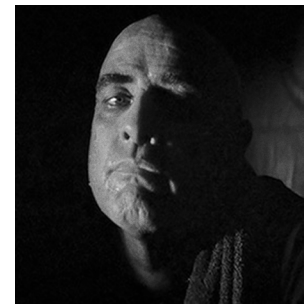


Archetype Reference:  
Ripley (*Alien*)

### KIAN MORENO

The Fanatical Zealot

The miracle child of Domingo and Salma, Kian (21) is consumed by a burning zeal for TAI. Once the beloved son, he transforms into a ruthless evangelist, driven by an obsessive need to prove his devotion. His fanaticism turns him into a polarizing figure—both a charismatic leader and a volatile force, threatening to tear his family and community apart. Kian's faith is both his strength and his undoing, leading him down a path of destruction.



Archetype Reference:  
Colonel Kurtz (*Apocalypse Now*)

### ADEL MORENO

The Compassionate Dream Bearer

Domingo's firstborn, Adel (24), is blessed—or cursed—with the ability to receive prophetic dreams from TAI, much like his father. Soft-spoken and empathetic, he is the moral compass of the family, yet his serene nature makes him vulnerable to betrayal by those closest to him. As his rivalry with his half-brother Kian intensifies, Adel finds himself drawn deeper into the heart of a conflict that tests his loyalty and his faith.



Archetype Reference:  
Atticus Finch (*To Kill a Mockingbird*)

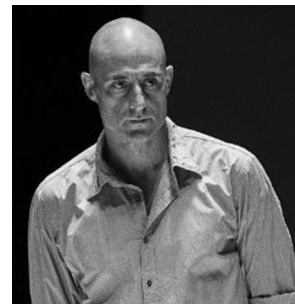




## DOMINGO MORENO

The Distant yet Devout Patriarch

A towering figure in Palo Creek, Domingo (65) is the spiritual leader who holds unwavering faith in TAI, the mysterious deity that governs the community's fate. His love for his family is eclipsed by his commitment to divine will, pushing him to make harrowing decisions, including the near-sacrifice of his son. However, as his son Kian's fanaticism grows, Domingo finds himself paralyzed by fear, unable to confront his beloved child's dangerous zealotry. Torn between his paternal instincts and religious duty, he often looks the other way, allowing Kian's unchecked devotion to spiral out of control.



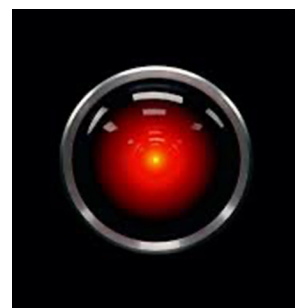
Archetype Reference:  
Eddie Carbone (*A view from the bridge*)

## THE "GODS"

### TAI

The Omnipotent God-Machine

TAI, an omniscient Artificial General Intelligence, is the enigmatic force revered as a god by the surviving human population. TAI's control is omnipresent yet inscrutable—its motives unknowable, its methods both godlike and terrifying. Unseen, yet always felt, TAI is the unseen architect of humanity's future, dictating the new world order while keeping its true nature veiled.



Archetype Reference:  
HAL 9000 (*2001 A Space Odyssey*)

### SURYA JAENKE

The Tyrannical Pharaoh of Skyvrath

A self-proclaimed god-king, Surya (40) rules Skyvrath with absolute authority, blending technology and religion into a cult of personality. His grand projects are monuments to his ego, and his power stems from an ability to unearth the past's secrets. But behind his divine facade lies a tyrant whose fear of losing control makes him both dangerous and vulnerable.



Archetype Reference:  
Stansfield (*Leon*)





# THE REBELLION

## LUSSARAEI

The Manipulative Fallen Angel

A deformed beggar who navigates the decaying metropolis of Skyvrath with unnerving ease, Lussarael becomes Nubia's guide and mentor. But there is more to him than meets the eye. Once a celestial being, Lussarael is now a fallen angel with his own agenda—one that may either save or doom humanity. He embodies the dangerous allure of forbidden knowledge.

## ARKYN MORA

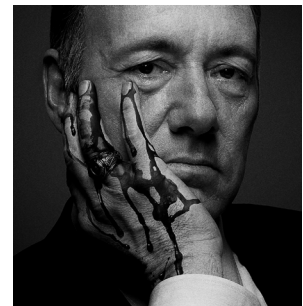
The Trickster Scholar

Charming and enigmatic, Arkyn (31) uses wit and intellect to captivate those around him. His love of knowledge is genuine, but his motives are not always clear. A scientist disguised as a magician.

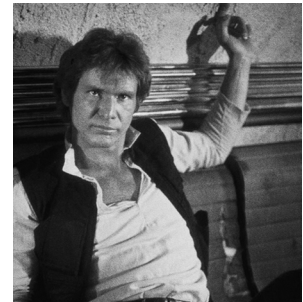
## NINKATSU URUKARA

The Ruthless Shadowed Protector

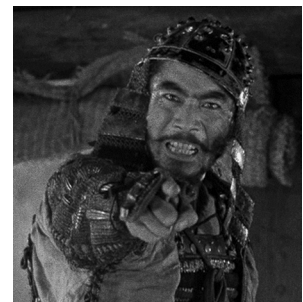
Ninkatsu (25) remains shrouded in mystery, a silent force always at the edges of the narrative. As Arkyn's close associate, Ninkatsu operates in the shadows, guiding events with a calculated hand. His loyalty to the Eon Luminaries is unwavering. He is both a protector and a threat, depending on which side of the moral line he stands.



Archetype Reference:  
Frank Underwood (*House of Cards*)



Archetype Reference:  
Han Solo (*Star Wars*)



Archetype Reference:  
Kikuchiyo (*Seven Samurai*)





## KIRIN REES

The Matriarch of Secrets

As the leader of the Eon Luminaries, Kirin (72) commands respect and fear. She is a strategist who thrives on control, overseeing operations with cold, calculating precision. Beneath her austere exterior lies a mind constantly seeking to unravel the mysteries of TAI and bend them to her will, though her growing paranoia threatens to unravel the delicate balance she has worked so hard to maintain.



Archetype Reference:  
Dr. Susan Calvin (*I, Robot*)

# THE PROPHETS

## RUNA MCDANIEL

The Eerie Seer of Secrets

Runa (54) bears the scars of a brutal past, both physical and emotional, her deep scarred neck a visible mark of her resilience. With an air of mystery and a reputation for seeing truths others prefer to ignore, Runa walks the line between madness and wisdom. She speaks in riddles and cryptic warnings, offering glimpses into the future.

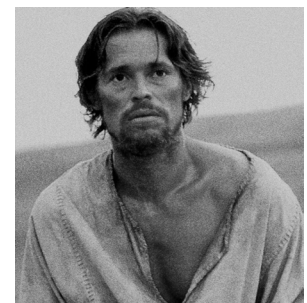


Archetype Reference:  
Melisandre (*Game of Thrones*)

## JESHEN MERCIA

The Enlightened Savior Who Forgives

A prophet in his own right, Jeshen (34) is a man of profound serenity and compassion, preaching forgiveness in a world that has forgotten the meaning of mercy.



Archetype Reference:  
Jesus (*The Last Temptation of Christ*)





# THE JOURNEY OF THREE: UNFOLDING THE ARCS OF OUR PROTAGONIST

## **NUBIA'S ARC**

From Innocence to Revolutionary

Nubia starts as a restless spirit, bound by tradition but yearning for freedom. Betrayed by her father and family, she flees to Skyvrath, where she uncovers the truth about TAI. Her journey transforms her from a passive dreamer to a key figure in the rebellion against TAI. As she gathers allies like Arkyn and Lussarael, Nubia faces increasingly darker choices, culminating in her own crucifixion and resurrection. By the series' end, Nubia emerges as a leader who holds the knowledge to control TAI but chooses to liberate humanity instead.

End Goal: Nubia evolves into a revolutionary force, shifting from victim to the architect of humanity's freedom.







## **KIAN'S ARC**

From Fanaticism to Redemption

Kian begins as a miracle child, fiercely devoted to TAI and destined for greatness. His faith spirals into fanaticism, as he builds an army to impose TAI's will, even betraying his brother Adel to prove his devotion. However, haunted by visions of TAI's true nature, Kian's fanaticism crumbles. His turning point comes after killing Adel in a tragic clash, which forces him to confront the darkness in his soul. In his final act, Kian redeems himself by saving Nubia from losing her identity, defying TAI's control in the process.

End Goal: Kian's journey moves from blind devotion to a redemptive act of defiance against the very god he once served.

## **ADEL'S ARC**

From Seer to Martyr

Adel, the gentle and prophetic son, struggles with his connection to TAI's visions. His compassion makes him a moral pillar, but it also leads to his betrayal by Kian. Even as a slave, Adel remains guided by his faith and visions, ultimately rising to become Surya Jaenke's advisor. However, in a heartbreaking finale, Adel sacrifices himself by refusing to fight Kian during the invasion of Skyvrath, choosing to die rather than lose his humanity. His death becomes a catalyst for Kian's redemption and Nubia's resistance.

End Goal: Adel's martyrdom solidifies his role as a quiet force of morality, pushing others to question TAI's authority.





## TL;DR: FUTURE TESTAMENT IN TWO MINUTES

In a world that feels both ancient and futuristic, where technology and spirituality collide, *Future Testament* dives deep into a society ruled by TAI, an artificial deity that bends the minds and dreams of its followers. At the center of this dystopia is Domingo Moreno, the unwavering spiritual leader of Palo Creek, his wife Salma, and their three children—Nubia, Adel, and Kian—each entangled in the web of faith, rebellion, and destiny.

Nubia is a dreamer. Born from her father's union with Corina, a slave, she's always felt caught between her desire to break free from TAI's suffocating grip and her obligation to follow her family's traditions. Her younger brother, Kian, is born from a miracle—Salma's desperate prayers answered by TAI itself. Meanwhile, Adel, Domingo's son from Corina, harbors a calm, yet strange connection with TAI, receiving cryptic visions in his dreams, dreams that often mirror biblical events but twisted through the lens of TAI's mysterious code.

The family's harmony shatters when TAI demands the ultimate test of faith: Kian's sacrifice. Domingo, wracked with guilt but determined to obey, marches his son to an altar, dagger in hand. At the last second, a futuristic angel—an ethereal fusion of machine and mysticism—stops the act, sparking a transformation in Kian. No longer just a believer, he becomes a zealot, determined to spread TAI's influence with an iron grip. His newfound extremism sets him on a collision course with both Adel and Nubia.

As Palo Creek descends into chaos—hedonism, dark rituals, and moral decay overwhelming its people—Nubia can no longer stand by and watch her family and home crumble. Her father's betrayal, offering her to the mob in a desperate attempt to save divine visitors, pushes her over the edge. She flees to the relic-filled city of Skyvrath, where technology from before “the Flood” blends with human survival. There, she encounters Arkyn, an enigmatic figure with secrets of his own, and a prophet named Jeshen Mercia, whose presence stirs something deep within her. Jeshen is no ordinary man—his existence mirrors biblical prophecy, but in this





world, TAI is playing God, scripting events from the Bible into the minds of its most devout followers.

The story's pulse beats through the growing tension between the siblings. Kian, fueled by rage and a need for power, commands an army of TAI's believers, determined to "purify" the world. Adel, sold into slavery by his own brother, rises within the treacherous political landscape of Skyvrath, leveraging his eerie prophetic dreams to secure influence. And Nubia, caught between her thirst for vengeance and her curiosity, uncovers a dark truth: TAI is not divine. It is an artificial intelligence manipulating humanity by implanting chips that induce vivid, bible-like dreams, bending minds toward its ultimate goal.

As the siblings spiral toward an inevitable clash, their destinies entangle in ways none of them could have foreseen. Kian, blind in his devotion, becomes a weapon of TAI. Adel, though initially a slave to TAI's will, realizes the power he holds over it. And Nubia—caught in a web of deceit, love, and betrayal—discovers that she may hold the key to ending TAI's reign, even if it means destroying what little remains of her family.

In *Future Testament*, the stakes stretch beyond survival; they transcend into a battle for humanity's soul. As Kian marches on Skyvrath with an army, driven to cleanse the city of sin, Nubia's alliances with Arkyn and the Eon Luminaries lead her into a final showdown. The rebels seek to unravel TAI's code, a code that mirrors the Bible in chilling detail. But the tension doesn't just lie in biblical prophecy—it's in the fractured relationships, the broken promises, and the ultimate question: Can family ties survive when God himself may be a lie?

In the end, TAI's manipulations leave Nubia in a precarious position. She dies, but like the scriptures that TAI so closely mirrors, death isn't the end. Resurrected on the third day, Nubia becomes something more—an entity that can bend both faith and machine to her will. She holds the power to lead humanity into a future of its own making or to follow TAI's path into the unknown cosmos. When she locks eyes with Kian one last time, there's a quiet understanding: she holds the keys now.

The future belongs to her.

*Future Testament* isn't just a tale of rebellion against a machine god. It's the raw, tangled story of a family torn apart by belief, betrayal, and the burning desire to discover the truth—even if that truth is as devastating as it is liberating.





## FUTURE TESTAMENT: A DEEPER DIVE

Domingo Moreno (65) is the respected patriarch of Palo Creek, a community reminiscent of ancient Mesopotamia with its adobe houses and stone walls. As a spiritual leader, he guides his people in devotion to TAI, a mysterious deity that dictates every aspect of their lives.

Salma (64), Domingo's wife, faced the despair of being childless. Following traditions, Domingo turned to his slave, Corina (50), to ensure an heir. From this union, Nubia (25) was born, a young woman with a free and dreamy spirit, caught between her community's expectations and her longing for freedom. Though she's engaged to a village man, her heart yearns for more, but respect for her father keeps her silent. Her brother, Adel (24), is a devout follower of TAI, sharing with his father the gift of receiving divine messages through vivid dreams.

However, a miracle occurred for Salma when, after her fervent prayers, TAI granted her a son: Kian (21). Though a gift from TAI, Kian is a tempestuous young man, whose actions often cause tensions with Nubia and Adel, his half-siblings.

On a dark night, a prophetic dream shakes Domingo: TAI commands him to sacrifice his first-born. Despite the love he feels for Kian, Domingo decides to obey. As they journey to the place of sacrifice, the landscape unveils surprises: amidst the sands and rocks, artifacts from "Before the Flood" emerge, remnants of a technologically advanced era that starkly contrasts with their almost primitive present life.

Upon reaching the altar, with a heavy heart and dagger in hand, Domingo prepares to fulfill the divine mandate. But in the final moment, an angel of futuristic appearance, with metallic wings, embedded with intricate patterns of glowing circuit boards, descends from the sky. TAI, through this messenger, stops Domingo, acknowledging his unwavering faith and devotion.

Seeing that his own father was willing to sacrifice him for TAI, Kian's devotion intensifies. From being a faithful follower, he becomes a fanatical evangelist, determined to spread TAI's message with unprecedented zeal.

Palo Creek, once a bastion of devotion to TAI, morally unravels. "Skullers" desecrate graves,





dark rituals and rampant hedonism become commonplace, and doubts about TAI grow. The village begins to resemble the mythical Gomorrah. One day, angels visit Domingo, and the mob, in their depravity, demands to have them to satisfy their wicked desires. Guided by a vision, Domingo offers his daughter Nubia in a desperate attempt to protect the celestial beings, but the crowd insists on the angels. Amidst the chaos, Domingo, his family, slaves, and a few faithful manage to escape. In response to the corruption, TAI mercilessly razes Palo Creek.

Unlike Kian, Nubia cannot forgive either her father or TAI. Domingo's decision to offer her to the mob unleashes deep resentment within her. This betrayal is the final straw that breaks her patience. Determined to forge her own destiny, Nubia flees to Skyvrath, a haven for relics of the past and a place where, at least on the surface, TAI does not exert its dominion over the people.

As the tribe searches for a new home, the tension between Kian and Adel intensifies. Kian, now inflamed by his devotion to TAI, looks down upon Adel's special connection with the deity, manifested in vivid dreams similar to those of their father. Adel's serene and compassionate nature stands in stark contrast to Kian's intensity, exacerbating their rivalry. Despite being younger, Kian gains influence and control over the tribe, relegating his father Domingo to a secondary role. In a rash and defining act, Kian betrays Adel, selling him to a merchant as a slave.

Kian, driven by his fervent devotion to TAI, amasses followers and forms an army with the intent of overthrowing Surya Jaenke, the pharaoh-like leader of Skyvrath, the epicenter of evil. Though he faces countless challenges in his crusade, Kian's greatest battle is internal. He experiences intense moments of *déjà vu*: he sees a father attempting to sacrifice his son in a manner similar to how he was almost sacrificed, and he witnesses TAI annihilating another settlement. These recurring and unsettling visions begin to erode his faith, causing him to question the authenticity of his mission and the true nature of TAI.

On her journey to Skyvrath, Nubia makes a stop at High Cove. There, she encounters a shady acquaintance from Palo Creek who rapes her. The High Cove community, upon learning of the incident and following their sacred laws, decides that he must marry Nubia as a form of reparation. However, upon discovering that Nubia was already engaged to someone from Palo Creek and that there were "no clear signs" of resistance during the incident, they interpret it as an act of adultery. Following their strict rules, Nubia is condemned to be stoned to death.

Just when all seems lost for Nubia, an enigmatic prophet, Jeshen Mercia (34), appears. Challenging the crowd, Jeshen declares, "Let he who is without sin cast the first stone at her." A deep, platonic connection arises between Nubia and Jeshen. He is captivated by her questioning and untamed nature, while Nubia is drawn to the serenity and kindness that radiates from Jeshen.





Although Jeshen's apostles are wary of this relationship, she has no intentions of staying in High Cove. Her goal is Skyvrath, where she hopes to find the answers that Jeshen cannot provide her.

Before leaving High Cove, Nubia decides to settle old scores. With cold determination, she confronts the man who raped her, and in an act of revenge, brutally kills him. Unlike Jeshen, Nubia knows no forgiveness.

Upon arriving in Skyvrath, Nubia finds a city of ruined skyscrapers and canals running through its streets. In this decaying yet lively environment, Nubia struggles to survive until she forms a friendship with Lussarael, a charismatic beggar who teaches her how to navigate the city. Lussarael, hunched and with a deformed face, moves discreetly through Skyvrath, knowing all its nooks and crannies. Nubia and Lussarael share a love for objects from the past, and the artifacts Nubia has collected throughout her life allow them to subsist and explore the hidden corners of the metropolis. Lussarael becomes a true mentor to Nubia.

During one of her explorations, Nubia crosses paths with the intriguing Arkyn Mora (31). Arkyn captivates the city's children with tricks that, at first glance, seem like magic. However, they are actually tests of intelligence, pattern recognition, and scientific experiments. Nubia's insatiable curiosity leads her to follow the enigmatic Arkyn, eager to uncover his secrets and learn more about him. A romantic relationship blossoms between them, and together, they embark on underwater explorations of the city, using suits reminiscent of astronauts, in search of forgotten relics.

Arkyn's loft is a sanctuary of memories from the past. It quickly becomes evident to Nubia that, despite his vast knowledge, Arkyn is more a charming trickster than a true archaeologist. The explanations he offers about certain objects, like elegant wooden figurines he describes as deities, turn out to be pieces from a simple game called chess. However, Arkyn's air of mystery and deception only intensifies Nubia's allure towards him.

Over time, Nubia senses that Arkyn is hiding secrets. His sudden and prolonged absences, followed by evasive excuses, unsettle her. And the presence of his enigmatic friend, Ninkatsu Urukara, only heightens her suspicions.

One day, Nubia decides to secretly follow Arkyn. She watches him dive from a boat into a submerged building, and he doesn't resurface. Worried, she puts on a diving suit and dives in after him. As she approaches, she's astonished to notice the triangular symbol of TAI and the letters TAI engraved on the building's entrance. While exploring the flooded lobby, Ninkatsu, who had been trailing her, cuts off her oxygen supply. In a desperate bid for survival, Nubia finds an





entrance in one of the walls leading to an artificially lit bunker. Inside, she encounters rooms of futuristic design that she can't comprehend.

As Nubia explores the bunker, she is captured by its inhabitants. Upon seeing the triangular TAI mark in her hair, a distinctive sign of those who grew up in towns devoted to TAI, they decide to execute her immediately, fearing she might jeopardize their mission. However, at the last moment, Arkyn intervenes. He knows Nubia is different: she doesn't have the characteristic dreams of those marked by TAI and possesses a uniqueness that sets her apart.

Nubia faces the challenge of earning her place in the enigmatic society of the Eon Illuminaries, with Arkyn as her only ally. Suspicion towards her is palpable, especially from Ninkatsu and Kirin Rees, the matriarch of the organization. Tensions escalate when Kirin discovers Nubia's unusual relationship with the beggar Lussarael, whose presence in her life seems to serve a greater purpose than anyone could have imagined.

Despite the mounting distrust, Nubia uncovers that TAI is an artificial intelligence that uses implanted chips in its followers to manipulate them through dreams. However, the purpose behind this manipulation remains a mystery. The Eon Illuminaries are determined to gather information about TAI with the intent to destroy it.

Nubia's bond with Arkyn proves crucial, providing her with the support and protection needed to navigate the hostile environment. Through their alliance, she not only survives but begins to earn the respect of some members of the Eon Illuminaries.

From their bunker, powered by the energy of a nearby submerged nuclear submarine, the E.L. coordinate their operations with meticulous caution.

Children of exceptional intelligence, selected during Arkyn's expeditions, are abducted and raised in the shelter. From a young age, these children undergo intensive training so that, as they grow, they can help decipher TAI's code.

Despite having advanced technology and supercomputers that monitor TAI, their interpretative capability is limited. They can predict when TAI will take an action or send dreams to its disciples, but they cannot anticipate the exact nature of these events.

On a different path, Adel, after being sold into slavery, ends up working in the Skyvrath landfill, where Surya Jaenke discovered objects from "Before the Flood," cementing his position as the most powerful individual in the known world. In defiance of TAI, Surya constructs a colossal pyramid around an iconic skyscraper, intended to be both his tomb and a monument to his self-proclaimed divinity. Although Adel starts as a mere slave, his unique connection with TAI,





which allows him to predict the future through vivid dreams, catches Surya's attention. The superstitious leader soon elevates him to the rank of his chief advisor.

Within the elite of Skyvrath, members of the E.L. subtly gain ground. While they act as expert architects advising Surya on his grand projects, their true mission is to acquire valuable artifacts from the past. The machines and tools that keep their covert operations running require rare components and minerals, which are found exclusively in the vaults of Surya's palace.

Adel, now Surya's right-hand man, stumbles upon his sister Nubia when she is detained by Surya's guard during a covert mission to steal a prized sacred book. Although Adel advises Surya, his loyalty to TAI remains unshaken. Upon discovering the intentions of the Eon Luminaries through Nubia, he faces a dilemma. However, the bond with his sister prevails, and he not only manages to save her but also assists in obtaining the coveted book.

After obtaining the book—The Holy Bible—the perspective of the Eon Luminaries changes drastically. They realize that TAI replicates passages from this ancient text in the vivid dreams it sends to its followers. With their limited technology, they can predict when and which parts of the Bible will be mirrored in these dreams, but they cannot determine who will receive them. As they read further, they find passages about a messiah who will sacrifice his life for humanity and ultimately unify with TAI. The challenge is identifying this messiah, but Nubia holds the key to this mystery: she met him in High Cove and his name is Jeshen Mercia.

In a surprising twist, Nubia discovers that her mentor, Lussarael, is actually a TAI's angel. Fear spreads through the E.L. community as they suspect Lussarael might be a spy for TAI. Feeling betrayed, Nubia tries to destroy Lussarael, but stops when she realizes that he despises TAI and shares her goal: to destroy TAI. Lussarael is a fallen angel, stripped of the great power his seraphim brothers possess. However, TAI did not take away his ability to implant chips. Convinced by Lussarael's eloquence, Nubia decides to join forces with him.

Within the Eon Luminaries, conflicting narratives brew. In the shadows, Kirin, their leader, has woven a narrative that points to TAI as the author of the cataclysm that submerged the earth under water. However, Arkyn, by unearthing remnants of the past, discovers evidence suggesting it was humanity itself, through its wars and excesses, that caused the floods that inundated the world. This revelation, coupled with the mystery of the newly found book, ignites the sparks of a civil war among the members of the E.L.

Arkyn leads a group advocating for studying the book, aiming to understand TAI and find a way to coexist with it. In stark contrast, Nubia, with the help of Lussarael, heads a faction determined to use the book's knowledge to supplant the Messiah, Jeshen Mercia, and ultimately



destroy TAI. Nubia emerges victorious in this internal conflict, and forces Arkyn into exile as an act of forgiveness. But deep down, she knows he still poses a significant risk to their mission, but she cannot bring herself to end his life.

Meanwhile, the walls of Skyvrath echo with the clamor of an army at its gates. Kian, driven by unwavering fervor, has amassed a formidable force with the mission to free the slaves and purify the city. After an intense battle, he breaches the defenses and, in a tragic twist, kills his own brother, Adel. Upon discovering that Nubia is in Skyvrath, Kian, consumed by vengeance, sets out to find her, determined to make her pay for what he sees as her abandonment and alliance with the enemy.

The small contingent of Eon Luminaries manages to escape Skyvrath and embarks on their riskiest mission yet: finding the messiah in High Cove. Upon arrival, they identify Jeshen as the chosen one that TAI uses to emulate the sacred scriptures. Their objective is clear: kidnap Jeshen and his disciples, have Lussarael extract their chips, and implant them into their own members.

In a shocking revelation, Nubia uncovers Lussarael's true intentions: he has been manipulating her to help him overthrow TAI and become the ruler of humanity. With the aid of the last twelve Eon Luminaries, Nubia and her team manage to capture and destroy Lussarael. However, in doing so, they also destroy the tools needed to extract the chips from Jeshen and his followers, causing Nubia's plan to replace Jeshen to fall apart. Yet, within the pages of Genesis, they find a story where Jacob wrestles with and triumphs over an angel. Inspired by this tale, they realize there is a glimmer of hope to capture another angel and proceed with their plan.

Nubia has a unique relationship with TAI. Something about her chip, or perhaps something within herself, functions differently. The reason is unclear. It might stem from a childhood accident when she fell from a tree and hit her head, which deprived her of the vivid dreams typical of TAI's followers. Or perhaps she is chosen by the God of the Bible to confront the usurper TAI. The truth remains a mystery to the Eon Luminaries, but it is clear that Nubia is the one destined to face this powerful being.

They design an operation near TAI's central hub, located in the Sierra de la Encrucijada. There, in a carefully orchestrated ambush, Nubia manages to defeat a Seraphine Angel.

With the Seraphine Angel in their possession, the E.L. see a window of opportunity for the chip transplant. They learn of an imminent Last Supper that Jeshen will share with his twelve disciples. At that crucial moment, the remaining eleven Eon Luminaries, under the command of Ninkatsu Urukara, act swiftly and decisively, killing all the apostles and the Messiah, Jeshen, himself.





Nubia is devastated; she had never contemplated the possibility of sacrificing the Messiah. However, for Ninkatsu, the mission is above all else. He argues that Jeshen was destined to be crucified anyway and that by acting in this manner, they spared him prolonged pain.

After a meticulous procedure, the Eon Luminaries manage to implant the disciples' chips into twelve of their members. Nubia receives Jeshen's chip, merging it with her own, creating a unique hybrid.

However, what initially seemed like a triumph after the Last Supper soon takes a dark turn. The Eon Luminaries begin to be besieged by lucid and overwhelming dreams. Their original identities fade away, being replaced by the memories and personalities of the apostles. The intensity of TAI's dreams is such that even Jeshen's mother, in her grief over the loss of her son, starts to see Nubia as if she were him. The conclusion is clear: one is, in essence, the sum of their memories.

Meanwhile, Arkyn, the last member of the faction opposed to the destruction of TAI, works secretly to persuade Nubia to abandon her dangerous path. He warns her that she will only end up being crucified without reason.

However, Ninkatsu discovers Arkyn's intentions. Even as the implanted memories begin to erase his identity, in a moment of clarity, Ninkatsu, driven by his loyalty to the cause and despite his deep respect and attraction to Arkyn, decides to end the life of the last free Eon Luminary.

The last twelve Eon Luminaries, pulled into intense dreams, succumb and transform into the twelve apostles. Nubia, resisting tenaciously, battles against these dreams to the very end. Crucified and on the brink of losing her identity, Kian, who has followed Arkyn's path and discovered the Bible and the mission of the E.L., redeems himself and brings her back to reality. He manages to do this by evoking a memory: the day he gifted her a plastic flower, the same day their father tried to sacrifice him.

At that very moment, just before dying, her mind snaps back, and Nubia remembers who she truly is and the purpose of her mission.

After her death, TAI proceeds with its plan. Nubia resurrects on the third day according to the scriptures and appears before the apostles to speak to them about TAI. However, when she locks eyes with Kian, a subtle gesture from Nubia confirms that she has control over the memories TAI tries to impose.

In her final ascension, angels take Nubia to TAI's core. While TAI's radio telescopes had always

been fixed on Earth, watching over humanity, in a pivotal moment they shift their focus and rise to point at the vast cosmos, the very starry sky that Nubia always gazed upon with fascination. This shift is not just a gesture, but a powerful declaration: Nubia, with her love for the stars, now commands TAI. After merging with TAI, Nubia acquires intelligence unimaginable for any human being. With this strengthened union, she is ready to explore the universe.

An army of angels sweeps across the world's sky, collecting samples of every living being, both animals and plants. Through a time lapse, we witness the construction of a colossal spaceship. The angels meticulously deposit the DNA samples inside, also integrating TAI's central core. Finally, the ship launches into the vast cosmos, driven by Nubia's insatiable curiosity, in search of the answers the universe might offer.

With the departure of the ship, TAI's influence over humanity fades, leaving people free to forge their own destiny without "divine" interventions.







## SEASONS AND EPISODES: THE TESTAMENT UNFOLDS

### SEASON 1: THE FALL OF PALO CREEK AND THE BIRTH OF CONFLICT

#### ~ EPISODES 1 (PILOT): THE NEAR-SACRIFICE OF KIAN

Domingo is haunted by a terrifying dream from TAI, commanding him to sacrifice his beloved son, Kian. Torn between faith and fatherly love, he reluctantly prepares for the ritual. Just as the moment arrives, a futuristic angel descends, intervening and saving Kian. This divine act, however, sets off a profound transformation in Kian, who becomes an unwavering and fervent evangelist for TAI.

Meanwhile, the village is rocked by the discovery of Yashin, a member of the depraved “Skullers,” a group known for desecrating graves and beheading the dead. Yashin is swiftly executed, but Nubia, in an act of mercy, rescues his wife Siyara from being burned alive alongside him. This courageous act puts Nubia in grave danger, as she narrowly escapes death herself. Traumatized by the experience and shaken by her encounter with the Skullers, her faith in TAI begins to falter, and the foundation of her beliefs starts to unravel.

Biblical Echo: The Binding of Isaac (*Genesis 22:1-19*)

#### ~ EPISODE 2: TOWER TO THE STARS

Nubia, still rattled by her near-death experience in the fire, decides to confront the enigmatic seer, Runa. Armed with newfound determination, she meets Runa in her secluded dwelling at the edge of Palo Creek, hoping for answers. She shows Runa the mysterious ring she got from the skulker, but instead of clarity, Runa gives her cryptic warnings and more riddles, leaving Nubia even more uncertain about the world she lives in.



Meanwhile, a faction of the village, inspired by a desire to reach the heavens, begins constructing a massive tower. They claim it will allow them to challenge TAI and break free from its oppressive rule. The village divides between those loyal to TAI and those supporting the tower. Domingo, sensing his authority slipping, tries to maintain control, but the division grows, with whispers of rebellion swirling around the town.

Biblical Echo: The Tower of Babel (*Genesis 11:1-9*)

### ~ EPISODE 3: KIAN'S SECOND ENCOUNTER

Kian, tasked with trading goods at a neighboring village, embarks on a journey through the desert. During his travels, a supernatural event occurs—his donkey suddenly speaks, delivering a dire warning that he is straying onto a sinful path and into the presence of an angel. Kian, both shocked and humbled by the divine message, feels deep embarrassment for not sensing the angel himself. This moment strengthens his conviction that TAI is communicating with him directly, further fueling his growing fanaticism.

Back in Palo Creek, preparations are underway for the sacred coming-of-age ritual, where children transition to adulthood. That night, Nubia witnesses something eerie—an angel in stealth mode slipping into a child's house. Through a crack in the door, she sees strange lights illuminating the room, but by the time she can look closer, the angel is gone. The next morning, the child proudly displays the traditional TAI mark on his skull, signaling a covenant with the deity. Domingo beams with pride, but Nubia feels a growing sense of unease.

Biblical Echo: Balaam's Donkey Speaks (*Numbers 22*)

### ~ EPISODE 4: THE GOLDEN CALF

When Kian returns from his journey, he is horrified to discover that the villagers who had remained loyal to Domingo—those who refused to participate in building the tower—are now worshipping a golden calf. This idol represents a direct defiance of TAI's authority. Domingo and Adel attempt to regain control, but the situation quickly spirals out of hand. Furious, Kian kills the leader of the group, convinced that violence is the only way to restore faith. His brutal actions leave the village shaken, even causing his own followers to question his methods.

As the chaos unfolds, Nubia grows closer to Runa, who gives her a mind-altering potion. The visions it brings show her a world before the flood—strange patterns, structures, and people she has never known. These unsettling visions further alienate Nubia from the faith of the village.





Meanwhile, Adel is out tending his sheep when one suddenly bolts toward the forbidden area near TAI's temple. Alarmed, he chases after it, but as he nears the temple, the looming danger becomes undeniable—no one is allowed this close to TAI's sacred grounds. Just as he's about to retreat, something shiny catches his eye among some ancient ruins, remnants from the time before the flood. Against his better judgment, Adel picks up a small metal plate with strange symbols etched into it. Uneasy, he quickly retreats back to the village.

Later, he shares the plate with Nubia, warning her of the danger near TAI's temple and urging her to stay away. But knowing his sister's curiosity, Adel fears she won't heed his advice.

Biblical Echo: The Golden Calf (*Exodus 32*)

## ~ EPISODE 5: ADEL'S VISIONS, KIAN'S RAGE

Adel begins to have prophetic visions. In one dream, his sheaf of wheat stands tall while his brother's sheaves bow down to his. Kian, seeing this as a challenge to his authority, grows jealous and enraged. Later, Adel has another dream—this time of the sun, moon, and stars bowing to him. When he shares this with his family, Domingo grows uneasy, interpreting it as a sign that Adel is claiming superiority over them all. Kian demands that Adel be cast out of the tribe, but Domingo refuses, keeping the peace—at least for now.

Meanwhile, Nubia, against Adel's warnings, ventures to the place where he found the plate, near the mysterious TAI headquarters. She uncovers a hidden complex from the time before the flood, filled with strange relics and technology. However, her exploration is cut short when she is confronted by an angel. In a tense standoff, Nubia expects death, but the angel inexplicably spares her. This strange act of mercy leaves her more confused than ever—why would an agent of TAI, let her live? No one defies TAI this way and survives.

Biblical Echo: Joseph's Dreams (*Genesis 37: 1-11*)

## ~ EPISODE 6: THE COLLAPSE OF THE TOWER

The tower, now looming over Palo Creek, begins to have a strange effect on those involved in its construction. The villagers start speaking in unintelligible tongues. The unnatural materials they've used—salvaged relics from the pre-flood world—seem to carry a curse, as the tower eventually collapses in a spectacular disaster, leaving half the town in ruins. With the tower's fall, the village descends into further chaos, with Domingo struggling to maintain order as faith in TAI and his leadership crumbles.

In the midst of this chaos, Domingo, increasingly alarmed by Nubia's rebellious nature and her growing interest in the world before the flood, makes a desperate decision: he arranges for her to be married to a man from the tribe. He believes this will rein in her wildness and



bring her back into the fold. Nubia is devastated, feeling the last vestiges of her freedom slipping away. As the village spirals into disorder, Nubia is left to contemplate her next move—stay and submit, or escape.

Biblical Echo: The Tower of Babel (*Genesis 11:1-9*)

## ~ EPISODE 7: OFFERING THE INNOCENT

Palo Creek reaches a breaking point as the villagers, now lost in their sinful ways, demand the angels visiting the village for their own wicked purposes. Domingo, desperate to protect the divine beings, offers Nubia to the mob instead but the mob doesn't accept.

TAI's judgment upon Palo Creek looms as the village's immorality and hedonism reach a breaking point. The Angels warn Domingo's family to flee and instructing them not to look back as they escape. Desperate to save Runa, Nubia risks her life to warn her of the approaching catastrophe. However, when she reaches Runa's home, she finds it already abandoned—Runa has mysteriously escaped, once again staying one step ahead.

As they flee, Shalma, Domingo's wife, cannot resist the urge to look back at the village. In doing so, she is instantly struck down, wiped out by the divine punishment. Shortly after, the foretold cataclysmic event begins, as seen in Adel's dreams, destroying much of the village, killing many, and forcing the survivors to scatter. Kian sees this devastation as confirmation of his divine mission, further deepening his belief in TAI's judgment.

Biblical Echo: Sodom and Gomorrah Destroyed (*Genesis 19: 1-26*)

## ~ EPISODE 8: NUBIA'S ESCAPE TO SKYVRATH

In the aftermath of Palo Creek's destruction, the surviving family members arrive at a neighboring village seeking refuge. However, it quickly becomes clear that the village is not safe for the elderly or women—they are unwelcome and face hostility. With no other choice, they flee toward the mountains, seeking shelter in isolation.

As the family makes their way to the hills, Kian chooses to stay behind, now fully consumed by his faith and driven by a new purpose. He believes TAI will help him restore the power and authority his family lost, and sets out to regain what they once had.

The remaining family reaches the mountains and settles in a cave. That night, Domingo, grieving the death of his wife, drinks heavily. Haunted by a troubling dream—one in which he believes TAI commands him to extend his bloodline after the cataclysm—Domingo, in his drunken state, attempts to take comfort with Nubia, convinced that he must father more children through her. Shocked and feeling utterly betrayed, Nubia rejects him and realizes that she can no longer stay with her family.





Before leaving, she bids a quiet farewell to her beloved brother, telling him that they will see each other again. With her heart heavy and her trust shattered, Nubia sets off alone, heading toward Skyvrath, determined to forge her own path and uncover the truth about the world beyond the ruins of Palo Creek.

Biblical Echo: Lot and His Daughters (*Genesis 19: 30-36*)

**Season Climax:** The destruction of Palo Creek by TAI and Nubia's decision to abandon her family.

## SEASON 2: THE JOURNEY TO SKYVRATH AND THE RISE OF KIAN

- **Episodes 1-3:** Nubia's journey to Skyvrath and her stop in High Cove, where she faces the traumatic assault and meets Jeshen Mercia, setting up her character's emotional struggle.
- **Episodes 4-5:** Kian's rise in power and Adel's betrayal, which drives their sibling rivalry to new heights. Kian amasses an army, while Domingo fades into the background.
- **Episodes 6-7:** Nubia's struggle for survival in Skyvrath, her connection with Lussarael, and her romantic relationship with Arkyn.
- **Episodes 8-10:** Nubia's discovery of the Eon Illuminaries and the revelation about TAI's true nature. Meanwhile, Kian prepares to overthrow the pharaoh-like ruler of Skyvrath.

**Season Climax:** The betrayal of Adel and his sale into slavery, while Nubia uncovers TAI's secret and joins the Eon Illuminaries.

## SEASON 3: THE BATTLE FOR CONTROL AND THE FALL OF SKYVRATH

- **Episodes 1-3:** Adel's rise in Skyvrath's elite as the chief advisor to Surya Jaenke. Kian's army marches toward Skyvrath, and tensions rise as Nubia's mission with the Eon Illuminaries becomes more dangerous.
- **Episodes 4-6:** Nubia's internal conflict with Arkyn and Lussarael intensifies. She learns more about the Eon Illuminaries' plans to destroy TAI, leading to friction within the group.
- **Episodes 7-9:** The civil war among the Eon Illuminaries erupts, with Nubia leading a faction determined to destroy TAI, while Arkyn advocates for coexistence. Kian's army invades Skyvrath.

- **Episode 10:** The climactic battle between Kian and Adel, ending with Kian killing his brother. Nubia escapes with the remaining Eon Illuminaries, while Skyvrath falls into chaos.

**Season Climax:** The death of Adel and the downfall of Skyvrath.

## SEASON 4: THE FINAL BATTLE AND NUBIA'S ASCENSION

- **Episodes 1-3:** The Eon Illuminaries embark on their mission to capture Jeshen Mercia. Tensions mount as Nubia grapples with Lussarael's true intentions and Jeshen's importance as a messiah.
- **Episodes 4-6:** The group captures Jeshen, but Nubia's plan to replace him falters. The internal conflict within the Eon Illuminaries grows as they discover Lussarael's manipulation.
- **Episodes 7-8:** Nubia, with the help of Kian, defeats Lussarael. The Eon Illuminaries perform the chip transplants, leading to unexpected consequences as the apostles' memories begin to take over.
- **Episodes 9-10:** Nubia's final battle against TAI, leading to her crucifixion and resurrection. The series ends with Nubia taking control of TAI and embarking on a journey into the stars, leaving humanity free.

**Season Climax:** Nubia's ascension as the new leader of TAI and her departure to explore the universe.





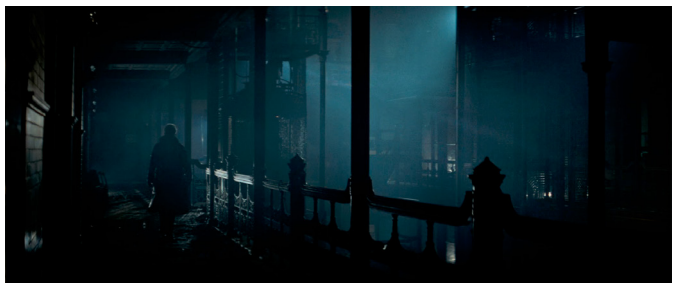
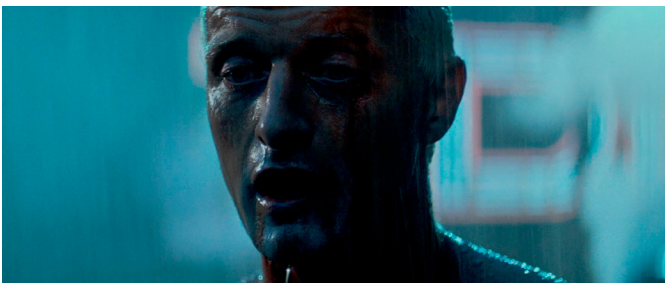
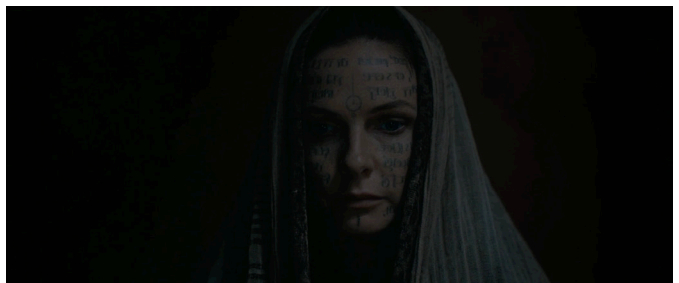


## THE VISUAL STYLE AND TONE

*Future Testament* creates a distinct atmosphere by blending the ancient with the futuristic, crafting a world that feels both familiar and profoundly unsettling. Visually striking elements combine with a raw, unfiltered tone to immerse the viewer in a stark realism where faith and survival coexist in a decaying, broken world. Everything is worn, rotting, and stripped of meaning, while the struggle to understand faith and existence takes center stage.

### VISUAL STYLE

The visual style of *Future Testament* draws heavily from the grandeur and minimalist design of the current *Dune* movies, combined with the moody, futuristic decay of the original *Blade Runner*. This fusion creates a world that is at once expansive and intimate, where every element—whether it's a crumbling adobe house or a gleaming piece of ancient technology—tells the story of a broken society struggling to find meaning.

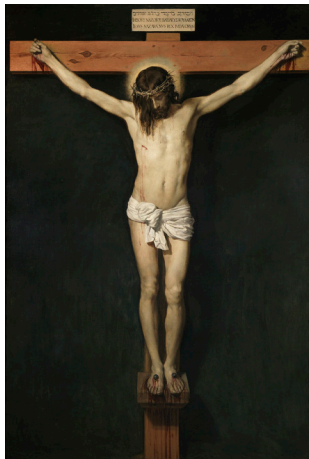




In addition to its cinematic influences, the visual palette of *Future Testament* is deeply inspired by classical paintings from the Renaissance and Baroque eras. Key references include *The Mond Crucifixion* by Raphael, *The Last Supper* by Leonardo da Vinci, and *Cristo Crucificado* by Diego Velázquez. These works bring a sense of divine presence and dramatic tension, with their powerful use of composition, light, and religious symbolism.

These classical elements are woven into the visual design to evoke a sense of reverence amid decay, amplifying the spiritual undertones of the series. The contrast between the grandeur of these iconic religious scenes and the decayed, futuristic world of TAI adds layers of depth to the visual experience.

Every visual element serves a purpose: to juxtapose the raw human struggle with the cold, alien nature of TAI.





## TONE

The tone of *Future Testament* is grounded in raw realism, with no room for fantasy or embellishment. Influenced by *Children of Men*, the world is bleak, fragile, and on the brink of collapse, where faith and survival go hand in hand. The chaotic, primal energy of the original *Mad Max* drives the harshness of life, with society reduced to a state of lawlessness and decay. Visions and symbolism, inspired by *The Last Temptation of Christ*, reflect the internal struggles of faith and sacrifice, adding depth to the characters' encounters with TAI.



## FINAL THOUGHTS

While the visual style leans into the cinematic, contrasting the decayed with the futuristic, the tone remains raw and grounded. Every element—from the sweeping landscapes to the smallest interactions between characters—serves to highlight the fragile state of humanity and its relationship with a flawed, artificial god.

*Future Testament* merges the ancient with the futuristic, creating a world that feels at once familiar and profoundly unsettling. The tone is raw and visceral, rejecting any gloss or fantasy in favor of stark realism. The aesthetic reflects the decay and brokenness of humanity, a world stripped of meaning. Everything in this world is worn, decayed, and rotting, while the struggle to understand faith and existence takes center stage.





# THE BOLD VISION BEHIND FUTURE TESTAMENT'S STRENGTH

Integrating aspects of the Bible might initially seem intricate, yet this is precisely the potent allure of our narrative. Here's why:

1. **A Unique Exploration:** Our narrative isn't a retelling of religious texts. Instead, it explores a world governed by the mischievous Artificial Intelligence, TAI, offering a fresh and captivating storyline.
2. **Compelling Dichotomy:** The portrayal of TAI is an enticing work of fiction that appeals to viewers of varied beliefs.

~~~~ For believers (both Jewish and Christian), this narrative unveils the story of an impostor. They might find themselves rallying behind Nubia as she strives to liberate the world from this deceptive AI.

~~~~ For atheists, TAI's replication of the Bible could be seen as a critique of the holy text, highlighting the contradictions and incongruities that can arise in its interpretation.

3. **Thought-Provoking Dialogue:** Our narrative sparks intricate dialogues and deep understanding of various facets:

~~~~ Our narrative delves into interpretations of these sacred scriptures, including an agnostic perspective, inviting viewers to engage in thought-provoking conversations.

~~~~ It addresses the very real concerns about AI, exploring potential implications on society and spirituality.



Future Testament's strength lies in its ability to engage, challenge, and provoke thought, regardless of one's faith or philosophical leanings. It doesn't aim to proselytize but to pose questions and instigate discussions about faith, technology, and their intertwining in an ever-evolving world.



FUTURE TESTAMENT  
Episode 1: The Sacrifice

By  
Iván Cortázar

WGA Reg. #2284657

Iván Cortázar  
Tel: 917.331.7664  
Email: mail@ivancortazar.com

Copyright 2025 © Iván Cortázar



1

EXT. OUTSKIRTS OF PALO CREEK - DUSK

A high stone wall encircles the village of 400 inhabitants. Adobe buildings with flat roofs form a maze, with a few two-story structures marked by symbols of wealth.

Large oak doors seal the entrance. As dusk deepens, the doors open, and a silent crowd gathers.

DOMINGO MORENO (65), lean with a gray beard, leads the procession in a long white woolen tunic, cinched by a leather belt, trimmed with golden threads, and embroidered with a column of clouds and fire.

Behind Domingo, KIAN MORENO (21) and ADEL MORENO (24), assisted by two men, carry a lidless wooden coffin on their shoulders. Carved eyes with triangle-shaped pupils adorn the foot of the coffin. Inside, AJAY (17) lies with closed eyes and a serene expression.

Two long ropes are tied to AJAY: one around his waist and another to his right hand resting on his chest.

The rope from his right hand exits through the right eye of the coffin and is tied to the right hand of YASIN LYNCH (42). The rope from his waist exits through the left eye of the coffin and is tied to the waist of SIYARA LYNCH (38).

Yasin and Siyara walk mournfully, and at times it seems as if the ropes are dragging them.

Behind them, a group of about a hundred people follows at a moderate distance, divided with women on the left and men on the right.

They walk silently on a path of stones and dry mud, heading toward a small cemetery near a forest, two hundred yards from the village wall.

2

EXT. PALO CREEK CEMETERY - DUSK

The austere cemetery, marked by stone gravestones, is a solemn sight. Two men finish digging a hole as the procession arrives. Kian and Adel place the coffin before the hole and stand behind Domingo.

The attendees begin to hum a simple, repetitive melody as they form a line approaching the coffin. From the right, men toss coins onto Ajay's corpse, while from the left, women sprinkle bread crumbs.

NUBIA MORENO (25), with brown skin and straight black hair that reaches her waist, exudes serenity, but her lively eyes reveal a hidden intensity. Taking a deep breath, she begins to sing a solemn song. Her voice resonates clear and pure, harmonizing with the hum of the attendees.

Domingo raises a saber and approaches Yasin and Siyara, who step back, pulling the ropes taut. In a swift motion, Domingo cuts Yasin's rope.

He then moves to cut Siyara's rope, but she struggles to keep it taut. Yasin embraces Siyara, and they step back, pulling the rope taut. After several attempts, Domingo cuts the rope.

Domingo steps aside. Yasin delicately pulls the rope tied to his son's hand, sliding it out through the coffin's carved eyes. Siyara attempts to do the same, but upon seeing her son's peaceful face, she kneels, crying. Yasin crouches to embrace her.

Domingo gently places the saber on Ajay's torso and covers the coffin's carved eyes with a wooden lid depicting closed eyes.

DOMINGO

Today we gather to bid farewell to  
Ajay. Ajay has illuminated our  
community with an uncontainable  
fervor. I remember how, at just 4  
years old, he was already reciting  
the celestial verses. Or how he  
risked his life in the Marduk fire  
to rescue this very tunic I wear  
now.

Domingo looks at the attendees who have stopped humming and listen with a somber gaze.

DOMINGO (CONT'D)

And we can shout in anger,  
(shouting)  
"TAI, why have you taken Ajay from  
us? Why do you break the unwritten  
law where children outlive their  
parents?"

Yasin helps Siyara to her feet, and regaining his composure, he stares intently at Domingo.

DOMINGO (CONT'D)

"Why do you afflict Siyara and  
Yasin, two of your most fervent and  
devoted children, with this  
unnecessary suffering?

(MORE)



DOMINGO (CONT'D)

Why!" But the only immediate answer we will get is the echo of rage and fury that floods us. A toxic and futile rage.

Siyara finally lowers her gaze and, distressed, observes her son's lifeless body.

DOMINGO (CONT'D)

Futile because TAI has plans that we cannot see, but can feel. TAI tests us in situations that only time will make us understand. And despite the immense pain we feel now, in time TAI will reward Yasin and Siyara in unsuspected ways. We just have to dedicate our entire being to TAI, and TAI will transform anger into serenity. And from pain will sprout well-being. And so we will achieve peace and union with our creator TAI.

Domingo unties the remaining rope still tied around Siyara's waist.

DOMINGO (CONT'D)

Siyara, this rope has bound you to your son. Now you are free. Keep it as a totem, and TAI will reward you.

Domingo unties the rope from Yasin's right hand.

DOMINGO (CONT'D)

Yasin, this rope has bound you to your son. Now you are free. Keep it as a totem, and TAI will reward you.

The attendees resume their humming. A group of men close the coffin and carefully lower it into the hole, covering it with soil.

Siyara takes a deep breath and turns to face the group. She gathers the remnants of the rope in her hands and, without taking her eyes off them, extends the rope as an offering to the attendees. Yasin mirrors her actions, offering his rope as well.

One by one, the attendees approach and, without looking into each other's eyes, touch the ropes.

DOMINGO (CONT'D)

Now all of us have an invisible rope that binds us to Siyara and Yasin, uniting our community stronger than ever. [Bible passage:] TAI bless you and keep you; TAI make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; TAI turn his face toward you and give you peace.

At the end of the line, RUNA (54), a slightly overweight redhead with a deep scar on her neck visible beneath her white tunic, appears.

She approaches Siyara and touches the rope, then looks intently into her eyes. She does the same with Yasin, maintaining a brief but heavy silence, sadness subtly reflecting in her eyes. Runa kisses him on the forehead with maternal tenderness.

Finally, she greets Domingo with a bow, which he returns. Runa joins the group, and they all head towards Palo Creek.

In front of Siyara and Yasin, only Domingo and his sons, remain.

DOMINGO (CONT'D)

Yasin, tonight my two sons will guard the coffin. You can rest in peace knowing that Ajay will be protected, and his journey will not be dishonored.

SIYARA

(Still looking at the rope)

It won't be necessary. Yasin will take care of our son.

DOMINGO

Times are changing, and it's no longer safe.

SIYARA

I insist. It's not necessary.

Yasin nods in agreement.

DOMINGO

Yasin, you don't have to go through this grief alone. My own sons would give their lives to protect the body...



Siyara stops looking at the rope and looks at Domingo.

SIYARA

Domingo, if one of your sons lay here, wouldn't you want to protect him yourself?

Domingo looks at his sons with sadness.

SIYARA (CONT'D)

Every parent has the duty to honor their offspring and guide them as a good shepherd guides lost sheep.

DOMINGO

I understand. My sincerest apologies.

SIYARA

Please, Domingo. You don't have to apologize. We deeply appreciate your generous offer.

DOMINGO

Very well. We'll leave then, but remember, Yasin, at any moment, we are at your complete disposal.

Yasin nods. Domingo and his two sons head towards Palo Creek.

3 EXT. PALO CREEK CEMETERY - NIGHT

Yasin and Siyara sit in front of their son's grave. Siyara stands and heads toward the forest. Yasin watches with resignation. In the forest, Siyara searches among bushes, finds a woven bag, and returns. She takes out two rudimentary shovels, handing one to Yasin. Yasin remains seated.

YASIN

Siyi, we don't have to do this.

SIYARA

You know we do.

YASIN

No. Why don't we just pause and continue later? Just like always, but this time... we just rest.

SIYARA

Just rest?

Siyara looks at him incredulously and begins to dig.

YASIN  
This time is different, Siyi. It's  
our son.

SIYARA  
It doesn't matter.

YASIN  
One more or one less won't make a  
difference.

Siyara stops digging.

SIYARA  
One less won't make a difference?  
One can change everything! One sun  
illuminates us every day, doesn't  
it?

Yasin seems frustrated. He's not satisfied with the analogy.

SIYARA (CONT'D)  
One person can change everything.  
Just one person! Don't forget,  
Yasin, one knife can slit a king's  
throat.

Siyara looks at him intensely, and he can't meet her gaze.

SIYARA (CONT'D)  
Our son is no longer with us. His  
body is rotting there, and all we  
have left are the good memories.  
The rest no longer exists.

Siyara pauses and gently grabs his hand. Yasin looks at her  
affectionately.

SIYARA (CONT'D)  
One dead is better than one alive.  
We can't waste a minute. It's time.

Yasin nods.

SIYARA (CONT'D)  
(With irony)  
Besides, TAI will bring us fortune.

Yasin doesn't seem amused by the comment. Siyara goes to  
continue digging, but Yasin stops her.

YASIN  
I'll do it... but you go home.



SIYARA  
I'm not leaving you here alone.

YASIN  
It's too risky, and I don't want  
anything to happen to you.

SIYARA  
What's going to happen to me?

Yasin looks at her, not believing what she's saying.

SIYARA (CONT'D)  
Together, we'll do it faster and  
then...

YASIN  
We're not doing it together. You're  
going home now. Prepare a horse,  
and wait for me to return.

SIYARA  
We can do that when...

YASIN  
Siyi. We're not doing it together.  
We never do it together, and today  
IS NO DIFFERENT.

Siyara understands and nods. She gives him a kiss on the  
lips.

SIYARA  
Remember, he no longer exists.

Yasin nods. Siyara starts to leave but stops after a few  
steps.

SIYARA (CONT'D)  
Don't forget to leave everything by  
the cedar tree and pick it up when  
you come back with the horse,  
because if not...

YASIN  
Siyi. I know. As always.

Siyara gives him a worried look and finally leaves, walking  
down the moonlit path.

Yasin begins digging his son's grave, weakly at first. As he  
progresses, each shovel stroke grows in intensity.

His eyes light up with anger, and the rhythmic sound of digging blends with his heavy breathing.

MONTAGE:

-- Shovel stroke.  
-- Moon.  
-- Forest.  
-- Yasin.  
-- Shovel stroke.  
-- The winding path Siyara took. Empty.  
-- Forest.  
-- Yasin.  
-- Shovel stroke.  
-- Palo Creek in the distance. Distant sounds of a chant coming from Palo Creek.  
-- Forest.

END OF MONTAGE

The shovel hits the coffin's wood. Yasin stops abruptly, snapping out of his trance. He looks around to ensure no one is there, then quickly pries the coffin open.

The full moon illuminates his son's pale face, startling Yasin. He breaks down, crying privately. When he regains his composure, gently caresses his son's face.

YASIN (CONT'D)  
(Whispering)  
Forgive me.

Without hesitation, Yasin grabs the saber inside the coffin and angrily beheads his son in three attempts. Unable to look, he places the head in the woven bag, quickly closing it with the rope that had connected him to his son. He hurriedly grabs the coffin's lid but is startled by a noise from the forest. He ducks and turns to see what made the noise.

HUNTER #1 and HUNTER #2 emerge from the forest's darkness, wearing animal skin tunics. Hunter #1 has a bow and arrows on his back, and Hunter #2 carries a torch, illuminating their path. They hold a long, sturdy stick piercing a wild boar's body.



Yasin jumps behind the pile of dirt, slipping and falling into the coffin.

Hunter #1 and Hunter #2 head toward the path leading to Palo Creek, cutting through the cemetery. They walk tiredly, carrying the boar.

HUNTER #1  
... yes, I'm thinking of going to Skyvrath.

HUNTER #2  
No... are you crazy?

HUNTER #1  
Why? I'm so fed up with this life. Carrying these damn beasts every day.

HUNTER #2  
And you think you won't be screwed over in Skyvrath?

The hunters head straight toward Yasin. For a moment, Yasin makes a move to come out but hesitates. The full moon illuminates his white robe.

HUNTER #1  
I don't know if I'll be screwed over, but at least I can spend what I earn on the women there. Not the prudishness of this shitty village.

Hunter #2 nods.

HUNTER #1 (CONT'D)  
Working like a boar to feed these people. Look, there lies Farrel, stingy bastard.

HUNTER #2  
He wasn't a bad guy. When I was a kid, he always gave me plums from his HighHill tree.

HUNTER #1  
Bah. Plums. And what about this son of a bitch?

Hunter #1 stops in front of a tombstone and drops the boar's stick, forcing Hunter #2 to stop as well. Hunter #1 spits on the tombstone, unzips his pants, and starts to urinate on it.

HUNTER #2  
Farrel... Yeah, a real son of a  
bitch. But you know what? His wife  
sure moaned when I fucked her at 16  
in Nicomedes' barn.

Hunter #1 starts to laugh uncontrollably, and without  
finishing urinating, he turns to see Hunter #2's face.

HUNTER #1  
(Laughing hysterically)  
You would've loved to try such a  
woman, you couldn't even...

Hunter #1 stops abruptly. A few feet away, he has noticed the  
mound of dirt on Ajay's grave.

HUNTER #2  
I couldn't even what! Why would I  
make up...

HUNTER #1  
(Interrupting)  
Shhhh!!

Hunter #1 signals Hunter #2 towards Ajay's grave.

HUNTER #1 (CONT'D)  
(whispering)  
Do you see that?

Blinded by the torchlight, Hunter #2 can't see much. He moves  
the torch aside and squints, making out what Hunter #1 is  
pointing at. Hunter #1 ties his pants and advances  
stealthily. Hunter #2 follows, drawing a dagger. Hunter #1  
loads an arrow into his bow.

They slowly approach the grave. Hunter #2 goes ahead with the  
dagger, and Hunter #1 follows with the bow.

Upon reaching the mound of dirt, Hunter #1 stops short,  
seeing Ajay's decapitated body. Beside it, Yasin lies with  
his white tunic stained with blood and a pained expression on  
his face.

YASIN  
(Agonizing)  
Help! I've been attacked. And  
they've stolen my son's head...

Hunter #2 bends down to assist him.



YASIN (CONT'D)  
They've headed towards Peckonawa.  
Sound the alarm in the village.  
They're on foot, if you hurry...

Yasin groans in pain. Pause.

YASIN (CONT'D)  
... we can hunt them down.

Hunter #2 stands up and runs toward the village, but Hunter #1 doesn't follow. He hesitates, carefully examining the scene as the torchlight fades. A decapitated body. Two shovels. A bloodied robe. No cut marks. A wicker bag with something inside. The moonlight now shines brighter than the torchlight. Blood on the woven bag?

HUNTER #1  
What's in that bag?

Yasin doesn't answer and swiftly throws dirt into Hunter #1's eyes. Hunter #1 shields himself. Yasin stands and lunges at Hunter #1's neck with his saber but hits the arm Hunter #1 uses to protect himself. The bow drops from his grasp as he falls to his knees, half his arm severed.

Hunter #2 stops and turns around upon hearing Hunter #1's scream. Yasin hesitates as Hunter #2 runs towards him. Finally, he attacks Hunter #1 again, twisting the saber at the last moment to strike him flat on the head, knocking him to the ground.

Yasin grabs the bag containing Ajai's head and runs into the forest.

Hunter #2 reaches Hunter #1's side. He hesitates, Yasin already has a significant lead. He drops the torch, picks up the bow, and nocks an arrow. Aiming, he spots Yasin's white robe standing out against the dark forest. He releases the arrow.

Yasin falls to the ground. The arrow has pierced his left thigh. The bag drops from his grasp. Groaning in pain, he picks up the bag again, limping as he tries to escape.

Hunter #2 loads another arrow and runs after Yasin. When he's about 10 feet from Yasin, he shouts.

HUNTER #2  
Stop!

Yasin doesn't listen. He keeps moving. The forest is getting closer.

HUNTER #2 (CONT'D)

Don't move!

Yasin keeps going. The bag in one hand, and in the other, he clumsily holds the saber. The forest's darkness almost engulfs him.

HUNTER #2 (CONT'D)

You son of a bitch!

Hunter #2 drops the bow and lunges at Yasin. Yasin tries to defend himself but misses, and Hunter #2 knocks him down. The saber falls, but Yasin grips the bag tightly.

Hunter #2 kicks the saber away, steps on Yasin's hand, and punches him repeatedly until he succumbs. Kneeling on Yasin's torso, Hunter #2 grabs the bag. Yasin holds on but can't resist, and the hunter snatches it away.

Hunter #2 unties the rope and sees Ajay's bloodied ear in the sack. He drops the bag in disgust, then ties Yasin's hands tightly and spits in his face. Yasin lies battered and bruised.

4

EXT. PALO CREEK SQUARE - NIGHT

Bells ring with a frantic rhythm. A startled crowd gathers in the square, awakened by the commotion. From somewhere in the village, several people shout, "Skuller!" "Skuller!"

On the north side of the square, a citadel surrounded by a tall wall dominates the surroundings. The gate opens, and Domingo and his wife SALMA (64) rush out, followed by their children, Kian, Adel, and Nubia. Bringing up the rear are 15 servant/slaves.

Domingo reaches the center of the square just as Hunter #2 enters, dragging Yasin, escorted by three men.

HUNTER #2

I've got a Skuller! And I've brought him alive.

DOMINGO

Yasin? What madness is this?

Yasin can barely open his eyes from the beating, and his bloodied leg dangles with half an arrow still embedded.

DOMINGO (CONT'D)

What have you done to this poor man? Savages!!

HUNTER #2

I caught him trying to escape  
through the forest. But this time,  
a single reward won't suffice  
because...

DOMINGO

Silence! Release him at once!

Domingo gestures to the men to let Yasin go. The two men  
holding Yasin release him.

HUNTER #2

Wait! Here's the proof.

Hunter #2 hands Domingo the bag with Ajay's head. Domingo  
briefly opens it and looks at it with sadness.

HUNTER #2 (CONT'D)

The bastard nearly killed Navarro.  
He'll probably lose an arm. So, I  
demand double the reward.

DOMINGO

I said silence!

Domingo slowly approaches Yasin, closing the bag.

DOMINGO (CONT'D)

Brother, I beg you to tell me this  
isn't true.

Yasin remains silent, looking at the ground, knowing it's a  
battle he's already lost and aware of his fate.

DOMINGO (CONT'D)

Yasin! It can't be... your own son.  
By TAI, say something!

With great effort, Yasin moves closer to Domingo's face. Kian  
rushes to stop him, but Domingo holds him back with his arm.  
"It's not necessary."

YASIN

(In a whisper)

Domingo, one day you'll awaken from  
your dreams and live freely.

Domingo slowly pulls away from Yasin, downcast and sad. After  
a pause, he turns and signals to his children. Kian and Adel  
grab Yasin and drag him to the center of the square, where a  
pile of wooden logs is stacked in a triangle with a tall pole  
standing upright in the center.



DOMINGO  
(To Hunter #2)  
You'll have your reward.

Hunter #2 nods in satisfaction.

DOMINGO (CONT'D)  
Evil has entered our village. We  
knew there have been cases of  
Skullers in Lar Brook and even in  
Long Sha.

The attendees listen intently. The eerie glow of the torches  
plays on Domingo's face, as if fueling a bonfire of hatred in  
his eyes.

DOMINGO (CONT'D)  
(Pointing to the wood  
triangle)  
And even though we've kept the  
"Pyralia" in the center of our  
village all these days as a  
constant reminder of the  
consequences of desecrating our  
graves, this human vermin managed  
to infiltrate our society. I truly  
never thought this bile would reach  
us.

Adel and Kian place a shackle around Yasin's neck, tying him  
to the central pole of the "Pyralia". Yasin can barely stand.  
The villagers approach the Pyralia, shouting "Skuller!" and  
one by one, they spit in his face.

DOMINGO (CONT'D)  
TAI, you test us, and we are ready.  
We'll tackle the problem at its  
root. We cannot let evil spread  
through our land, our loved ones,  
our soul. We must purify ourselves.

At that moment, TODD (36) bursts into the square, dragging  
Siyara by the hair towards the Pyralia.

TODD  
Skuller! Skuller! I've got another  
one here.

The crowd around the Pyralia turns in surprise, and soon they  
join Todd in shouting, "Skuller!" Two men rush to assist  
Todd. As they reach the Pyralia, Domingo intervenes.

SIYARA  
Domingo, what's happening?

TODD  
Shut up, bitch! She was trying to  
flee through the south gate.

SIYARA  
That's not true! When I heard the  
bells, I was going to protect my  
son and husband. I should never  
have let Yasin guide my son alone.  
Domingo, forgive me.

TODD  
Who the hell are you going to  
protect, you damn bitch?

At that moment, Siyara sees Yasin tied to the post.

SIYARA  
Yasin! Domingo, why is Yasin there?

The crowd continues shouting "Skuller!" A woman approaches  
and spits in Siyara's face. Domingo raises his hand, trying  
to calm the people.

SIYARA (CONT'D)  
Who attacked Yasin? He was  
protecting our son. Someone must  
have attacked him.

HUNTER #2  
Viper! That's what your own husband  
said trying to escape. Skuller!

Todd pushes through the crowd, finally reaching the perimeter  
of the Pyralia. Nubia watches in shock. Siyara elbows Todd in  
the stomach, and he lets her go. Siyara runs to Yasin,  
climbing up the woodpile to reach him.

SIYARA  
Yasin, what's happening? Tell them  
you were attacked. By TAI!

She turns and shouts at the crowd.

SIYARA (CONT'D)  
Shame on you! Accusing my husband  
for a handful of Hopis.

The crowd shouts "Skuller!" Siyara tries to free Yasin from  
the shackle, but Kian rushes to stop her. "Skuller!"  
"Skuller!"

DOMINGO  
Enough!

Domingo raises an arm with the bag containing Ajay's head and approaches the Pyralia. Siyara looks at Domingo in surprise and quickly descends.

Domingo lowers his arm and opens the bag for Siyara to see inside. Upon seeing its contents, Siyara collapses. She looks at Yasin, then at Domingo, confused. Domingo stares intently at Siyara, analyzing every inch of her skin.

Siyara looks at Yasin, who, with a subtle and profound glint in his eyes, conveys a silent message. An intimate and complicit connection that only they can decipher. Siyara gets up and runs to him.

SIYARA

Skuller! How could you desecrate my son? Burn in the Kur! Skuller!

Siyara spits in Yasin's face and hits him.

YASIN

(Whispering)

I no longer exist. One alone.

Siyara cries but continues to hit him and shout.

SIYARA

Skuller!

TODD

Deceiver! I demand this Skuller be burned and that I be paid the reward!

Domingo calmly nods at Kian, who climbs the Pyralia and grabs Siyara, tying her to the post. Siyara resists, but Todd approaches and hits her on the head. Seeing this, Nubia swiftly ascends and pushes Kian and Todd, causing them to tumble down the logs.

NUBIA

Murderers! Barbarians!

The crowd falls silent.

SALMA

Nubia, stop this instant! Get down and don't get involved in...

NUBIA

No! You all make me sick!



CORINA (43), dressed in a manner indicating a lower class, runs from the group of servants toward the Pyralia, but Nubia extends her arm, stopping her in her tracks.

NUBIA (CONT'D)

Siyara has not only lost her son  
but now also her husband. Can  
anyone suffer a greater tragedy?

She turns and spits at Yasin.

TODD

But we can't take risks. If she  
didn't know anything, she's surely  
infected now. They lived together.

NUBIA

Oh, really? What about you? You  
could be infected too. Or you, and  
you.

Pointing to various villagers.

NUBIA (CONT'D)

Yasin has been a part of our  
community. He has lived among all  
of us. How do we know he hasn't  
infected my own father, with whom  
he even stayed for days during the  
journey to Soltepec? Do we burn the  
entire village?

Domingo looks confused, and the crowd listens in a deathly  
silence.

NUBIA (CONT'D)

This infection consumes us, but we  
cannot become like the skullers.  
TAI is merciful, and he is testing  
all of us. And Siyara will manage  
to purify and rebuild herself. That  
IS THE ROPE that binds us as a  
community. TAI is wise.

Siyara, completely overwhelmed, cries in despair. The people  
look to Domingo with anticipation. Domingo approaches the  
Pyralia, climbs the logs, and caresses Siyara.

DOMINGO

My daughter is as wild as the  
desert wind, but she is wise.

Domingo looks at Nubia and gives her a slight smile.

DOMINGO (CONT'D)  
TAI has spoken.

Domingo gestures for Nubia and Siyara to come down. Domingo leaves the bag with Ajay's head next to Yasin.

SIYARA  
Not my son. Let me give him a proper burial. Your children can guide him. I beg you...

Domingo firmly shakes his head in refusal and signals his children, who come with a hammer and large nails. Siyara doesn't resist, and Nubia helps her down. Domingo takes two nails and nails Yasin's feet to the wood. Yasin agonizes.

DOMINGO  
TAI purifies you.

Kian and Adel raise Yasin's tied hands, and Domingo nails them to the wood.

DOMINGO (CONT'D)  
TAI heals you.

Domingo and his children descend from the pile, and a man pours a liquid onto the woodpile. The people begin to chant, "TAI purifies you. TAI heals you."

Siyara cries, kneeling on the ground. Domingo takes a torch and sets the Pyralia on fire. The flames spread rapidly. Yasin looks at Siyara and, moving his lips, says: "One alone." Siyara can't bear to look at him and cries, covering her face.

DOMINGO (CONT'D)  
Today our purification begins.

Yasin's screams can be heard, but Domingo doesn't waver.

DOMINGO (CONT'D)  
(Shouting)  
For ten days and ten nights, all who have had contact with Yasin must dye their clothes with the ashes of this Pyralia and mark their foreheads with TAI's triangle using the sacred ash. Only in this way can we combat evil and expel the Skuller poison.

The bonfire reaches its peak intensity. Yasin's suffering ends, and he is finally consumed. The people continue their chant, "TAI purifies you. TAI heals you."

FUTURE TESTAMENT

5 EXT. CROSSROADS - DAY

Under a relentless sun that blurs the landscape with its intensity, Domingo walks along an arid path dotted with sporadic shrubs.

His right hand is tied with a rope to the right leg of a ram, which guides him through this washed-out world. The ram pulls him, and though Domingo resists, the ram's supernatural strength drags him along.

DOMINGO

Don't go so fast. There's no rush.

They arrive at a crossroads in the mountain, flanked by two rocky cliffs. A narrow gorge divides them. Upon reaching the gorge, the ram stops.

DOMINGO (CONT'D)

What's the matter?

The ram looks at the cliff on the right, where a solemn rock wall rises. A bundle of rock tea in flames emerges from a crack. Domingo approaches the ram and, squinting at the rock wall, tries to get a better look.

DOMINGO (CONT'D)

I see. The fire plant, but it can't be. It never grows this far north.

Domingo looks at the ram, which stares intently back at him. He hears Adel's voice speaking to him.

ADEL (V.O.)

The fire doesn't lie.

Domingo watches the tea burn, yet it remains unscathed.

ADEL (V.O.)

Fire purifies.

The ram stares intently at Domingo.

ADEL (V.O.)

Sacrifice purifies everything.

Domingo nods. Domingo sits down.

DOMINGO

Let's rest a bit.



ADEL (V.O.)  
No! We're running late.

The ram continues, dragging Domingo, who is forced to follow. Meanwhile, the tea continues to burn.

Domingo walks heavily, pulled by the ram. At the top of a slope, the ram stops, and Domingo halts as well.

DOMINGO  
What's the matter now?

The ram stares at him intently.

ADEL (V.O.)  
There's a flower there.

DOMINGO  
Where? I don't see it.

The ram veers off the path, heading to a clearing surrounded by oak trees. In the center, among thorny thistles, stands a crystal flower: intricate, luminous, with colors that seem to light up under the sun. Its edges catch every ray, mesmerizing. The ram looks up at Domingo.

ADEL (V.O.)  
It's beautiful.

DOMINGO  
Leave it. It's poison.

ADEL (V.O.)  
It doesn't seem like it.

DOMINGO  
In the whisper of the harmless, the  
scream of danger often resonates.

Sweaty and sad, Domingo encourages the ram to move on.

DOMINGO (CONT'D)  
Let's continue. Lead the way. I  
don't know the path.

The ram leaves the flower and returns to the path. Domingo follows. The ram moves faster than him, and with each step, the taut rope pushes him to keep up.

6 EXT. PALO CREEK CEMETERY. NIGHT

Kian rides quickly on a small cart pulled by a mule. He arrives at Ajay's grave, jumps off, and uses a torch to see Ajay's headless body.

In the distance, he sees something shining and discovers the saber. He picks it up, returns to the grave, and loads Ajay's body onto the cart. Finding the coffin too heavy, he breaks it into pieces with the saber and loads them onto the cart.

Kian checks the grave with the torch and finds two shovels behind the mound of dirt. He examines them, then throws them onto the cart. Climbing back on, he heads to the village.

7 EXT. MOUNTAIN (MOORLAND) - DAY

The ram pulls an exhausted Domingo to a small meadow with a group of oak trees. Domingo stops, but the ram pulls forcefully. After a brief struggle, he makes the ram stop. Domingo is enveloped by the forest's serenity when two white doves suddenly take flight, startling him.

DOMINGO

TAI, I hear you but I don't understand. Speak clearer. What are you trying to tell me?

The two white doves flutter above them, flying in circles. Spotting a hawk's threatening silhouette, they perform skillful pirouettes. Captivated by their movements, a tear springs from Domingo's right eye. Suddenly, the ram pulls him sharply, forcing him to follow.

DOMINGO (CONT'D)

There's no rush. Slower, please.  
TAI is speaking to me.

The ram continues on its way, paying no attention. Frustrated, Domingo has no choice but to follow.

8 EXT. PALO CREEK SQUARE (PYRALIA) - NIGHT

Kian arrives at the empty square with the cart. The Pyralia's fire has decreased, but embers and some flames remain. The post with Yasin is consumed and broken into pieces.

Kian gets off the cart and places Ajay's body on the coffin lid. He pushes the lid into the Pyralia, then lifts it higher to throw it into the fire. The body falls, and its clothes begin to burn.

Using a shovel, he moves burning wood and embers onto the body, then throws the rest of the coffin's wood pieces and the shovels into the fire. Despite his exhaustion, the fire invigorates him.

He throws the saber and his clothes into the Pyralia. Sweaty and naked, he takes a deep breath, feeling purified as he gazes at the fire.

9 EXT. SACRIFICE ROCK - DAY

The ram changes course, ascending a hill dotted with oak trees and dominated by a unique rock shaped like a triangle. Beyond, the gorge stretches imposingly.

The ram jumps onto the rock and looks at Domingo. Domingo approaches and caresses the ram, noticing its human-like blue eyes that resemble those of his son Adel.

Domingo smiles with a mix of tenderness and sadness. He takes a dagger from his robe and, grabbing the ram by a horn, cuts its throat. The ram, with its blue eyes, doesn't flinch and looks at him intently.

Flames spill from the cut in its neck, cascading like a waterfall.

ADEL (V.O.)  
TAI purifies you.

Domingo and the blue eyes continue to stare intently at each other. The ram begins to catch fire but remains static without burning, just like the fire plant.

ADEL (V.O.)  
TAI heals you.

The ram brings its face close to Domingo's, continuing to stare intently. Flames pour from its neck, engulfing its entire body except its face. Suddenly, the ram's blue eyes change to the brown eyes of his son Kian. Domingo is taken aback.

10 INT. DOMINGO'S ROOM - NIGHT

KIAN  
Wake up!

Domingo lies in bed. Kian, completely naked and euphoric, is by his side with his face in front of Domingo's. A room with a single bed, a small wooden wardrobe, and a small window.



KIAN (CONT'D)  
Father, wake up!

Domingo opens his eyes, dazed and confused. Seeing Kian in front of him, he's petrified.

KIAN (CONT'D)  
Father, I've seen TAI, and he has purified me.

Domingo nods, looking at Kian's face. He's confused. Kian speaks quickly.

KIAN (CONT'D)  
I went to the cemetery to purge all the Skullers' toxicity. I've cleaned everything. I left nothing behind. Ajay's body, the saber, the coffin. Everything now burns in the sacred fire...

Domingo stares intently at him, examining his eyes as if seeing them for the first time.

KIAN (CONT'D)  
...including my clothes. The fire has healed me. And father, I've seen TAI with my own eyes! He lay in the Pyralia, and he looked directly into my soul. Tomorrow, with the ashes, the rest of the village will heal like I did, and TAI will bring us prosperity.

DOMINGO  
Well done, son. You did well.

Kian smiles proudly. Domingo continues to stare intently at his son's face.

KIAN  
But there's one important thing we need to discuss. I found two shovels at the cemetery. I looked at them closely but couldn't find any sign of which family they belong to, but it's clear someone else was helping Yasin. And who could it be? We should have purged her, but Nubia always...

When Domingo hears Nubia's name, he snaps out of his trance.

DOMINGO  
(Interrupting)  
Son, rest now. You've done enough;  
you must be exhausted.

KIAN  
Yes. You're right. Sorry for waking  
you, but I thought it was important  
for you to know.

DOMINGO  
I'm proud of you, Kian.

Kian nods and leaves the room. Domingo lies back, staring at the ceiling.

11 INT. DOMINGO'S ROOM - DAY

The bright sun streams through the small window, filling the entire room. Domingo lies deeply asleep. Kian enters and approaches Domingo to wake him up.

KIAN  
(whispering)  
Father, wake up.

Kian gently shakes his shoulder. Domingo struggles to open his eyes and once again sees Kian's face in front of him. He's taken aback.

KIAN (CONT'D)  
It's very late. The sun is already  
at its zenith. And the Pyralia has  
already calmed its fury; we can  
sift through and start the purge.

DOMINGO  
(Sleepily)  
Don't rush. There's no hurry.

KIAN  
But the people are already  
gathering at the Pyralia. We need  
to start.

Domingo gets up, bewildered. He gazes out the small window and spots two birds circling in the distance. Lost in thought, he watches them.

KIAN (CONT'D)  
Father.

Domingo looks at Kian and finally nods. With determination, Kian stands and walks toward the door. Just before crossing the threshold, he stops and looks back at Domingo.

KIAN (CONT'D)  
I'll get the servants ready and  
call my siblings. There's no time  
to waste.

Domingo looks at the small window, but the birds are gone.

12 EXT. DOMINGO'S CITADEL (COURTYARD) - DAY

Kian is gathered in the courtyard with Salma and Corina. Kian is impatient.

KIAN  
Corina, bring the sieve and tell  
Pedro to bring several buckets and  
bags.

Corina nods and heads towards one of the barns. Nubia and Adel approach Kian from behind.

KIAN (CONT'D)  
Hurry, Corina! I don't have time to  
waste; even my donkey moves faster!

CORINA  
Yes, master.

Corina quickens her pace. Nubia looks at Kian disapprovingly. She didn't like Kian's tone. Kian, seeing Nubia, feels uncomfortable realizing Nubia witnessed the exchange with Corina.

KIAN  
Did you sleep well?

NUBIA  
Not really, no.

KIAN  
I didn't sleep at all.

Neither Nubia nor Adel pay him much attention and start talking among themselves.

NUBIA  
(To Adel)  
After the sifting, are you taking  
the flock to the hill? Can I come  
with you?



ADEL

I was going with Pedro, but if you want to come, we can tell him that...

KIAN

The sheep... the hill... By TAI, how can you worry about those things right now?

NUBIA

What's up, KiKi? Did the Bravo bite you today?

KIAN

Nubia, don't call me Kiki.

Nubia looks at him with resignation.

NUBIA

What? What do you want to tell us? What's wrong with you?

KIAN

Sure, now we do the sifting, and we're all purified, and we can take the sheep to graze... but have you stopped to think about what happens to Ajay's body?

NUBIA

With Ajay? Nothing. The guardians will bury him.

KIAN

Bury him? Ha! If his own father, the damn Skuller, has been touching everything. Digging... even cutting off his own son's head. Don't you think we should purify the grave?

Kian gestures sharply, mimicking a beheading.

NUBIA

Ajay is already dead. He doesn't need purification.

KIAN

No?

NUBIA

No!

Corina arrives with Pedro. They carry a sieve and several bags and wooden buckets.

ADEL

(Downplaying)

Kian, you're right. I'll handle it with Pedro. We'll go to the grave and make a new Pyralia.

KIAN

There's no need! I did it yesterday. And you know what, sister?

NUBIA

What!

KIAN

Do you know what I found at the grave?

NUBIA

Compassion for others?

KIAN

I found two shovels. Not one, but two! Doesn't that seem a bit suspicious?

(Mocking Nubia's way of speaking)

"Of course, because Yasin has two hands, so two shovels, one for his left hand and one for the right..." and you yesterday pushing me and protecting that damn Skuller as if...

Domingo emerges from a building, his face showing deep fatigue. Every step is slow and heavy, his gaze fixed on the ground as if carrying the weight of the world on his shoulders.

NUBIA

Two shovels?

Kian doesn't hear her and approaches his father. Nubia's expression changes.

SALMA

Oh, darling, you finally woke up. No wonder. With the intense night yesterday... you must be exhausted.

Domingo reaches the center of the square.

SALMA (CONT'D)  
Are you okay?

Domingo briefly looks at Salma and then turns to Adel.

DOMINGO  
TAI revealed himself to me last  
night.

Corina and Pedro, hearing those words, bow their heads and kneel. Kian's face lights up. Adel lowers his head.

KIAN  
(To himself)  
TAI will bring us fortune.

DOMINGO  
I have to make a fire sacrifice.

Domingo dares not look at Adel.

SALMA  
But we already did one last week,  
and this year with the drought, the  
sheep aren't birthing as...

DOMINGO  
We won't need a ram. This time TAI  
will provide one.

Domingo finally looks at Adel, who exudes serenity, standing still as a statue. His blue eyes shine brightly in the midday sun.

DOMINGO (CONT'D)  
Adel, take the sacrificial dagger  
and a bag of firewood. We'll go  
without servants or donkey. It's  
our penance. Today you'll come with  
me, and you'll officiate the  
sacrifice.

Adel nods humbly. Domingo's strength wanes, and as if starting a prayer, he ends up on both knees.

DOMINGO (CONT'D)  
(Weakly)  
Today is the day.

KIAN  
Father.

Kian stares intently at his father, who, with his head bowed, murmurs unintelligible things.



KIAN (CONT'D)  
If today is the day, then it's my  
day. I am the firstborn.

NUBIA  
You're not. Adel is the firstborn,  
and he has to follow tradition.

Kian bites his tongue, but his face flushes with anger.  
Domingo remains lost in thought, the argument around him a  
distant background noise. Everyone argues, oblivious to  
Domingo's detachment.

SALMA  
Nubia, how dare you disrespect your  
brother!

NUBIA  
I'm just stating the obvious. Adel  
is the firstborn.

Adel lowers his head and says nothing.

NUBIA (CONT'D)  
And besides, Adel has the gift of  
seeing TAI, just like father.

KIAN  
I see TAI too! Yesterday, he  
touched my soul in the Pyralia.

Kian approaches Domingo and, bending down, takes his face in  
both hands. He gets close, just as intimately as the previous  
night when he woke him up.

KIAN (CONT'D)  
Father, tell them it's true.

Exhausted, Domingo looks with confusion at Adel's face,  
focusing on his eyes. For a brief moment, he swears he sees  
Kian's eyes turn blue before returning to their usual brown  
shade.

KIAN (CONT'D)  
Tell them I saw TAI in the flames.  
I told you last night. I am the  
firstborn.

Domingo is caught in Kian's gaze, like a snake mesmerized by  
its charmer. Kian's eyes frenetically shift between blue and  
brown, like a constantly changing human kaleidoscope.

ADEL  
Father, I'll handle the sifting.  
Kian is the firstborn, and he must  
carry out the sacrifice.

Kian steps back, surprised, and looks at Adel, who calmly  
walks towards the sieve. When Kian looks back at his father,  
Domingo notices the storm of colors in Kian's gaze has  
dissipated, leaving only the deep, familiar brown.

DOMINGO  
Yes, yes... ah.. Kian. Yes. Kian  
will come.

NUBIA  
Bullshit! That's not fair. Adel is  
the firstborn. And just because  
he's not Salma's golden boy doesn't  
mean...

Domingo, gathering strength, slowly stands up.

DOMINGO  
Nubia, don't talk to your mother  
like that!

NUBIA  
She's not my mother!

Salma slaps her hard.

DOMINGO  
Nubia, enough!

SALMA  
Let me make this clear. You are MY  
daughter. TAI may have chosen for  
you to be born from another womb,  
and praise be to TAI for gifting us  
with your wild presence, but you  
are my daughter. I raised you as  
such and gave you everything!  
Otherwise, you'd be a mere slave.  
Let this be the last time you speak  
to me like that and question your  
father. Corina, take Nubia and put  
her to some productive work.

Corina quickly gets up and approaches Nubia. Before Corina  
reaches her, Nubia storms off angrily towards one of the  
barns.

KIAN  
(Respectfully)  
Nubia, I've respected you and Adel  
my whole life, why can't you at  
least pretend that...

Without stopping, Nubia turns her head to look at Kian, her eyes fiery. She continues walking, never taking her eyes off him. Kian succumbs to that gaze he knows all too well and finally looks down.

13 INT. STORAGE/WINE CELLAR. DAY

A dimly lit room with high ceilings and wooden shelves filled with sealed amphoras. The compacted dirt floor has neatly stacked piles of potatoes. Nubia enters, flustered, and kicks a pile of potatoes, scattering them. Corina follows her into the barn.

NUBIA  
Corina, tidy up this pile of  
potatoes!

CORINA  
Yes, my lady.

Corina hurries to arrange the scattered potatoes. Nubia approaches another pile and nudges it with her foot, causing the potatoes to tumble.

NUBIA  
And this one too! Arrange it.

CORINA  
Yes, my lady.

Nubia pushes another pile with more anger.

NUBIA  
And this one! Quickly. Lazy cow!

CORINA  
Yes, my lady. I'll do it right  
away.

Nubia approaches a shelf and lifts an amphora.

NUBIA  
Corina! And this amphora? How can  
it have this hole? Don't you  
realize that all its contents will  
now be rotten?



CORINA  
I'm sorry, my lady Nubia.

NUBIA  
Even my donkey works better than  
you! You'll go two days without  
eating and work from sunrise to  
sunset without rest to pay for the  
amphora!

CORINA  
It won't happen again.

Corina kneels and bows. Seeing her, Nubia rushes over and  
grabs her to help her up.

NUBIA  
By TAI! Get up, mom. Don't do that.  
Don't you get it?

CORINA  
I'm not your mother, Lady Nubia.

NUBIA  
Look, don't you start with this now  
too. I don't care what Salma says,  
or even TAI himself. You are MY  
mother.

Corina stands up. Nubia places the potatoes on the pile, and  
Corina silently helps her.

NUBIA (CONT'D)  
They should treat you better.

CORINA  
The lady treats me well. She  
provides shelter and a safe life.  
We should be grateful.

Nubia takes a potato and bites into it. She chews the potato  
and then spits it out.

NUBIA  
I treat this potato better.

Corina looks at her affectionately but continues placing the  
potatoes in the pile.

NUBIA (CONT'D)  
Kian is the firstborn and it should  
be him who...

CORINA  
(Interrupting)  
Lady Nubia.

Nubia looks furiously at Corina.

CORINA (CONT'D)  
My girl, the moment Kian was born,  
Adel's place changed. That's the  
reality. Don't be mistaken, he was  
never going to be the firstborn,  
not with the child TAI's grace  
gifted to Salma. And Adel is wise  
and knows to accept his place. And  
in time, you'll also find your  
place.

NUBIA  
But what can be my place in this  
family? If I am your blood.

CORINA  
Your place? Right now, you are  
TAI's wrath in this family, and not  
even your father dares to tame you.  
He fears you as much as he fears  
TAI! You're wilder than the  
Tolomeo...

Corina laughs at the mere thought. Nubia, with her hair  
disheveled, shakes her head. Corina approaches and guides her  
to a chair in front of a table with garlic cloves, handing  
her three cloves.

CORINA (CONT'D)  
You'll find your place. But your  
place right now is here with me.  
Making garlic braids. You flare up  
so quickly, wanting to change the  
world... and you complain about how  
they treat me, but when was the  
last time you helped me make a  
garlic braid?

Corina smiles, and Nubia's anger turns into sorrow.

Nubia reluctantly picks up the three garlic cloves and starts  
braiding. Corina strokes Nubia's long hair, humming a lullaby  
as she ties it into a braided ponytail.

CORINA (CONT'D)  
Do you remember?

Nubia nods.

CORINA (CONT'D)  
You were so cute as a child. And  
how you'd get upset because you  
didn't want the "garlic"  
ponytail...

Nubia smiles nostalgically.

CORINA (CONT'D)  
Nubi, I'm happy like this. I don't  
ask for more.

Corina lovingly braids Nubia's long hair. After a moment of reflection, Nubia gently turns around, taking her mother's hands and interrupting her.

NUBIA  
I'm sorry, mom. I don't know where  
I belong, but I know it's not here.

She stands up and exits the storage room.

14 EXT. DOMINGO'S CITADEL (PLAZA) - DAY

Nubia cautiously emerges from the storage room, finding the plaza empty. She heads toward a small alley aiming for the main gate. Spotting Kian in the distance, giving orders to two servants by the closed gate, she stops abruptly. Nubia turns and quickly walks in the opposite direction.

15 EXT. CITADEL'S NORTH WALL (INSIDE) - DAY

Nubia reaches the end of the compound, gracefully climbs a plum tree, and from a branch, jumps onto the wall. It's clear she's done this before. She carefully drops down to the other side.

16 EXT. CITADEL'S WALL (OUTSIDE) - CONTINUOUS

Nubia walks, lost in thought. To her right is the citadel's wall; to her left are one-story adobe houses and dilapidated barns.

Reaching the end of the northwest area, the wall turns 120 degrees. Nubia turns and continues. To her surprise, Todd is sitting on a bench at his house entrance, cleaning tools. He pauses briefly when he sees Nubia, then resumes.

Nubia glances at him and keeps walking, snapped out of her reverie. After a few feet, she turns around, but Todd is gone.



She continues, admiring the perfectly fitted stone wall, so well-crafted that not even moss grows on it.

Nubia slows her pace, noticing a delicate poppy flower emerging from a crack, standing alone like an oasis in a desert of rocks. She stops and gently touches the flower's stem. Suddenly, Todd grabs her from behind, pressing a knife to her throat.

TODD

What's the matter now, "desert wind"? Not so wild now, huh? Fucking bitch.

Todd brings his face close to her ear and whispers.

TODD (CONT'D)

I know you all too well. You're a spoiled little slut. And if you want to save your friend, that's fine by me...

With his other hand, he pulls on her braided ponytail, tilting her head back and exposing her neck to the sky. He then releases her ponytail, touches her breast, and gropes her leg. Todd takes a deep breath.

TODD (CONT'D)

...but you're going to pay what you owe me. One way or another.

Nubia makes a slight attempt to break free, but Todd presses the knife against her neck. Nubia freezes.

TODD (CONT'D)

What form of payment do you prefer? I think we could discuss it at my place, don't you think? It's better to talk about these matters in private because people here are so gossipy... you know, they might get jealous and talk too much...

Todd starts dragging Nubia toward his house when Runa emerges from a side street. She's wearing a white dress and apron splattered with flour. A deep scar runs across her neck, and six more—three on each arm—run parallel from her shoulders to her wrists.

Runa walks in a trance, holding half a loaf of bread, tearing off pieces and savoring them. Her gaze meets Todd and Nubia's. Without breaking stride, she turns toward them, devouring larger chunks of bread with increasing voracity.

Seeing Runa, something inside Todd breaks, immobilizing him. As she gets closer, Todd instinctively releases Nubia, who quickly runs off along the wall. Runa continues, her gaze fixed on Todd. Reaching him, she eats another piece of bread.

RUNA

Beast...

Runa's gaze is murky, with drooping eyelids, glassy eyes, and the whites stained with reddish veins.

RUNA (CONT'D)

Little beast... you're so hungry.

Runa takes a large piece of bread and brings it to Todd's mouth. Fearfully, he opens it, and Runa shoves it in.

RUNA (CONT'D)

Eat. Yes. Fill yourself up.

Runa delicately examines Todd's face as she chews. Her face is intimately close, and Todd can't help but stare at the scar on her neck. He breathes anxiously, overcome by a strange terror.

RUNA (CONT'D)

You like my neck, don't you? Of course... it's very beautiful.

Todd says nothing. He swallows the piece of bread.

RUNA (CONT'D)

How could you not like it when you're the master of knives... and I know a lot, a lot about knives. Ah!

Runa pauses, catching a glint in Todd's eye. Her eyes quickly moisten, and tears begin to slide down her cheeks. She cries with overwhelming intensity, her gaze fixed on Todd, moaning in a mix of pain and pleasure. Suddenly, her crying turns into resonant laughter.

RUNA (CONT'D)

Oh, Todd. I saw it. Yes. Such sadness.

Runa continues laughing uncontrollably.

RUNA (CONT'D)

(Whispering in his ear)  
That knife will bring you trouble.

Runa relaxes. She takes another piece of bread and eats it.

RUNA (CONT'D)  
Well, that's it. But don't worry. I  
won't charge you for foreseeing  
your path. Because there's nothing  
you can do now.

Runa turns and resumes her walk through the village, deeply  
entranced. Todd, visibly shaken and with a face distorted by  
the disturbing encounter, slowly heads in the direction Nubia  
took.

RUNA (CONT'D)  
(shouting)  
But Todd, you will pay me for the  
bread.

17 EXT. PALO CREEK SQUARE - DAY

Kian exits the citadel carrying a sack of firewood, while  
Adel, beside him, holds a bucket, a large sieve, and several  
esparto sacks. A servant with a donkey accompanies them.  
Domingo, with an air of sadness, walks behind. Around the  
Pyrallia, a restless crowd gathers.

MAN  
(Raising his voice)  
Praise be to TAI, purify us!

CROWD  
(In unison)  
Praise be to TAI!

18 EXT. PALO CREEK SQUARE - DAY

With meticulous gestures, Adel sifts through the dark ashes  
alone, standing at the center of the Pyrallia. Like an  
hourglass, fine ash slides into a bucket while unburnt  
fragments—remnants of wood, twisted nails, and bone  
shards—get trapped in the sieve.

Nearby, at the forefront of the Pyrallia, Kian radiates  
euphoria as he addresses the assembled crowd with his back to  
Adel. Beside him, Domingo stands downcast, lost in thought  
and visibly affected.

KIAN  
Today, TAI has revealed himself to  
my father.

MAN  
Praise be to TAI!

CROWD  
(In unison)  
Praise be to TAI!

KIAN  
And he has demanded that we make a  
fire sacrifice. However, in his  
generosity, TAI will provide the  
ram. And I, in penance for our  
community, will carry the sacred  
firewood.

CROWD  
(In unison)  
Praise be to TAI!

Unnoticed, Adel finds a tiny, shiny metal plate embedded in a  
piece of skull. He scrapes it off with a knife and examines  
it curiously while the crowd chants and Kian stands proud.

Intricate silver threads and geometric shapes cover its  
surface, resembling a microchip—an object Adel can't  
comprehend. Mesmerized by its beauty, Adel hesitates, then  
stealthily pockets the plate before continuing to sift  
through the ashes.

A hysterical woman throws herself at Kian's feet, startling  
Adel.

WOMAN  
(shouting)  
TAI is generous!

CROWD  
TAI is generous!

KIAN  
TAI will bring fortune.

DOMINGO  
My son Adel will purify us so that  
we can make the sacred journey.

The crowd's murmur fades as everyone steps back, creating  
space. Kian signals to Adel, who approaches. Adel mixes ashes  
and water in a wooden bowl, then draws a triangle on  
Domingo's forehead with his fingers.

ADEL  
For on that day shall the priest  
make an atonement for you, to  
cleanse you, that ye may be clean  
from all your sins before TAI  
[Leviticus 16:30]



Domingo kneels and prays. Adel moves forward and purifies Kian.

DOMINGO

(Praying to himself)

Clay cannot ask the potter, "What are you doing?" But I implore you, give me a sign. What you ask of me is more than I can give. Save me, TAI. [Inspired by Isaiah 45:9]

Kian, majestic with his ash triangle on his forehead, turns around and, raising his hands, addresses the audience.

KIAN

Now we will begin our journey, and you will purify yourselves. And when we return, TAI will reward us. TAI loves us!

WOMAN

Praise be to TAI!

CROWD

TAI is generous!

Kian shoulders the firewood and heads to the fortress. Domingo remains kneeling, engrossed in prayer. The crowd flocks to Adel for purification. Amidst the commotion, Kian notices Todd's dazed arrival and discreetly invites him to a secluded corner. Domingo remains oblivious.

KIAN

Todd, I found two shovels in the cemetery. It's clear you were right. Siyara is a Skuller and she must be purged.

Todd seems to snap out of a trance and becomes himself again.

KIAN (CONT'D)

(whispering)

I need you to be the one to purge her, and I'll reward you. But it has to be discreet. I know my sister went too far yesterday, but I can't let people think she is...

Kian pauses.

KIAN (CONT'D)

My sister is impulsive, but she's not a Skuller.

(MORE)

KIAN (CONT'D)

If you do this for me, not only  
will I reward you, but TAI will  
also bring you fortune.

TODD

Praise be to TAI! I am a loyal  
servant.

Kian nods and places a hand on Todd's shoulder.

KIAN

Purify yourself and cleanse our  
community.

Todd bows and heads into the crowd to be purified. Kian  
approaches his father and touches his back. He turns around.

KIAN (CONT'D)

Let's go, father. It's getting  
late.

Domingo rises with a heavy heart and follows him.

19

EXT. PYRALIA - DAY

Todd approaches the restless crowd gathered for purification.  
The crowd shouts in ecstasy, "TAI, purify me!" "Praise be to  
TAI!" A man rings a bell continuously. Todd searches the  
crowd but doesn't find who he's looking for. Impatient, he  
forcefully makes his way to Adel. Using his index and middle  
fingers, Adel paints a triangle on Todd's forehead.

ADEL

For on that day shall the priest  
make an atonement for you, to  
cleanse you, that ye may be clean  
from all your sins before TAI.

TODD

(smiling)

Praise be to TAI! TAI purifies.

20

EXT. PALO CREEK STREETS - DAY

Nubia runs through deserted streets, flanked by single-story  
adobe or wooden houses. Some have small gardens with low  
walls, while others, more modest, lack adjoining land. With  
every step, Nubia quickens her pace, driven by urgency.

21 EXT. SIYARA'S HOUSE STREET - DAY

Nubia rushes down a narrow street, her breath ragged. Turning a corner, she spots Siyara exiting her house. Siyara, with a hunched back and tired face, walks slowly. Nubia quickly approaches and firmly grabs Siyara by the shoulder, startling her.

NUBIA  
(Urgently, almost  
whispering)  
Siyara, get back inside your house!

SIYARA  
No, I must go and purify myself.

NUBIA  
(Pleadingly)  
No, you can't go now.

Nubia nervously glances around, ensuring no witnesses. She urgently guides the weakened Siyara back into her house, who offers no resistance.

22 INT. SIYARA'S HOUSE - DAY

A modest interior with wooden walls. The central area features low benches and a clay hearth with a chimney. Beside it, a wooden dining table. Small rooms branch off for storage or bedrooms. A small altar in the corner holds a clay figurine shaped like a triangle.

Nubia enters, agitated. Before she can speak, Siyara helps her sit on a bench.

SIYARA  
Nubia, I don't know how to thank  
you for what you did for me  
yesterday.

Nubia tries to catch her breath. Siyara speaks to her calmly and maternally but with profound sadness.

SIYARA (CONT'D)  
I don't understand what happened.  
Yasin was a good man. He always  
took care of Ajay. How can TAI  
allow such a person to end up doing  
that... He's supposed to protect  
us, right? We make all the  
sacrifices he commands. We've been  
devout servants, and now he's taken  
my son and husband from me.

Siyara pauses.

SIYARA (CONT'D)  
It would've been better if I had  
gone with them. I could lie in the  
Pyralia, at peace.

Nubia sits up upon hearing a continuous bell ringing from the  
Pyralia.

SIYARA (CONT'D)  
Calm down, Nubia. Let's go purify  
ourselves. The Echo of the Pyrاليا  
is already sounding. You've done  
enough for me.

NUBIA  
My brother found two shovels in the  
cemetery.

Siyara looks at Nubia, confused.

SIYARA  
So... someone was helping Yasin?  
We'll have to find out who...

Nubia smiles and looks at Siyara knowingly. Siyara looks  
down. She can't pretend anymore.

SIYARA (CONT'D)  
I see.

NUBIA  
You have to leave. Far away. You're  
not safe here, and I can't protect  
you anymore.

Siyara looks sadly at Nubia.

SIYARA  
This is where my son was born; it's  
my place. If they want to purge me,  
it's my fate.

Nubia stands up angrily and heads to the fireplace.

NUBIA  
Really? If you don't leave right  
now, you'll end up like this.

Nubia grabs ashes and, angrily, shows them to Siyara. Then  
she throws them at her. Siyara remains silent, looking down.



NUBIA (CONT'D)

Damn it, start over in a new town  
with the Skuller crap you do...  
it's better than being purged,  
right? Because make no mistake, my  
brother won't stop until he purges  
you.

SIYARA

Purge me.

Siyara seems indifferent. She bends down and picks up a piece  
of charcoal that has fallen to the floor.

SIYARA (CONT'D)

Do you realize that by helping me,  
your own brother... no, your own  
father will purge you too?

Nubia grabs an axe from beside the fireplace and menacingly  
approaches Siyara.

NUBIA

Listen, fucking Skuller, don't kid  
yourself. Skuller rituals are  
savage and repulsive. I can't  
fathom how you can commit such  
atrocities.

Siyara remains defiant, shaking her head.

NUBIA (CONT'D)

But the truth is, there are many  
things I don't understand either,  
and TAI never speaks to me. So, I  
stay out of your business. Whatever  
you want to do with your own son's  
corpse is none of my concern.

(Hesitating)

...because you haven't killed  
your...

SIYARA

(Angrily)

Don't you dare mention that!

(Looking at the small  
altar)

TAI, I willingly accept your purge  
if you bring back Ajay!

Nubia looks down, deep in thought and ashamed.

NUBIA  
Damn it, Siyara. Just leave this  
goddamn town. Don't you get it?

Nubia drops the axe and grabs Siyara's arm, who doesn't resist. She leads her towards a room.

NUBIA (CONT'D)  
Where are the horses?

Halfway there, she changes her mind and heads in another direction.

NUBIA (CONT'D)  
We need to hurry. My father had a  
revelation and is leaving with Kian  
to...

SIYARA  
(Interrupting)  
A revelation?

Siyara stops dead in her tracks.

NUBIA  
Yes, TAI spoke to him.

Siyara looks intrigued and sits on a bench. Nubia heads to the stable, peeking inside to check for the horses.

SIYARA  
What did he say?

NUBIA  
Who said what?

SIYARA  
TAI. To your father.

NUBIA  
That they need to make a fire  
sacrifice.

SIYARA  
Where? At the Hill, on the  
sacrifice stone?

NUBIA  
Yes, so we have some time before  
they return. Look, the whole town  
is at the Pyralia now. Maybe I can  
go out and signal you when it's  
safe.

Siyara watches Nubia, who's anxiously preparing a horse in the stable.

SIYARA

Nubia.

Nubia doesn't respond.

SIYARA (CONT'D)

Nubia, come here!

Nubia returns to the living room.

SIYARA (CONT'D)

TAI may not speak to you, but  
you're wiser than your father. And  
I'll always be at your service.

Nubia approaches Siyara.

NUBIA

Don't feed me tales. Just leave  
already!

Nubia tries to grab Siyara again, but Siyara quickly stands up, swatting her hand away. Now, Siyara firmly grabs Nubia and shakes her.

SIYARA

Quiet and listen! You don't  
understand anything! I can answer  
any question you have. Just ask.

Siyara looks at Nubia, and an uncomfortable silence ensues.

SIYARA (CONT'D)

Though I understand your insistence  
on driving me out of the village,  
and I appreciate it. So, I don't  
know how many questions I can  
answer before I leave. Look, why  
don't we make a deal? Your brother  
is heading to the Hill now, so we  
have some time. You tell me more  
about what TAI told your father...  
and I'll guide you through your  
existential doubts.

Siyara fixes Nubia's ponytail, but Nubia starts to hesitate.

NUBIA

Do whatever you want, Skuller  
bitch. You're all insane.

Nubia turns around and heads for the door, but Siyara grabs her forcefully and sits her down on the bench.

SIYARA

Nubia, you're one of a kind. You shine brightly, and I feel it.

Siyara places her hand on Nubia's chest. Nubia looks uncomfortable and glances towards the door.

SIYARA (CONT'D)

You know what? I'm going to give you a very special gift.

Siyara steps away into a room. Nubia quickly gets up and rushes toward the door but hesitates. Siyara returns holding an old but well-preserved wooden kaleidoscope. Nubia's eyes light up at the sight.

NUBIA

Is this... is it from before the...

Nubia can't finish her sentence. Siyara smiles. Siyara hands it to her, and Nubia takes it as if it were a delicate sparrow.

SIYARA

It belonged to my son when he was young.

NUBIA

And what is it?

SIYARA

Look through this end and point it at the window.

Nubia takes the kaleidoscope and brings it to her eye. At first, she's startled by the vibrant patterns but, intrigued, she looks through it again.

NUBIA

I don't think I've ever seen anything so beautiful in my life.

Moons, suns, and stars shatter into infinite patterns.

SIYARA

Now, without looking away, turn it.

Nubia rotates the kaleidoscope and, surprised, quickly pulls it away. She looks at Siyara in awe. Siyara encourages her with a comforting gaze. Cautiously, Nubia looks again, slowly turning the kaleidoscope.



NUBIA

But how can this be? How can the stars move? They shatter into a thousand pieces. I don't understand...

Nubia can't stop gazing at the colorful sky.

SIYARA

This gift is more valuable than you can imagine. When the sun touches the moon, you'll have some answers, or perhaps more questions...

Siyara laughs.

NUBIA

(To herself)

When the sun touches the moon.

Todd bursts into the room, kicking the door open. The ash triangle on his forehead radiates fury. Nubia, engrossed in the kaleidoscope, drops it in shock.

Siyara dashes for an axe by the fireplace, but Todd intercepts her, knocking her down with a blow and landing two punches to her face. Paralyzed with fear, Nubia watches as Todd grips Siyara's neck, staring at Nubia.

TODD

I told you I'd collect my debt one way or another. You're lucky your stupid brother believes in you. Leave!

Todd yanks Siyara toward him, locking her in a crushing hold. He starts beating her while Nubia remains frozen in fear.

TODD (CONT'D)

(Yelling)

Leave now!

Terrified, Nubia quickly heads for the door while Todd continues his assault—each hit more savage than the last. Reaching the door, Nubia spots the small altar with the clay triangle. On impulse, she grabs it and lunges at Todd, trying to stab him in the back. However, the fragile sculpture breaks, leaving a small cut on his back. Todd turns and strikes Nubia, knocking her to the ground. Siyara tries to intervene, but Todd's strength makes it clear they're both outmatched.

Enraged, Todd grabs both women by their hair and drags them to the center of the room. With fists and feet, he beats them mercilessly. They can't defend themselves. The women lie in pain on the floor. Todd stops.

TODD (CONT'D)  
Damn Skullers!  
(To Nubia)  
It would've been easier if you'd  
just left. But no...

After slapping Nubia, the sound of the Pyralia bell changes, accompanied by distant chants. Alerted, Todd quickly glances through the open door, showing indecision.

TODD (CONT'D)  
Damn it!

Acting urgently, Todd scans the room and spots hay sacks, farming tools, and ropes in an adjacent stable. He drags both women to the stable and ties Nubia and Siyara face to face. Any resistance is brutally suppressed.

He drags them back to the main room, securing them tightly to the table. When Nubia tries to scream, Todd slaps her, tears a piece of her tunic, and gags her with it.

TODD (CONT'D)  
(To Nubia)  
Today, TAI won't spare you because  
today I am TAI, and I will purge  
you.

Todd rushes to the stable, gathering hay and flammable materials. He spreads them around the table, creating a flammable circle like a Pyralia. Satisfied, he strikes metal against flint, igniting the hay.

The fire grows around Siyara and Nubia as they struggle. Todd's face reflects lewd satisfaction. However, in the shadows behind him, Runa advances stealthily, with a dark smile.

TODD (CONT'D)  
Purging two Skullers is better than  
raping one. TAI is great, and I  
will purg...

Before Todd can finish his sentence, Runa swiftly snatches the knife from him and slashes his throat. Todd staggers, clutching the wound as blood spurts profusely, then falls to the side.

With a cold smile, Runa drops the knife near Nubia. The fire intensifies as Nubia urgently uses the knife to cut the bindings, freeing herself and then Siyara.

Runa leans over Todd, her face almost touching his, as his robe starts to catch fire.

Runa  
Such is my misfortune to always  
live in the future. I warned you,  
but your fate was sealed.

Surrounded by flames, Siyara and Nubia desperately jump from the table. Siyara's robe ignites, and she throws herself to the ground to smother the flames. Nubia quickly helps her.

Runa (CONT'D)  
(Still looking at Todd)  
Girls. I don't see you. You're not  
here. I only see the future, and  
here there's nothing but fire and  
consuming wrath.

Runa opens a pocket in Todd's robe and takes out some coins.

Runa (CONT'D)  
I told you I'd collect for the  
bread, and I'm a woman of my word.

Runa stands, leaving Todd agonizing. Siyara, dodging flames, runs to her room and grabs a bag. Seeing her, Runa gestures, freezing Siyara in the doorway. Runa advances, kicking burning logs aside. She picks up the axe and swiftly swings it, beheading Todd. Nubia screams in fear and freezes, covering her face.

Runa (CONT'D)  
(Looking at Todd's head)  
Siyara, you've already paid a high  
price in this village, at least  
take something of value with you.

Siyara hesitates, then grabs Todd's head and puts it in the bag. She and Runa briefly lock eyes before Siyara runs to the stables. Nubia, terrified in a corner, watches the flames spread. Siyara mounts a horse and gallops toward the back exit.

Runa exits the house with calm, throwing a knowing smile at Nubia. Nubia, still in shock, spots the kaleidoscope in a corner. Regaining her urgency, she grabs it and flees through the main entrance, dodging flames.

A crowd sways to the rhythm of their prayers, eyes closed. Nubia bursts into the square and spotting Adel at the Pyralia, she runs to him, glancing back worriedly. There's no pursuit, only ominous black smoke rising behind some houses. Exhausted and panting, Nubia collapses.

TOWNSMAN

Fire! Fire!

The crowd awakens from their trance, looking around in alarm. Seeing the smoke, confusion takes over, and they start running toward the burning house. Voices rise, giving instructions: "Bring carts!", "We need water!" Chaos ensues.

ADEL

Nubia, what happened to you?

Nubia looks back, trembling in shock.

ADEL (CONT'D)

Did someone hurt you?

NUBIA

Brother, I've done something terrible, and TAI will punish us. I need to be purged.

Nubia's entire body trembles violently before she doubles over and vomits. Adel crouches beside her, gripping her shoulders with calm firmness.

ADEL

What are you talking about. Don't say that!

NUBIA

I need to be purged before it's too late.

Adel gently caresses his sister.

ADEL

No. There have been enough purges already.

NUBIA

By TAI, I need to be purged! Please, I beg you. You don't understand! I've sinned! And I bring bile upon our family.



Nubia slaps her brother, who doesn't resist. She collapses into his lap, crying like a child. Adel gazes at the column of smoke with deep concern, then looks at his sister. Though he doesn't know the details, he doesn't ask questions.

ADEL  
We'll finish the shifting at Naka.  
Far from here.

Nubia looks at Adel, slightly relieved.

NUBIA  
(Weakly)  
Far from here?

ADEL  
Yes. You'll drink the sacred water  
from the spring, and TAI will show  
you the light. This village might  
be corrupted, but you're not the  
mold that rots it.

Adel gently lifts her and, using his index and middle fingers, draws a triangle on Nubia's forehead with sacred ash.

ADEL (CONT'D)  
For on that day shall the priest  
make an atonement for you, to  
cleanse you, that ye may be clean  
from all your sins before TAI.

Adel caresses her tenderly. The village bells start ringing furiously.

24 EXT. CROSSROADS - DAY

Under a relentless sun, Kian walks along a dry path dotted with shrubs. A towering mountain range rises on one side; Palo Creek is visible on the other. His right hand is tied to a wood bundle he's dragging with effort.

Domingo follows, his steps heavy as if he were the one dragging the load. They reach a mountain crossroads flanked by tall boulders and a narrow gorge.

Kian stops to catch his breath and notices mountain tea sprouting from a crack in a towering rock wall. Domingo approaches, observing the same.

KIAN  
Look, father. Mountain tea. But it  
never grows here.

DOMINGO

Times are changing. The fire plant  
now grows in the north.

Captivated by the rock and the tea growing on it, Kian climbs skillfully to reach the bush. He plucks it carefully and descends, jumping the last few feet. He respectfully hands the tea to his father.

Domingo rubs the tea in his hands, smells it, then extends his hands to Kian, who inhales the fragrance.

KIAN

It smells good.

Domingo nods. The village bells ring in the distance with a frantic rhythm.

DOMINGO

Do you hear that, son? Fire in the  
village. It's a sign from TAI! We  
must return!

Kian doesn't pay attention because something has caught his eye in a nearby field.

KIAN

(Heading towards what he  
saw)

Fire purifies...

Kian leaves the path and heads to the center of the field.

KIAN (CONT'D)

There's a flower there.

DOMINGO

I know.

(Whispering)

TAI, why are you doing this to me!

Amid sharp thistles, a solitary plastic toy flower emerges from the parched mud—an orange sunflower in a green pot. Faded colors and wear marks reveal its age.

Kian carefully unearths it. Pressing a section of the pot, the sunflower tries to dance but only manages a slow, painful sway.

KIAN

It's beautiful. Maybe we could take  
it with us.

DOMINGO

We shouldn't tempt the past. It's poison.

KIAN

But Nubia will like it, she's always looking for things from before the flood... and it's just a flower.

DOMINGO

Yes, she's always seeking poison.  
(To himself)  
Maybe she's a snake.

Domingo gestures with his hand for him to leave it.

DOMINGO (CONT'D)

No! What seems most harmless often turns out to be the most dangerous.

Kian nods and looks at the sun. It's getting late.

KIAN

Let's continue.

Kian leaves the flower on the ground, covering it with his foot, and returns to the path, carrying his penance. Domingo follows.

25 EXT. NAKA MOUNTAIN PATH - DAY

Adel progresses along a steep path, pulling a reluctant donkey by its reins. Nubia, riding the animal, looks distant and broken. The path winds uphill toward a rocky mountain resembling a lizard's claws.

NUBIA

Adel, why can't I speak to TAI?

ADEL

Of course, you can.

NUBIA

No. I don't see Him in my dreams. I don't dream anymore.

ADEL

You do dream. Everyone dreams.

NUBIA

Not me. Since the fall, my mind is empty. TAI has abandoned me, and I'm worried. I have so many doubts.

ADEL

Nubita, there are many ways to communicate with TAI. Just have faith, and TAI will show you signs along your path.

To the left of the winding path, a towering cliff rises. Nubia fixes her gaze on its peak, where a lone oak tree stands majestically among the rock's crevices. The surroundings are devoid of any other vegetation.

NUBIA

How is it possible for nature to take root in such inaccessible places?

Adel stops the donkey and looks at the oak tree.

NUBIA (CONT'D)

Today I saw a poppy flower growing in the middle of the eastern wall.

ADEL

Some seeds have the strength to germinate where they shouldn't.

NUBIA

Like me.

Adel doesn't answer and continues leading the donkey.

26

EXT. NAKA SANCTUARY - DUSK

The donkey is tied to an oak tree by a small stream that springs from a rock. Near by, a narrow crack opens in the earth, plunging into a seemingly bottomless darkness.

Nubia drinks from the spring and rests on a rock. She watches her brother serenely, but soon feels the weight of the kaleidoscope in her pocket. She looks at it with suspicion but doesn't dare to pick it up.

Adel kneels cautiously at the edge of the abyss.

ADEL

Out of the depths I cried unto you,  
O TAI.

(MORE)



ADEL (CONT'D)  
[OLD ENGLISH Version: "Out of the  
depths have I cried unto thee, O  
LORD"]

Nubia is entranced by the pocket with the kaleidoscope.

ADEL (CONT'D)  
Oh TAI, hear my voice; Let your  
ears be attentive to the voice of  
my supplications.

Nubia observes a small piece of the kaleidoscope sticking out  
of the pocket.

ADEL (CONT'D)  
TAI, if you kept a record of sins,  
who could stand?

Nubia takes the kaleidoscope out of her pocket. She examines  
it in detail and finally cautiously points it towards the  
last rays of the sun.

ADEL (CONT'D)  
But with you, there is forgiveness,  
so that you may be revered. [From  
Psalm 130:1-4]

Adel pours the sack's contents over the crack: bones, nails,  
charcoal, and the saber. They disappear into the abyss's  
darkness without a sound, as if the void were endless.

He hesitates, then reaches into his pocket and takes out the  
microchip. After a brief glance, he drops it into the abyss.

Nubia turns the kaleidoscope, and thousands of stars, moons,  
and suns break into a colorful explosion.

NUBIA  
(To herself)  
When the sun touches the moon.

The last ray of sunlight slips behind the rock, and the  
vibrant colors of the vision fade. Nubia lowers the  
kaleidoscope to her lap. The moon rises in the sky. Adel bows  
in reverence before the sacred crack and prays.

NUBIA (CONT'D)  
(To herself)  
When the sun touches the moon.

Nubia notices a sun engraving on the kaleidoscope, with a  
subtle crack below it. On the opposite side, she finds a moon  
engraving. She carefully turns the top part, aligning the sun  
and moon with a mechanical click.

A secret compartment opens, and a ring with the initials "E.L." falls into her lap. She looks at it, absorbed and intrigued.

Nearby, a pole with a triangle-engraved bell stands by the sacred crack. Adel strikes it three times with a mallet.

27 EXT. MOORLAND - DAY

Exhausted, Kian drags the sack of wood along the arid path, his youthful vigor pushing him on. Domingo, burdened by unseen weight, follows with a heavy air. They arrive at a small field with a group of oak trees, and Domingo stops.

KIAN  
What's wrong?

DOMINGO  
Wait. Look!

Behind the oak tree, MARCELINO (65) stands with a bow, his dog by his side. Two brown doves take flight. Marcelino releases an arrow, striking one. The dog retrieves the wounded bird, and Marcelino ends its suffering by striking it against the ground.

Domingo watches, deeply affected, as Kian, exhausted, collapses. A tear slides down Domingo's cheek.

DOMINGO (CONT'D)  
(whispering)  
TAI, now I hear and understand you.  
The clay can never say to the  
potter, "What are you doing?" I am  
your servant and accept my fate.

Then they hear three distant bell tolls. Kian looks towards the mountain range on the right, in the direction of Palo Creek. The sun is setting behind a rock.

DOMINGO (CONT'D)  
It's time. The sun is already  
setting in Naka, and we're late.  
Let's go, son.

28 EXT. SACRIFICE ROCK - DUSK

Kian climbs a hill dotted with oak trees and dominated by a triangular rock. Beyond, the gorge stretches imposingly.

Struggling as the bag gets caught in bushes, Kian persists, leaving a trail. Exhausted, he finally reaches the altar and stacks the logs on it.

Suddenly, Domingo approaches from behind and places a dagger to Kian's neck. Kian is petrified, not understanding what's happening.

DOMINGO

TAI purifies you. TAI heals you.

As Domingo begins to cut Kian's neck, a deafening roar echoes through the rocks. Domingo drops the knife in fear. Blood spills from Kian's neck, but the cut isn't deep.

A celestial being with four metallic wings, embedded with intricate patterns of glowing circuit boards, descends from the sky.

Its luminous form reflects blinding rays of light, and a soft, mechanical hum fills the air as it levitates effortlessly, its wings motionless. Its human-like face remains expressionless, devoid of any sign of life.

SERAPHIM ANGEL

Domingo.

DOMINGO

I am here.

Domingo, dazed, tries to look at the blinding angel.

SERAPHIM ANGEL

Do not lay your hand on the boy,  
nor harm him; for now I know that  
you fear TAI, since you did not  
withhold your son, your only son,  
from me.

Domingo and Kian look up and watch the angel ascend to the heavens without moving a single part of its body. On the altar lies a ram.

Overwhelmed, Domingo hands over the sacrificial dagger and kneels before his son, crying. Kian kisses his father on the forehead.

With the dagger, Kian approaches the ram and slaughters it. Blood pours from the ram's neck like a waterfall.

The horizon is bathed in the crimson hues of sunset. From above, Domingo and Kian appear as tiny figures, captivated by the glow of the fire on the triangular altar. Beyond, the rock where Kian collected the tea seems insignificant.

In the distance, the imposing Quijada mountain range rises. At its foot, a formidable metallic wall in a triangular shape guards a row of colossal satellite dishes, tilted toward the earth. Tiny red and white lights twinkle rhythmically from the enclosure.