

God's and subjects

by

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FADE IN

The Earth and the Moon from space. The Earth is frozen over more than half of the surface. It has a huge hurricane rotating in the center of the side facing the Sun. It only has a narrow strip between the ice and the storm where life can flourish. Facing a never changing Sun. The Moon is in pieces, forming an almost complete ring of debris around the Earth.

INT. ATHENA'S SPACESHIP - THE WINDOW

The engine is moaning constantly. A window faces the Earth and the Moon. It reflects a few flickering lights and the figure of ATHENA, a tall grey being, with big dark eyes and flimsy body. Her voice is warm and soothing.

ATHENA(V.O.)

What if I told you God did this.

She is dressing up in soft, red clothing, with grace. Her looks are drawn to the Earth as soon as the Sun shines over it, and she stops for a few seconds with a pair of gloves in her hands.

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

At least... one of them did. And now they all regret it. Enough to make one of them care, and come help... Me.

She fits a glove. Her eyes remain fixed on the Earth.

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

Our pride never allowed us to see the harm we've done to them... Will I rid myself of it, and help them selflessly, or will I follow in the footsteps of my ancestors, of... my grandmother.

INT. ATHENA'S SPACESHIP - ATHENA'S EYES

Reflect the image of the torn Moon and frozen Earth. She blinks and the image in her eyes changes and shows the Earth and the Moon in their original state, full and round, and the Earth green.

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

They never believed in anything else but the lies we've let them believe. And it all led to this.

She blinks again and her eyes reflect the image of the icy Earth and broken Moon, the present state.

ATHENA(V.O.) (CONT'D)
The faith we've taught them casted
this shadow over them, into them.

INT. ATHENA'S SPACESHIP - THE WINDOW

She starts fitting on the other glove.

ATHENA(V.O.) (CONT'D)
Which led to quarrels, fights...
wars.

The light and noise of the engine dim for a few seconds.
ATHENA grabs another item of her clothing.

ATHENA(V.O.) (CONT'D)
The Conclave sent me to lie to them
again. Should I, or should I
provide them with the truth?

ATHENA puts on her veil.

ATHENA(V.O.) (CONT'D)
And let that be their faith.

EXT. IULIAN'S VILLAGE - DAY - CONTINUOUS

A cloud slogs over the Sun. The tip of a mountain in the distance is covered by fog. It's like the sky isn't big enough to cover all the landscape. In the opposite direction, the ocean waves slowly. The village is surrounded by tall pine trees on three sides, the fourth is facing the ocean over a small plain, with crops growing. The villagers, live in small, reed covered huts, and wear light clothing. Inside the village, the huts are displayed in a random manner, built in the shadow of the fruit bearing trees.

IULIAN, middle age short-haired man, stands on a chair in front of his house, holding a small knife in a hand and an unfinished piece of carving in the other. He watches abstracted how seven horsemen and a wolf approach the village:

FLORIN, young man with short hair and dark eyes, a mere adolescent with teen shaved beard, and an enthusiasm fit for his age.

TUDOR, FLORIN's father, a middle age gray-haired man, with glowing dark eyes, a serious and cautious character.

DANIEL, TUDOR's brother, middle aged skinny man, with a pony-tail and an ugly scar on his neck, an irritatingly selfish man.

SMARANDA, old, wrinkled, longhaired woman, the soothsayer with blue eyes and steady hands.

And three thugs.

FLORIN
(whispering to a thug)
I'm so anxious.

They approach IULIAN and dismount. TUDOR turns to IULIAN.

TUDOR
Nice day, isn't it?

IULIAN sighs.

IULIAN
I bet you're here for the same
reason everybody else was.

TUDOR smiles.

TUDOR
No, the wolf's here to grab new
fleas.

TUDOR grins. After a few seconds, he gets serious. (beat)

TUDOR (CONT'D)
But please, feel free to lead us to
it.

IULIAN sighs again and gets up.

IULIAN
(worried)
The villagers are my first concern,
(sighs)
I will lead you to it, but then you
must leave.

The wolf scratches his left ear. IULIAN walks away from his house, and leads the group of visitors to:

EXT. IULIAN'S VILLAGE OUTSKIRTS - DAY - CONTINUOUS

A metal door covered with strange markings shines in the sunlight. It is built in a rock, under a perfect round

mound, not too far from the village. A splintered stump stands above it.

IULIAN, TUDOR and his men arrive at the door.

IULIAN
(enthusiastic)
Some children found it after a lightning stroke here. Needless to say, we've had allot of visitors since then.

SMARANDA departs TUDOR's group and approaches the door, feeling out the marks on it with her fingers. (beat) IULIAN gets agitated.

IULIAN (CONT'D)
(uneasy)
You really shouldn't be doing this.

DANIEL approaches IULIAN and TUDOR.

DANIEL
(confident)
Yhea, we should wait like lambs for the
(grinning)
Oracle... or someone else to come save us.

SMARANDA pulls a small metal sphere out of her clothing and uses it to open the door. The door squeaks. (beat) IULIAN tries to stop SMARANDA, but DANIEL grabs his arm and twists it. He pulls out his knife and pokes IULIAN's back with it. The squeaking stops. (beat) DANIEL lets go of IULIAN. IULIAN falls on his knees, scared.

IULIAN
Wait... No.

TUDOR, followed by SMARANDA, DANIEL and FLORIN, look amazed for a few seconds, then enter the cave.

IULIAN (CONT'D)
(scared)
Please... don't do this. Don't enter.

The rest of TUDOR's companions, the three well built men, and the wolf, remain outside. IULIAN starts praying and asking for forgiveness.

INT. ANUBIS DATA CENTER - CONTINUOUS

It's a data center, full of knobs and buttons, screens and tech stuff. It's all shut down, until TUDOR, FLORIN and SMARANDA enter.

A few lights start flickering. After emitting a few sounds, ANUBIS, the projection of an A.I., appears as a tall grey being in the middle of the room. The flickering lights dim. They all bow down to him.

TUDOR

We apologise for the intrusion
great one, we come to you in a time
of great need.

ANUBIS

Indeed, the time of humans on Earth
is almost at an end.

TUDOR

That is why we seek your aid.

The hologram freezes for a few seconds. (beat)

ANUBIS

You must do something first.

DANIEL raises his head with enthusiasm.

DANIEL

How can we help you mighty one?

DANIEL comes crushing down, shaking like he's electrocuted. Then he stops and breathes.

ANUBIS

(looking at DANIEL)

I do not ask, nor do I require your
help. My power extends to beyond
what you mere mortal can imagine.

DANIEL stands on his knees. ANUBIS freezes for a few seconds while a few lights flicker in the background. (beat)

ANUBIS

There is one other entity such as
myself that has to be stopped in
order for me to fulfill my goals.
This is her location.

A plastic map pops out of a panel on the left. SMARANDA grabs it, looks at it amazed for a few seconds, and hides it in her clothing. A door opens to the right and a light reveals a few weapons, of various shapes and sizes, among a few other items.

ANUBIS

All you need to do is put the small blue box inside the chamber, after squeezing it, and I will be able to complete my task. However, to enter the center you will need a key like the one you used to enter here.

(beat) FLORIN and DANIEL enter the weapons chamber and start analysing the weapons carefully.

TUDOR

Where can we find that key?

ANUBIS

Athena has it.

SMARANDA looks amazed.

TUDOR

Who is Athena, where can we find her?

ANUBIS

You will have to find her for yourselves. You may summon me again only by using the key you used to open this door.

ANUBIS fades out. Only the light above the weapons chamber remains lit. (beat) TUDOR looks disappointed at SMARANDA. She smiles.

SMARANDA

(smiling)

There is still hope, Tudor. The Oracle... her name is Athena.

They get up.

EXT. IULIAN'S VILLAGE OUTSKIRTS - DAY - CONTINUOUS

The sky is completely covered by the clouds. The wind starts blowing softly.

TUDOR emerges from the dark opening in the rock. Villagers gather around the entrance, curious and amazed. IULIAN grabs TUDOR by the arm. TUDOR waves to his two men to stand down.

IULIAN

We were not supposed to even touch
the door, let alone open and enter.

TUDOR

Least we can...

(beat) He doesn't get to finish. From the darkness behind the opened door, a flash brightens up DANIEL's face. It fades into the shadow quickly. IULIAN puts his hands on his chest, and drops on his knees. Blood starts to colour the area where IULIAN has his hands.

DANIEL(O.S.)

Well, now I know how these things
work.

TUDOR looks amazed at DANIEL, who walks into the daylight with one of the new weapons and a long curved sword in a sheath, in his hands. After a few seconds of gathering his thoughts, TUDOR turns to the amazed villagers, trying to say something, but is cut off by DANIEL.

DANIEL

This is what happens to the ones
that obey blindly to the will of
the Oracle.

TUDOR grabs the business end of DANIEL's weapon, points it away, and looks angry at him.

TUDOR

(whispering to DANIEL)
You're despicable brother. Stop it.

(beat) TUDOR turns to the villagers again.

TUDOR (CONT'D)

(loud)
We have all heard the rumors...
some of you may have even seen
them.

EXT. TUDOR'S VILLAGE - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Pine trees, huts, a few fruit bearing trees. It's foggy. People run scared. Children cry. Men shout in the distance, guiding everyone to some safety.

A giant wolf steps out of the fog, grinning.

(NOTE: The overgrown wolves are imposing creatures, majestic, with plenty of intelligence and cunning. Considering their enhanced capabilities and the fact that they can sense into the future to some degree, a fight with them would denote anticipation).

TUDOR(O.S.) (CONT'D)
Giant beasts, terrifying wolves,
rampaging our stocks, and our
families.

It scouts around and spots a lamb. It rushes for it. Another wolf rushes from the fog, closer to the lamb and fits almost the whole lamb in its mouth. The other wolf growls at it for a second, then turns and starts running away, as the other one gobbles the lamb up.

TUDOR(O.S.) (CONT'D)
We all know they come from over the
ice.

Three more wolves enter the scene, one from behind a house, another from the shadow of a tree, and the third from behind the one eating the lamb. They scout the area and move on, sniffing for prey.

EXT. IULIAN'S VILLAGE OUTSKIRTS - DAY - CONTINUOUS

TUDOR (CONT'D)
(staring at a villager)
Shouldn't we try to stop this?

Villagers start mumbling to each other.

TUDOR (CONT'D)
Or should we wait until there is
nobody left?

The people smile and agree with TUDOR. They nod and start cheering.

CROWD
I've seen one, it ate my goat...
Should we trust them?... They were
not afraid to enter the cave... We
should listen to them.

(beat) FLORIN comes out of the dark opening, admiring a shiny gun. He looks surprised at IULIAN's body.

TUDOR
 (to FLORIN)
 You stay here son, empty the cave,
 then join us at the camp.

FLORIN
 Yes father.

DANIEL, after hearing TUDOR's order, rushes in the cave and comes out with a few weapons. He hands them to the guards.

ROXANA, a young, long blondhaired girl, with blue eyes, rushes in from the back of the crowd over IULIAN's body and starts crying and hugging him.

ROXANA
 (crying)
 Father?!... Father! No!

A small girl with the same blue eyes, MADALINA, her sister, follows her closely and starts crying too. TUDOR grabs DANIEL by the arm and drags him a couple of steps away from everyone.

TUDOR
 (whispering to DANIEL)
 Next time you do this, it's your
 last.

DANIEL
 (confident ; smiling)
 Not on your life.

TUDOR grabs DANIEL by his collar.

TUDOR
 You idiot almost got us killed!

DANIEL frees himself from TUDOR's hands.

DANIEL
 (serious)
 This idiot is your brother, not
 your puppet.

TUDOR
 (grinding his teeth)
 I'll have you pay for this one day.

DANIEL
 You hold on to your pledge.
 (MORE)

DANIEL (CONT'D)
 (grinning ; looking at
 the gun)
 I'll hold on to mine.

TUDOR frowns. He turns to SMARANDA who exits the darkness of the cave with her hands in her coat. He sighs.

TUDOR
 Come nana, we must head to camp,
 Florin will remain here.

SMARANDA nods.

EXT. ANA'S VILLAGE OUTSKIRTS - DAY

The ocean waves break calmly on the shore, washing the narrow beach. The forest starts at just a few steps from the beach. The village is in a clearing not too far away, near the shore. A few children play on the sand.

ANA, a young darkhaired girl, with dark glowing eyes, eats an apple under a tree, facing the ocean. She's calculated and serious. She looks at the children on the beach. (beat) Two women and the Oracle ATHENA approach the village from the forest, not too far from ANA, talking. ANA turns and looks interested at the three. ATHENA's metallic voice makes ANA's eyes widen in interest. It almost casts a cold shiver down her spine.

ATHENA
 (to the women)
 Go on, I have something to take
 care of here.

The two women continue into the village, while ATHENA turns to ANA and walks over to her, almost gliding.

ATHENA (CONT'D)
 (to ANA)
 Hello... Ana.

ANA
 (curious)
 Hello.

ANA fakes a smile and throws the apple core. She wipes her mouth with her hand.

ANA (CONT'D)
 So the stories are true... you are
 real.

ATHENA glides past her.

ATHENA

Come.

The two walk around the tree and stop facing the ocean.

ATHENA (CONT'D)

So what was it you found on the island? What was written on the dial?

ANA pulls out a crumpled piece of paper out of a pocket in her clothing and hands it over to ATHENA. ATHENA examines it, then hands it back to ANA.

ATHENA (CONT'D)

(mildly)

And you went out on the open sea without hesitation, now did you?

ANA

I did had my doubts at first...

ATHENA

You did this hoping you would meet me didn't you?

ANA

Well, yes.

DAVID, a young man with short trimmed hair and a chiseled body, is making his way to them from the village. He is a brave and eager character. ANA sees him and blushes as he approaches.

DAVID

(serious)

Hello Athena.

DAVID leans to ANA, as to salute.

ATHENA

This is Ana. She's the one that made the journey on the ocean.

DAVID

Hello.

ANA leans too.

DAVID (CONT'D)

So...

He sighs cautiously.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Which one is it?

ATHENA

Sadly, it's not Anubis.

DAVID frowns, turns quickly and runs toward the village. He whistles shortly. His horse appears from behind a house. DAVID mounts and starts galloping to the treeline. ATHENA and ANA watch him leave.

ATHENA (CONT'D)

He's bold, and arrogant.

ANA

Why did he leave like that?

ATHENA

His mentor, a close friend of mine, believes too much in something. The information you provided proves he's wrong. Now he might be in danger.... Tell me now, are you willing to help me further?

They turn and face the ocean again.

ANA

(eager yet cautious)

Of course.

ATHENA pulls out of her clothing a small metal tube. ANA looks at it amazed.

ATHENA

This wont hurt a bit. Give me your hand.

ANA extends her hand, and ATHENA waves the tube over her arm. It makes a distinct sound.

ATHENA (CONT'D)

In three days time, I will visit you again. Make sure you are ready to leave.

ANA nods.

ATHENA (CONT'D)

And stay safe.

ATHENA turns towards the forest and glides towards it.

INT. TUDOR'S TENT - DAY - CONTINUOUS (2)

The shadows of the men outside are casted on the tent wall as they unmount. Inside, there is a table with lots of maps on it, and a half filled cup.

IOANA, a young, long-haired, brown-eyed girl, is standing on a chair. She is a calm and twisted character, forged by the challenges she's undertaking to become a soothsayer herself, a test of silence and fasting. She looks at SMARANDA, who is on her feet, with her right hand in her clothing.

TUDOR(O.S.)

(to another man)

Have your men start working on the second tower immediately. Spare some men to start working on the houses. I'm tired of us standing in these tents... and have some guards posted at all time on the tower you've finished.

THE OTHER MAN(O.S.)

Of course.

TUDOR enters the tent and closes the entrance. IOANA looks at her imposing father as he takes a seat on the wooden bed.

TUDOR

Why have you called for us nana?

SMARANDA

(alarmed)

Shhh, keep you're voice down.

She looks through the opening of the tent. She closes it.

SMARANDA (CONT'D)

... He might hear us.

TUDOR

(whispering)

Who, Daniel?

SMARANDA

(whispering)

Yes. I'd rather he didn't know
about this.

She pulls out of her clothing a long claw-like metal blade,
with strange markings on it, and handles it carefully. IOANA
and TUDOR look amazed at it.

SMARANDA (CONT'D)

It was in the metal cave, I sneaked
it out without anyone seeing.

TUDOR

So what is it?

SMARANDA

It is one of the three blades that
I was told only one man can wield,
the Intu blades.

TUDOR

So of what use are they to us? I
assume none of us can use them.

SMARANDA

They are not going to help us in
that manner.

TUDOR

(smiling)

Do tell nana...

SMARANDA

These three blades were created in
the Moon-fire it's self, by the men
that dwell in the dark.

EXT. DARK MEN CAMP - DUSK - CONTINUOUS (2)

High rocks around, a big fire in the center.

A large group of dark skinned men stand silent as one of
them hands three blades, including the one SMARANDA has,
wrapped in a distinct cloth, to a woman with long dark hair,
big blue luminous eyes, and soft movements.

SMARANDA(O.S.)

Their guide is none other than the
one that granted me my powers and
my knowledge.

The woman touches the blades with her fingertips, gently.

SMARANDA(O.S.) (CONT'D)

The blades themselves are imbued with power, a power so vast, that She said the one who manages to wield all three blades can change the fate of this world.

She looks at two men and nods to them. They each grab a blade and leave the camp. She takes the third blade, gently.

INT. TUDOR'S TENT - DAY - CONTINUOUS (2)

TUDOR

So what do we do with it?

SMARANDA

We make sure that it gets to her. We have no use for it, but she surely does.

(beat) SMARANDA hands the blade to IOANA.

SMARANDA

This is where you come in my dear. You are ready for the next stage in your journey.

IOANA takes the blade.

SMARANDA (CONT'D)

She might have some advice for us. She might help us.

IOANA gets up.

TUDOR

Be careful Ioana.

He gets up and hugs her lightly. He smiles.

TUDOR (CONT'D)

Stay safe.

SMARANDA picks up a map from the table. She shows it to IOANA. She points a place on the map and a path to it.

SMARANDA

You must head this way, you are sure to find them there. You must
(MORE)

SMARANDA (CONT'D)
not venture over the ice, it's
dangerous.

IOANA looks, she nods, and exits the tent, while hiding the blade.

EXT. DANIEL'S CAMP - DAY - CONTINUOUS

A dark cloud hurls towards the Sun, rumbling. A weak wind brushes over the top of the tall trees. It starts raining. The sunlight dims to a twilight. The camp, a few dozen tents, a well built wooden tower and a pile of lumber, is in a clearing in the forest. There are a few stumps scattered around between the tents. They all look recently cut.

The men outside run for cover in the tents. Two men stand at the cover inside of the tower. Some children play in a freshly made puddle for a while, until their mother calls for them from the entrance to a tent.

ROXANA, covered in black clothing, with painted, dark face, sneaks close to the tower, then to a tent. She looks around carefully and judging by the shadows on the tents created by the recently lit candles, she closes in on one of them, treading with care. She looks at the guards in the tower and walks on. She turns and freezes. In front of her, tied to a pole, is a man. She sighs relieved when she realizes that the man is unconscious. The shadow in the tent near her betrays a man trying to take a nap on a wooden bed. ROXANA pulls out of a pocket a small blade and cuts carefully the leather wall of the tent, just beneath the bed. The noise of the rain helps cover her. She enters in:

INT. TUDOR'S TENT - DAY - CONTINUOUS

She's under the bed, and pulls out a thin rope. She takes a deep breath and uses the rope to strangle the man above, on the wooden bed. She keeps the rope tight just enough to make sure the man above is dead. She raises on her feet, only to discover her victim is TUDOR, not DANIEL, as she intended. ROXANA sighs. She makes a cross with her hands, mumbles a prayer, and gets out through the normal opening of the tent, carefully.

EXT. DANIEL'S CAMP - DAY - CONTINUOUS

She freezes at the sight of DANIEL with a weapon in his hand.

DANIEL
(grinning)
You wouldn't leave on such a
weather now...

DANIEL points the tent with the weapon.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
Get in.

INT. TUDOR'S TENT - DAY - CONTINUOUS

ROXANA and DANIEL enter TUDOR's tent. DANIEL takes a seat on a chair, with the weapon and his looks pointed at ROXANA.

DANIEL
You are Iulian's daughter aren't
you?

ROXANA nods.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
You know I should kill you now, and
just be done with it... but tell
you what... I'm going to be
merciful and let you live... on one
condition.

ROXANA's eyes start glowing. She knows she's not going to like it. DANIEL leans forward.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
I could make use of someone like
you, so... You do as I say... A few
favours, nothing more.

ROXANA turns her face but not her eyes, in a disregarding manner, and tries to say something.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
A, a, aaa... don't overlook that
your little sister is not that hard
to find.

ROXANA sighs.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
Besides, if you agree, I'll make
sure nobody knows of your little...

DANIEL points at the body of TUDOR.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
 ... mistake... His son is
 revengeful to say the least, and
 his daughter, well... lets just say
 her understanding of revenge is...
 (staring at the ground)
 twisted... and sick.

DANIEL looks at the ground for a few seconds, thinking.
 ROXANA turns to DANIEL again.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
 (to ROXANA)
 I will give you some time to
 consider this, just don't abuse
 my... good intentions.

ROXANA rubs her eyes with her left hand. She sighs. DANIEL
 points at the tent entrance with the weapon. ROXANA exit's
 and leaves, not concerned about being seen.

EXT. DANIEL'S CAMP OUTSKIRTS - DAY - CONTINUOUS (2)

The trees wave slowly in the wind. A storm cloud is almost
 vanished. The sunlight starts flooding through the trees.

DAVID is on horseback. His horse is tired. He unmounts and
 approaches the camp on foot. From behind a tree, he inspects
 the area. The guards in the tower are talking to eachother.
 Some children play in the distance, while some women tend to
 their daily chores. MIHAI, his mentor, a short-haired old
 man, is tied up to a pole in the center of the camp. DANIEL
 talks a bit to some guards, and then turns to MIHAI.

EXT. DANIEL'S CAMP - DAY - CONTINUOUS (2)

DANIEL
 So... Mihai... we are alone at
 last. You and your strange tall
 friend are quite an impediment to
 my plans.

MIHAI
 Strange as She is, She only wants
 to help us.

DANIEL
 Don't you believe She has Her own
 agenda to fulfil?... What if that
 does not include our... well being?

MIHAI

Well, I can't guarantee it for you
and other ill-intended folk such as
yourself, but She's our best hope,
at least for now.

DANIEL thinks for a while.

DANIEL

(arrogant ; offended)
Why are you here old man?

MIHAI

To talk to your brother. You're
just too thick to be talked to.

DANIEL slaps MIHAI. (beat) Meanwhile, DAVID sneaks in behind
the tent near DANIEL and MIHAI.

DANIEL

One by one, all of my impediments
are vanishing. You will be the
next.

DANIEL turns around.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

(to a guard)
Kill him!

A guard with one of the new weapons approaches MIHAI and
points the gun at him. (beat) DAVID, after taking a few deep
breaths and unsheathing his knife, uses a technique taught
to him by MIHAI, to enhance his speed and senses, and rushes
in to save his mentor. He cuts the rope tying MIHAI's arms.
In the process, he gets wounded on the shoulder, by the
blast of the weapon. DANIEL barely has time to turn. The gun
blast hits the ground. DANIEL only gets to see DAVID's back.

EXT. DANIEL'S CAMP OUTSKIRTS - DAY - CONTINUOUS (2)

After a short run, DAVID and MIHAI get to the horse he left
in the forest. They can hear DANIEL screaming while they
mount.

DANIEL(O.S.)

Worthless, damned, guards...

MIHAI

Wait David. I'll go on foot... you
take the horse and go to Iulian's
(MORE)

MIHAI (CONT'D)
village. We must find out what's in
that cave.

DAVID unmounts.

DAVID
No. You take the horse. It will
only hinder me.

MIHAI
I want you to be safe?

DAVID looks at him and smiles.

DAVID
Sure I will.

MIHAI
(sighs ; tired)
It's too much for this old man....
time for me to stand down.... I'm
heading for the village.

The horse starts galloping. DAVID looks serious at him
departing.

EXT. IULIAN'S VILLAGE OUTSKIRTS, THE HILL - DAY - CONTINUOUS

The wind waves the tall grass slowly. A bit of fog is
lifting.

DAVID is analysing the village from a prone position, on the
small hill. Two of FLORIN's men guard the entrance to the
metal cave. FLORIN is talking to some villagers a few houses
away from DAVID. ROXANA and MADALINA close in on TRAIAN.
They want to get to their father's grave in the forest.
(beat)

DAVID
Psst, don't look, just listen.

ROXANA complies. She understands, yet she is starting to
sweat.

ROXANA
Madalina, go pick some flours for
father.

ROXANA makes a few steps until she gets out of the villagers
sight, drops on the ground, and gets close to DAVID. (beat)

DAVID
(whispering)
So what is happening down there?

ROXANA
Tudor won the hearts of the people.
He promised them a fighting chance
against the food shortage.

David looks at her.

DAVID
(cautious)
Has he impressed you also?

ROXANA
... Not yet...
(abstract) (beat)
... not ever.

DAVID
(sighs)
Good. Now, I must get into that
cave, and I think I see a way.

DAVID points a path behind the guards, with his finger.

ROXANA
I'll join you.

They crawl to:

EXT. IULIAN'S VILLAGE - DAY - CONTINUOUS

They stealth through the houses, careful at every sound or shadow. They arrive at:

EXT. IULIAN'S VILLAGE OUTSKIRTS - DAY - CONTINUOUS

They get to just a few steps behind the guards. DAVID points to ROXANA that he will take care of the two guards. (beat) He jumps and bumps the guards heads against eachother. The two fall. DAVID drops in front of the metal door and stands on his feet.

DAVID
(whispering)
This will only take a second.

DAVID enters the cave. ROXANA, after a few seconds of thinking, grabs a gun from one of the unconscious guards, and waits near the entrance. (beat) After a few seconds,

DAVID appears from the darkness of the metal room, with a disappointed look on his face. ROXANA, without giving it too much thought, hurls the gun at DAVID's neck. He drops down shaking.

EXT. TRAIAN'S DREAM - CONTINUOUS (2)

(NOTE: It's a colour dream, and the POV is that of the dreamer.)

Darkness for a second. Then blue. It forms a blue owl. It turns it's head a few times. It envelops the entire view. It's talking without moving it's beak.

OWL

(gentle ; scary)

I want to have your children.

(beat) A wolf growl is heard. The owl flies and the dreamer looks at his own hand to see the face of a dark, three-eyed wolf. The growl gets louder. The dreamer sees his own hand in the jaws of the wolf. The growl gets louder. It's teeth are showing.

ANDREI(O.S.)

It's time to wake up father.... I
will soon be with you.

The growl gets deafening.

INT. TRAIAN'S HOUSE - DAY - CONTINUOUS (2)

There's only a table near a wall, with a few handmade chairs around it, and a bed, for furniture.

TRAIAN, a young, shorthaired, brown-eyed man, wakes up, after the strange dream. (beat) His arm is numb, and realises that it's under the head of his wife:

ELENA, a young, darkhaired, brown-eyed girl, with a cute button nose, who is in the last month of pregnancy. The two of them are in bed. TRAIAN touches ELENA's belly gently, and after he feels the small being inside kicking, he smiles, curious. (beat) ELENA wakes up and raises her head, so that TRAIAN can free his numb arm.

ELENA

... 'Morning.

ELENA rolls to face TRAIAN, and kisses him on the forehead. He gets up.

TRAIAN
Hope you slept well!

ELENA
Good enough... I would have slept a
bit more, but I think you woke me.

TRAIAN
It wasn't me.
(smiling only for him)
Honestly.

ELENA looks intrigued. (beat) TRAIAN gets up slowly,
massaging his numb arm to get the blood flowing.

TRAIAN (CONT'D)
I'm off to check the traps. I'm
going with Stefan.

ELENA
Be careful... for me.

ELENA puts her right hand on her belly.

ELENA (CONT'D)
For us.

TRAIAN smiles, puts on a coat, grabs his knife and exits.

EXT. TRAIAN'S VILLAGE - DAY - CONTINUOUS (2)

The village is formed out of the familiar reed covered huts,
in the familiar, random, shade dictated, manner. The village
is at the edge of the forest, with a plain with a few trees
and some crops on it unraveling on the other side. The apple
tree near TRAIAN's house shivers in the wind. One apple
falls on the grass.

TRAIAN picks it up, rubs it on his coat to clean it, he
whistles shortly, then takes a bite and starts chewing. He's
waving his numb hand to get the blood flowing.

STEFAN, a young, short-haired man, with a smile always on
his face, is gathering a length of rope to put it on his
shoulder. His horse neighs near him.

STEFAN
Hey there lazy bones.

TRAIAN

I'm really impressed to even see you standing. You kinda overdid it at you cousin's wedding.

STEFAN rubs his finger below his nose.

STEFAN

(smiling)

I'm just... tough, like that.

They both laugh a bit. (beat)

STEFAN (CONT'D)

(serious)

How is she this morning?

TRAIAN

She's fine,... I'm looking forward to seeing the baby although.

STEFAN

No more games from now on...

(beat)

You tied yourself up when you got married.

(humoral serious)

And it's getting worse.

TRAIAN laughs.

TRAIAN

Just because you cant handle marriage, doesn't mean everybody else falls in the same group.

STEFAN

I can handle marriage...

(barely serious)

I'm just... playing hard to get.

TRAIAN stops laughing, and sighs. (beat) His horse appears from behind a house.

TRAIAN

(facing the ground)

I just hope we will always have moments like this, Stefan.

STEFAN

God willing, we will.

They both mount and ride out laughing once in a while.

EXT. ICY WALL - DAY

The wind whips the ice wall. None of the trees in the forest reach over the edge of the ice wall on which:

AZURA, a young dark skinned woman with long braided hair and big blue shining eyes, wearing a thick fur coat, is standing, caressing a giant, dark furred wolf. She's the same woman SMARANDA was talking about.

She looks at TRAIAN and STEFAN in the distance as they approach the forest. She turns to the wolf, as it starts wiggling its tail.

AZURA

(soft)

I will miss you my little Angel.

She touches the nose of the wolf with her nose. They turn and look at TRAIAN and STEFAN again.

EXT. FOREST OUTSKIRTS - DAY - CONTINUOUS

The tip of a mountain in the distance is almost all covered in fog. The trees are still. Their shadows cover the grass just enough to form a cover for TRAIAN and STEFAN.

They unmount, and free the horses. STEFAN's horse starts running, while TRAIAN's remains. He rewards his horse by stroking it on the head.

STEFAN

I'll never understand how your horse is so... understanding, and mine, look at her... She's like my mother.

They both laugh and enter the:

EXT. FOREST - DAY - CONTINUOUS

They tread lightly through the thick vegetation.

STEFAN

(whispering)

Heard rumors about an Oracle. They say nobody ever saw her face.

TRAIAN whips him an interested look.

STEFAN (CONT'D)
Rumors say she doesn't even touch
the ground when she walks.

TRAIAN
(whispering)
What do you think?

STEFAN
Bunch of crap.

They reach the first trap and find it empty. They leave it
and keep walking.

STEFAN (CONT'D)
Haven't you heard anything?

(beat)

TRAIAN
(smiling)
Besides my belly rumbling?

They giggle.

TRAIAN (CONT'D)
I just miss bacon.

(beat)

STEFAN
Father Constantin might know
something interesting about her.

TRAIAN
Sure.
(smiling)
And if you treat him with a nice
slab of pork, I'm sure he'll tell
you too.

They reach the second trap, that provides the same
disappointment as the first. They don't get to continue
their discussion. (beat) They hear TRAIAN's horse neigh
strangely. They rush back through the vegetation. STEFAN
stumbles on a few stumps, and falls behind. TRAIAN doesn't
stop until he reaches the opening through the trees.

EXT. FOREST OUTSKIRTS - DAY - CONTINUOUS

He finds the large, yellow-eyed wolf, with black fur, that
AZURA was caressing , trying to bite his fallen horse. The

wolf turns, with a bit of blood dripping from it's nose, and growls at TRAIAN. He quickly unsheathes his knife, screams in blind fury, and throws the knife. He manages to stick it into the wolf's chest. The wolf pulls it out with it's fangs, while yelping. STEFAN gets out of the forest, and looks around perplexed. (beat)

STEFAN

What in the...?

The wolf throws the knife at STEFAN and runs. (beat) TRAIAN drops to his knees and grabs the horse's head in his hands. He sheds a few tears while the horse draws his last breath. He strokes its head, forgets about his friend with the knife in his shoulder, and starts running after the wolf. STEFAN drops to the ground.

EXT. THE WOLF'S LAIR - DAY - CONTINUOUS

The mountain covers up the Sun enough to make the light just a bit dimmer. The tall wall of ice stands over what used to be green grass and tall trees.

TRAIAN stops running among some rocks. The wolf hides behind some of them. TRAIAN approaches it with care through the rocks, guided only by it's yelping. (beat) He sits down, and closes his eyes, unsure about what to do. He sighs. After he opens his eyes, he sees a claw-like blade with strange markings on it, in the hand of a weird dressed skeleton. He takes the blade and rushes in over the wolf. The wolf growls a bit, then calms down. (beat) TRAIAN approaches it, with care and wonder. The wolf rolls over to expose its chest, gasping. Driven by strange voices clouding his head, TRAIAN uses the blade to pierce the wolf's heart and end the wolf's life, and he does it with mercy, not with anger as he intended. He pulls out the bloody blade and, clouded by the voices in his head, he tastes a drop of the blood with the tip of his tongue. (beat) In a moment of clarity, he backs up, drops the blade, and falls to his knees. He watches amazed how the wolf closes its yellow, shiny eyes, and stops breathing. (beat) A dart whooshes in from his back, straight into his neck. He falls down, unconscious. Two men with dark skin and blue eyes close in to TRAIAN. One of them picks him up. The other one picks up the blade and starts humming a sad song to the dead wolf. AZURA is standing in the shadow of the ice wall, some distance away, looking at the men and the dead wolf. She's sad.

EXT. ROCKY WASTELANDS - DUSK - CONTINUOUS (2)

The purple sunlight is barely strong enough to light up the horizon. The rocks are visible only because of the distant

active volcanos constantly spewing out lava. The rocks are in a maze-like display.

IOANA is walking ahead of her horse. She looks up to the stars. She's dressed lightly, and has the strange claw-like blade, embedded with strange markings, tied behind her back. She looks ahead to see where she is walking. She watches at the stars again, mesmerised. Two dark-skinned men look at her from above the rocks. (beat) When IOANA looks down again, she sees one of them and stops. The dark man stands up and nods his head for IOANA to understand she has to follow him. She complies and walks after the dark man for quite a bit, before arriving to:

EXT. DARK MEN CAMP - DUSK - CONTINUOUS (2)

A fire in the middle of the camp casts dancing shadows on the rock walls. There are only three openings to the rock labyrinth. A few wolves sleep near the fire. Some women cook a few pieces of meat, some sing for themselves.

Just a few steps away from the fire, AZURA uses a blade almost like IOANA's to tattoo TRAIAN's chest with symbols and shapes. Another blade is stuck in the ground near her. IOANA appears accompanied by the two dark-skinned men. AZURA stands up, looks at IOANA, with her bright shining eyes and makes one step towards her. AZURA's voice is hoarse.

AZURA

Welcome... join me... come.

IOANA listens, leaves her horse at the entrance, and joins her.

AZURA (CONT'D)

I know of your test... your trial.

They both approach TRAIAN. AZURA bends over him and continues to tattoo him.

AZURA (CONT'D)

You have something for me.

AZURA stretches her hand at IOANA, without looking at her. IOANA reaches for the blade on her back and puts it into AZURA's hand. AZURA takes it, dips it into some dark paint and continues the tattoos.

AZURA (CONT'D)

He is a rare man... true to himself... free.

IOANA listens, trying to remember if she knows TRAIAN.

AZURA (CONT'D)

His... Light is... strong... enough
to tip the balance of life and
death.... However, he must decide
for himself weather to live... or
die.

She draws more shapes while talking to IOANA.

AZURA (CONT'D)

Don't worry...

AZURA turns to IOANA. She smiles.

AZURA (CONT'D)

(smiling)

... You've come to the right place.

AZURA raises her eyes to a woman near the fire. The woman approaches with a piece of well-made steak on a knife.

AZURA (CONT'D)

Your fasting ends today... at least
this part of it.

She gets up, takes the knife and hands it to IOANA. IOANA smells the steak and bites, while closing her eyes and savouring it.

AZURA (CONT'D)

Only you will know when to end your
silence too.

(beat) AZURA looks at the giant wolves near the fire.

AZURA (CONT'D)

They can see into the future even
further than we can, than we ever
could... It is they we have stolen
this gift from.

AZURA sits down and continues to tattoo TRAIAN's chest. IOANA recognises the wolves, and is perplexed. They were the reason she and her villagers had to relocate, the reason for all the problems.

AZURA (CONT'D)

As people are divided, so are they.
They fight each other, they ally

(MORE)

AZURA (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
 themselves with one-another... some
 of them even lowered themselves to
 our level, and decided to kill
 other like them.

It's a bit too much for IOANA to grasp. (beat)

AZURA (CONT'D)
 (abstract ; whispering)
 She gave her life for him... and
 her heart... I miss her already...
 her soft fur, her yellow eyes... at
 least I know she wasn't wrong...

AZURA points with her beard to TRAIAN on the ground.

AZURA (CONT'D)
 (smiling)
 About him.

She starts tattooing a wolf near TRAIAN's heart. IOANA
 continues chewing on the piece of steak, but slowly. AZURA's
 words made it lose it's taste.

AZURA (CONT'D)
 Her heart will live on... through
 him.

She finishes the tattoo and uses a leather strip to tie the
 three blades onto TRAIAN's arm. (beat) She turns to IOANA.

AZURA (CONT'D)
 (to IOANA)
 You will take him back home, that
 is my request to you... He will
 make all of you see yourselves...
 and you will.

The two men that guided IOANA into the camp take TRAIAN and
 put him on IOANA's horse.

AZURA (CONT'D)
 Don't try to reach the revelation
 yourself... let it come to you.

IOANA finishes the steak. She looks at AZURA's eyes once
 again, hands the knife to one of the men and leaves the camp
 on foot.

EXT. DANIEL'S CAMP - DAY

The trees wave softly in the calm wind. A few horses delight on the green grass around the camp.

DAVID is tied up to the pole in the middle of the camp, right where his mentor MIHAI used to be. He is bruised all over. The guards look at IOANA approaching the camp with TRAIAN on her horse, and her looks in the ground. FLORIN stands on the fences of the wooden tower, scratching his nose, sad. IOANA walks to FLORIN. He gets down and points his father's tent to IOANA. She takes a deep breath. She has a bad feeling. She opens the tent to see her father dead, and SMARANDA cleaning him up with a cloth and some water. She enters. (beat) TRAIAN starts mumbling. Like a sleepwalker, he falls off the horse and starts staggering towards DAVID, that is beginning to wake up. He looks at TRAIAN and widens his eyes amazed. He knows him. TRAIAN gets closer to DAVID and sticks his blades into the pole, just above DAVID's head. FLORIN rushes, takes TRAIAN and tries to put him back on his sister's horse.

FLORIN

(whispering)

Clumsy... don't know what my sister wants from you, but I bet she's not interested in your dancing talents.

(beat) DAVID barely manages to breathe with all of his bruises, but takes advantage of the small cut TRAIAN provided on the rope he is tied with. He snaps the rope, gets on his feet, rushes to FLORIN and pushes him down, throws TRAIAN on the horse with one hand and gallops out of the camp. IOANA gets out of the tent, and looks at the two fading into the forest. FLORIN tries to mount a horse, but his sister stops him. She shakes her head sideways a few times. DANIEL gets out of his tent and ROXANA soon follows. He yells at the guards.

DANIEL

I'm starting to think all of you are worthless.

He enters back in his tent, talking to himself. ROXANA and IOANA's eyes meet for a few seconds. FLORIN cuts in and faces IOANA. He points with his head to DANIELS's tent.

FLORIN

(whispering)

He said it was that guy that ran away just now. I... I just don't know.

(beat) IOANA uses her left hand to push his brother's shoulder just enough to see ROXANA enter her uncle's tent. She looks into her brother's eyes and uses her left hand to stroke his cheek, and before he can see her tears, she rushes into her father's tent. FLORIN sighs.

INT. TRAIAN'S HOUSE - DAY - CONTINUOUS

The Sun casts a bit of light inside. The voices of a few children can be heard outside.

ELENA is lying in bed, with tears in her eyes, and her hands on her belly. She sobs. Only STEFAN returned from the hunt, with a severe wound and news that TRAIAN ran after a huge wolf. She fears the worst.

The voices of the children get silent. She hears two men talking and raises her head. She recognises one as Father CONSTANTIN, the old, white haired priest of the village. ELENA gets up and puts on a coat of TRAIAN's. A girl pokes her head through the door.

GIRL

(scared)

Elena, Elena, Traian's here,
someone brought him.

(beat) ELENA bursts through the door.

EXT. TRAIAN'S VILLAGE - DAY - CONTINUOUS

The few trees scattered among the houses shiver lightly in the cold breeze.

DAVID dismounts and with the help of Father CONSTANTIN, he gets TRAIAN off the horse.

MARIA, the old, dark-haired wife of CONSTANTIN, opens the door to CONSTANTIN's house. They get TRAIAN inside and DAVID gets out. The children try to look through the window.

DAVID

Scat.

He rushes at the children and scares them away. He sighs and sits on the ground, leaning against the wall of the house. (beat) From behind the corner of a house, ELENA appears and approaches. It takes some time for DAVID to realise that she is TRAIAN's wife, he gets up and poses himself in front of the door.

ELENA
 (hoarse, loud)
 Out of my way.

DAVID
 (calm)
 You shouldn't see him like this...
 Just wait.

ELENA
 (louder)
 Back up.

DAVID grabs her arms to comfort her. ELENA unsheathes DAVID's knife so fast that he doesn't even get to see, and pokes his neck, while looking into his eyes.

ELENA (CONT'D)
 (insane)
 Move!

DAVID backs up surprised. ELENA drops the knife and enters Father CONSTANTIN's house.

INT. FATHER CONSTANTIN'S HOUSE - DAY - CONTINUOUS

A bit of light shines over TRAIAN on the bed.

MARIA looks for a cloth to wash him. Father CONSTANTIN stands on a chair in a corner. He watches perplexed at TRAIAN. ELENA enters the house and starts crying. She rushes in over TRAIAN.

ELENA
 (crying)
 Traian!

Mad, she starts unraveling the piece of leather with which the blades on his arm are tied. The blades are embedded in his flesh and won't come out easily. She grabs one and pulls it out, cutting herself in the process.

MARIA
 Wait... you're hurting him.

(beat) ELENA stops, drops on her feet, and cries harder. She bends over TRAIAN.

ELENA
 (sobbing)
 What happened to you my love...
 This is wrong.

She grabs the cloth MARIA hands her and they both start washing him. When the cold cloth touches TRAIAN's skin, he starts mumbling.

TRAIAN

Bluuue... wings... Andrei... my
wolf... bluuue.

Elena cries harder. Father CONSTANTIN grabs a piece of bread off the table and exit's the house.

EXT. TRAIAN'S VILLAGE OUTSKIRTS - DAY.

A thin cloud starts covering the Sun. The wind blows softly over the top of the few trees scattered across the plain.

ANA and ATHENA walk slowly over the plain. ANA guides a horse with cargo on his back, by the rope attached to it's muzzle.

ANA

(enthusiastic)

So there are people living in the
darkness... across the ice?

ATHENA

Yes my dear. They were... altered
by the debris from the Moon that
fell there, but yes... they are
human.

ANA

And these wolves that rampage our
stocks, they don't attack them?

ATHENA

Noo... no. They actually live in
harmony with eachother.

ANA

Hmmm... Makes me feel so...
insignificant.

ATHENA

How so?

ANA

Well, the world seems so... big,
all of a sudden.

ATHENA

It is even bigger than you think...
Bigger than you could even imagine.

ANA stares at the ground for a while. (beat)

ATHENA (CONT'D)

There used to be a time when the
Moon was complete, you know?

ATHENA looks at the Moon fragments in the sky. ANA looks at her, then at the Moon fragments.

ANA

Complete?

ATHENA

Yes, a full round Moon... I've seen
it only once, in my
grandmother's... memories.

They both look forward again. After a few seconds, ANA looks at her.

ANA

Memories?

ATHENA

... Like a book, or an image.

(beat)

ANA

And, was it as you told me before,
was the Sun moving across the sky?

ATHENA

Yes Ana... it was.

ANA

Must have been quite a sight.

ATHENA

Consider that it was as normal back
then, as this is normal now... I
hope it's not too much for you.

ANA

I am trying my best to
understand... but why are you
telling me all this?

(beat)

ATHENA

A long time ago, mankind was faced with a crisis, much like it is now.... One of us, my grandmother, was sent to help out. And she did. She found someone that had lots of promise and helped Him become their saviour.

ANA

Well... I bet it worked out, right?

ATHENA

Even better than she predicted.

ANA

So what does that have to do with us?

ATHENA

She... His story had to be told. People had to be told His deeds, His accomplishments... So she gathered a few men to walk with Him and to write down His deeds, so that people would know them for a long time... learn from them.

ANA

So what happened, they refused?

ATHENA

Not in the least. They all performed wonderfully. Each of them wrote the story as they knew best... But let me ask you something.

ANA

Of course.

ATHENA

If I were to describe you a place, or a person, or anything for that matter, would you imagine it in the same manner as anyone else?

ANA

I... I never thought of something like that... But I suppose... no, everyone would see it differently.

ATHENA

That is what happened back then... Some of their books were accepted by the people, some of them, especially one of them, wasn't... After that, the books were used to give birth to different beliefs, quarrels... wars. Twisted reasons for twisted men.

ANA

So... she failed? Your grandmother?

ATHENA stops for a moment thinking. Then she starts walking again.

ATHENA

One would think so... but I believe she did her best.

ANA

(abstract)

Indeed... nobody can predict the future...

(smiling)

I will pass your story forward, I promise.

ATHENA

Actually, it is... to some point, predictable.

ANA faces the ground. She frowns.

ATHENA (CONT'D)

Logic and reasoning allows it.

(beat) ANA turns to her.

ANA

Why did you choose to help us?

ATHENA stops. ANA stops too.

ATHENA

I... my grandmother was... I guess
I love you, all of you.... I can't
explain it, but humans... I've
grown to admire you.

They start walking again.

ANA

Thank you for helping us.

They walk in silence for a while.

ATHENA

And it is not my story, not in the
least.

ANA frowns again.

ATHENA (CONT'D)

I will have to choose a saviour
again. I thought David would be our
best hope, but...

ANA

What is it?

ANA looks interested at ATHENA.

ATHENA

I'm not sure he can succeed.

ANA

Then who?

ATHENA is silent. It's clear she won't answer, at least, not yet.

ANA (CONT'D)

Look, we've arrived.

They are near a few of the village houses.

EXT. TRAIAN'S VILLAGE - DAY - CONTINUOUS

The trees start waving hard.

DAVID sheaths his knife and looks at Father CONSTANTIN who
exit's the house. He accepts the piece of bread from him and
starts eating. He hasn't eaten for days. ATHENA and ANA
enter the village. DAVID looks at them as they approach with
grace. CONSTANTIN raises his look only when they get close.

ATHENA

Is he in?

CONSTANTIN nods. ATHENA turns to ANA.

ATHENA

Come.

They both enter the house. Soon after, MARIA gets out with ELENA in her arms. She helps her walk.

MARIA

(comforting)

He will be fine now, you'll see.

ANA covers the window with a blanket from the inside. ELENA sobs twice, then faints. DAVID catches her at just the right time.

INT. FATHER CONSTANTIN'S HOUSE - DAY - CONTINUOUS

The blanket in the window makes it dark inside.

ATHENA pulls out of her clothing the small metal tube she used on ANA's arm, a sphere and a thin piece of shiny metal. She presses on the piece of metal a few times, takes the sphere and keeps it above TRAIAN's forehead for a few seconds until it makes a distinct sound, then touches the thin piece of metal with it. The tablet lights up and shows some images.

ATHENA

(to ANA)

Remember all this, it might come in handy one day.

ANA looks amazed at what ATHENA does. She twists the metal tube.

ATHENA (CONT'D)

Come closer.

ANA complies. ATHENA waves the tube above ANA's arm, and then twists it again. (beat)

ATHENA (CONT'D)

I need you to leave now.

ANA nods, turns and exits the house. ATHENA removes her veil, presses the metal tablet a few times until it starts creating holograms. She touches the holograms and moves them around. She touches the metal tube against the tablet,

twists it again and waves it over TRAIAN's head. She removes the blades on his arm using her gloves, with care. He opens his eyes. ATHENA puts her hand over his eyes and reaches for her veil. She starts to put it on. He takes a deep breath. ATHENA removes her hand and starts hiding the things she used to help him. (beat) TRAIAN gets up and sits on the bed, and after a thorough analysis of his body, his tattoos, a dark reminder of the nightmares he faced the last few days, he looks at ATHENA. He is tired and confused.

TRAIAN

Am I alive?... Is this... real?

She is enthusiastic.

ATHENA

As much as I'm able to guarantee...
yes.

They stand in silence for a few moments while ATHENA finishes hiding her trinkets. TRAIAN looks again at the tattoos.

TRAIAN

Why did God let this happened?

ATHENA

(confident ; all knowing)
It wasn't God. It was us... you...
There is no God. Beings such as
myself posed as God's to you just
to help get your evolution along...
There is no God.

(beat) TRAIAN looks at his right hand, at the markings on it. He sees clearly, although it's dark inside. He looks at ATHENA.

TRAIAN

(smiling faint)
... There is no Oracle.

ATHENA

What?

TRAIAN

You don't exist. You are not real.

ATHENA

I am here aren't I?

TRAIAN

Not everyone knows that. Until now,
not even I believed it.

TRAIAN reaches for her veil slowly. She grabs his hand.

ATHENA

All one has to do is come to me,
and see me... I am real.

TRAIAN

I bet if God could, She'd be saying
the same thing.

ATHENA is speechless. She retreats her hand. She gives up to
an idea she never grasped before. TRAIAN hesitates for a few
seconds and pulls his hand back.

ATHENA

She?

TRAIAN

(smiling)

Yes... I always imagined that God
is forgiving as my mother,
beautiful as my wife, and innocent,
like the little girl that sneaks by
me to feed my horse apples.

(sighs)

At least... Used to.

ANA(V.O.)

And there it began... With a few
words, Traian managed to topple all
the logic and reasoning Athena
loved and preached.

TRAIAN (CONT'D)

My God...

TRAIAN puts his hand on his chest, just above his heart.

TRAIAN (CONT'D)

She's here... Nobody can make that
up.

(looking away ; abstract)

... I'm just trying to figure out
how She let all this happened...
and why.

(beat) He sighs. He sees the three blades on the floor, and
picks them up. He feels like he owns them. ATHENA pulls down

the blanket and lets the light in. TRAIAN covers his eyes. He gets up, wobbles and gets out of the house, closely followed by ATHENA.

EXT. TRAIAN'S VILLAGE - DAY - CONTINUOUS

A cloud is scattered across the sky.

The children are gathered near the house of Father CONSTANTIN, looking at ELENA, and then at TRAIAN, after he gets out of the house. He's face drops when he sees ELENA unconscious.

ANA(V.O.)

I could venture and tell you that I
can imagine what that must feel
like...

He drops the blades from his hand.

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

I could act all wise and pretend I
fully understand emotions and the
way they impact on someone.

He takes her in his hands.

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

I would lie.

ATHENA gets out of the house. He turns to her.

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

Although I could tell you what I
felt... I felt Traian's eyes
piercing through the red gentle
veil on Athena's face, through her
cold, distant facade.

He drops on his knees.

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

... His body was changed forever...
his mind was chased by all the
shadows of his dreams... his horse
died in his arms... oh, his beloved
horse...

TRAIAN closes his eyes as he drops on his legs.

ANA(V.O.) (CONT'D)
 After a life-long belief in the
 kindness of God... after an
 unflinching faith in a loving
 supreme being...

TRAIAN looks at the sky. The veins on his forehead are showing.

ANA(V.O.) (CONT'D)
 Up to the moment he walked out that
 door, despite all he endured, his
 faith did too.

TRAIAN starts crying. He looks at ATHENA with tears in his eyes.

ANA(V.O.) (CONT'D)
 But seeing Elena like that... I saw
 his eyes wither their shine away,
 among with every human trace it
 takes to believe in any sort of
 God.

TRAIAN
 (to ATHENA)
 Help her, please!

ANA(V.O.)
 I saw any hope I had in a saviour
 drown in his tears and scatter in
 the darkness of his eyes.

ATHENA approaches them and looks at ELENA's injured hand and then examines her face.

ATHENA
 Get her on her bed. Careful.

TRAIAN complies, stands up and carries her inside their house. ATHENA follows in. The others watch them enter the house. DAVID picks up the blades and examines them with curiosity.

ANA
 Careful, I think it's those blades
 she cut herself with.

ANA(V.O.)
 I was scared... Like never before.

DAVID reaches inside Father CONSTANTIN's house through the window and grabs a blanket. He wraps the blades in it.

ANA(V.O.) (CONT'D)
And all Athena and David's presence
there did, was to swell it.

EXT. DANIEL'S CAMP - DAY

A few horses neigh. Some men mount, while others run around busy.

ANA(V.O.) (CONT'D)
Guess that's how God works... On
mysterious ways.

ROXANA mounts a horse. IOANA and FLORIN come out of their father's tent. DANIEL enters the tent of SMARANDA and after a few seconds they both come out.

SMARANDA
I will never give them to you
Daniel. Besides...

SMARANDA approaches IOANA and hands her the plastic map and the small blue cube. IOANA analyses them for a while, then hides them in her coat.

SMARANDA (CONT'D)
The only way you can use the map is
if you take her with you.

(beat) FLORIN takes a step forward.

FLORIN
Not without me you won't.

FLORIN's wolf steps in. IOANA strokes it's head. DANIEL looks at them for a while.

DANIEL
(hesitating)
Well, it seems I have no choice. We
should however split our forces.
The Oracle could be in any of the
villages up north...

SMARANDA
One thing is certain though. Where
that tattooed man with the blades
is, that's where she will be too.

IOANA and FLORIN mount. DANIEL, on his horse, looks almost trustworthy, impressive, just.

DANIEL
 (to the men)
 We ride for our salvation... find the Oracle. The new weapons have a limited number of shots, so make them count.

They start galloping away from the camp.

EXT. TRAIAN'S VILLAGE - DAY - CONTINUOUS

A few children run around playing.

DAVID is standing outside his brother STEFAN's house, eating an apple. TRAIAN exits his own house and heads towards him.

TRAIAN
 How is he?

DAVID
 Magda is changing his bandages. He'll be out soon... Elena?

TRAIAN
 Athena and Ana are trying their best... I don't know.

TRAIAN sighs.

TRAIAN (CONT'D)
 ... I don't know.

(beat) He stares at the ground, just as:

STEFAN(O.S.)
 Is that?... Ooo, I've got to see this.

The door creaks. STEFAN gets out, with his right arm tied to his chest. He looks at TRAIAN, and almost starts crying.

STEFAN
 (smiling)
 What in the world happened to you?... fell in the pitch pit?

STEFAN and DAVID giggle. TRAIAN smiles and looks at his friend's arm.

TRAIAN

I'm... sorry.

STEFAN

Don't worry, I have one more.

STEFAN raises his left arm and smiles.

STEFAN (CONT'D)

Oh, I almost forgot.

He reaches in his coat and pulls out TRAIAN's knife.

STEFAN (CONT'D)

Here.

TRAIAN grabs the knife, sighs, and sheathes it. They walk towards the apple tree near TRAIAN's house.

EXT. TRAIAN'S VILLAGE - DAY - CONTINUOUS

DAVID and TRAIAN sit down near the apple tree, while STEFAN reaches for an apple.

STEFAN (CONT'D)

I'll tell you this much... that was
a damn big wolf.

STEFAN bites the apple. (beat) TRAIAN raises his eyes, and looks at the sky through the leaves.

TRAIAN

I've followed her you know.

DAVID listens intrigued. STEFAN turns and stops chewing. He swallows.

STEFAN

(wide eyes)

Her?

TRAIAN

I don't understand how I know that.

(sighs)

I just do.

DAVID

Did you kill it?

TRAIAN

I wanted to... revenge was all I
had on my mind.... But it was
almost like... like she let me kill
her...

(He looks at the two ;
has tears in his eyes)

I guess I wasn't ready for that.

STEFAN and DAVID look amazed at TRAIAN. They stand silent
for a few seconds. (beat) STEFAN sees MIHAI running towards
them. DAVID sees him too and gets up on his feet. MIHAI
stops when he reaches them.

MIHAI

(gasping)

Daniel's men... they are raiding
the villages. They are looking
for... Her.

STEFAN

Calm down!

DAVID runs to TRAIAN's house and opens the door.

DAVID

They're coming, Athena.

He grabs a coat for TRAIAN and throws it to him. ATHENA
comes gliding out of the house, with ANA following. TRAIAN
puts on the coat as he gets up. Father CONSTANTIN comes from
behind his house and joins the group. Meanwhile, from
between the trees in the forest near the village, DANIEL,
ROXANA, and a few men approach the village on horse. DANIEL
is smiling even before he enters the village, at the sight
of ATHENA. He signals the men to gather around the group of
people among ATHENA. They comply, and aim their guns at
them.

DANIEL

We finally meet, Oracle.

ATHENA

Where is your brother, young
Daniel?

DANIEL

Everyone's so interested in his
well being. Tell you what, I can
manage for you to meet him.

He points at the sky.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Up there.

ATHENA

All of this will return to you one day, and you will not like it, as none of your victims did.

DANIEL

Give me the key, Oracle.

(beat) TRAIAN cuts in.

TRAIAN

Hang on, who are you? What do you want?

DANIEL

Shut your mouth boy!

TRAIAN frowns. He's lost too much lately to be downsized by this skinny, ill-mannered, unshaved man.

ATHENA

Be calm... all of you.

TRAIAN doesn't look like he's listening. He signals DAVID with a look, and puts his hand on the handle of his knife.

DANIEL

I will not ask again. I'll have my men shoot you and search the key through your ashes.

(beat) He doesn't get to finish his threat. TRAIAN rushes with the knife to his neck, while mounting behind him on horse. DAVID knocks a guard down and incapacitates another.

TRAIAN

(whispering)
Never call me boy again.

ATHENA

Stop this Traian.

TRAIAN

Not on your life... But maybe on his.

(smiling)

A brief "How-de-do!" would have saved him this trouble.

DANIEL
(frightened)
Make your pet back down Oracle.

TRAIAN tightens his grip, and pokes DANIEL's neck even harder with the knife. TRAIAN whispers in DANIEL's left ear.

TRAIAN
(whispering ; to DANIEL)
Scum like you just won't stop until
someone like me ends their pathetic
quest for power.

TRAIAN whispers in DANIELS right ear.

TRAIAN (CONT'D)
(whispering)
Should I end yours?

DANIEL is silent, and his eyes get wider. He's scared.
TRAIAN looks at the guards. ATHENA gets closer to TRAIAN.

TRAIAN (CONT'D)
(to the guards)
Back off... All of you.

DANIEL nods to the guards, and they start heading back to the forest. ROXANA remains. TRAIAN looks straight at her.

ATHENA
Stop it Traian... Remember Elena.

TRAIAN sighs, stares at nothing for a while, and only after the guards are out of the village he unmounts and sheathes his knife. DANIEL strokes his neck with his right hand.

DAVID
At least now we can talk civilized.

DAVID backs down. (beat)

ATHENA
(to DANIEL)
I will provide you with the key
Daniel.

DANIEL looks amazed at ATHENA.

ATHENA (CONT'D)
... but not quite as you wish.
(to TRAIAN)
Traian!

TRAIAN looks at ATHENA. She reaches inside her clothing and pulls out a small sphere with a fine-crafted chain attached. She offers it to TRAIAN. He looks amazed at how shiny it is, and takes it, not knowing what it does.

ATHENA (CONT'D)

You must go over the ice...

He frowns and tries to hand it back to ATHENA.

TRAIAN

Wait, what? No, no, no.

ATHENA

There is a door there that only this key is able to open.

TRAIAN tries to give it back to ATHENA, but to no avail.

TRAIAN

No way... my place is here, near Elena, not seeking myths and legends... Gods from the past... I'm having problems with the ones in the present.

(beat) After a few long moments:

ATHENA

I cannot heal her.

TRAIAN looks disappointed at ATHENA for two seconds, and then raises his eyes to the sky, and closes them, to hide the tears. He lets the hand with the sphere fall.

ATHENA (CONT'D)

However... there is a chance you'll find a cure there.

(beat) TRAIAN's eyes fill with hope, more and more as he drops his looks to ATHENA. He looks at the sphere in his hand for a second and then puts it around his neck.

TRAIAN

Where?

ATHENA

I don't know for sure.

TRAIAN

Who does?

DANIEL is excited. He's planning in his head, scheming. He listens with enthusiasm.

DANIEL
Ioana does. Take Tudor's brats with you. They will show you the way.

TRAIAN looks at DANIEL.

TRAIAN
Where are they?

DANIEL points at ROXANA.

DANIEL
She knows where. And she will go with you too.

The only one looking amazed is ROXANA.

TRAIAN
(to ROXANA)
Dismount and lets go. We have no need for horses.

DANIEL
This is Roxana.

DANIEL whispers something to ROXANA.

ANA
I'm coming too.

DAVID
Hang on now.

DANIEL
Ioana is the only one that has the map to the door. There is no other way.

ATHENA
So be it.

DAVID
I will go too, there's three of them, they could overpower you...

TRAIAN approaches DAVID and puts his right hand on DAVID's shoulder.

TRAIAN

I need you here, you have to
promise me you'll take care of
Elena... Please... I can take care
of my own.

DAVID

Sure brother... Go...
(beat)
Hang on.

DAVID rushes to STEFAN'S house, reaches inside through the window and pulls out the blanket with the blades wrapped inside. He rushes back and reveals the blades to TRAIAN.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Here.

ROXANA looks interested at the blades.

ATHENA

(to TRAIAN)

You are the only one that can use
them Traian... and you will use
them. They are better than any
knife you know.

TRAIAN takes the blades and the leather strip that used to tie them. (beat) He starts undressing his coat. ROXANA dismounts, looking at the symbols on TRAIAN'S body with wide eyes. DANIEL looks amazed also.

ANA

I brought proper clothing, for when
we reach the ice.

ANA goes to her horse, a few steps behind her, and grabs six thick coats. TRAIAN turns to ATHENA while tying the blades to his back.

TRAIAN

(to ATHENA)

Who is the sixth for?

ATHENA

(to TRAIAN)

Just a precaution.

TRAIAN

(to ATHENA)

So you are gifted.

ATHENA
(to TRAIAN)
Only as much as any of you can also
be.

(beat) The men that DAVID knocked down are getting up.

DANIEL
(to TRAIAN)
You have two days!

They all look amazed at him.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
(to all)
On the third day I'm coming to take
your supplies.
(looking at DAVID)
And nobody's safe.

DANIEL leaves, accompanied by his two men. TRAIAN puts his coat back on, and enters his house.

INT. TRAIAN'S HOUSE - DAY - CONTINUOUS

ELENA is unconscious on the bed. TRAIAN enters and gets over to her. He kisses her on the forehead.

TRAIAN
I'll be back my love, and you will
be safe once more... I promise.

He smells her hair while closing his eyes, sighs, gets up, and exits. He wipes his tears just at the door.

EXT. WEST VILLAGE - DAY

A few clouds move slowly across the sky. A few children hide behind the trees, looking at the horsemen searching the village. This village is similar to TRAIAN's. The only difference is the outskirts display. It's on a plain with a few scattered trees. The forest is far.

IOANA and FLORIN are in the middle of the village, talking to a scared man. FLORIN's wolf is near his master.

VILLAGER
(gesturing scared)
We've heard about Her, but we never
saw Her, none of us did.

FLORIN
Then you won't mind us checking.

VILLAGER
If you were here just to check, you
wouldn't have brought so many
people, and weapons.

FLORIN
If you all act nice, none of you'll
be harmed. You have my word.

(beat) One of FLORIN's horsemen approaches them.

HORSEMAN
Someone's coming. One of them is
Roxana.

IOANA and FLORIN walk a few steps to see who is approaching.
The wolf follows in closely, wagging it's tail. FLORIN
strokes it on the head.

FLORIN
(whispering)
Be still boy.

ROXANA, TRAIAN and ANA approach the village on foot. ANA
leads her horse by the muzzle. FLORIN turns to the two of
his men that are near him.

FLORIN
Be on your guard. I don't like
this.

The horsemen prepare. ROXANA and the two with her arrive
near them.

FLORIN
What is this Roxana?

ROXANA
Your uncle wants us to go find the
second metal door over the ice.

FLORIN
No way am I going.

He turns to IOANA.

FLORIN (CONT'D)
Sis?

IOANA stands silent, looking at TRAIAN. TRAIAN gets close to them. He extends his hand. He's determined.

TRAIAN

I've had enough, hand me the map.

FLORIN's men point their weapons at TRAIAN.

HORSEMAN

Back up boy.

(beat) TRAIAN grabs a blade from his back by reaching under his coat, kicks a guard and pokes the other one with the tip of the blade, moving with grace, all in the blink of an eye. FLORIN pulls out his knife. The wolf starts barking.

FLORIN

That's it, you're asking for it.

IOANA slaps him on the back of his head. The wolf stops.

FLORIN

Au, what are you...

IOANA takes a step forward and raises her hands gesturing stop. FLORIN sheathes his knife. (beat) IOANA nods to the guards to stand down. TRAIAN stands down too and ties the blade back.

FLORIN (CONT'D)

I guess we are... going?!

IOANA nods again, in affirmation.

ANA

Here, I've brought warm clothing for all of us. I believe we will need them.

ANA gets the coats off the horse. They take them. FLORIN turns to one of his men. ANA rushes her horse to leave, after taking the load off it.

FLORIN

Get the others and go home. There is nothing left for you to do here.

The wolf closes in on TRAIAN. He strokes it on the head as it smells him in a friendly manner, but TRAIAN isn't looking at the wolf, he's looking at a child behind a tree. IOANA looks at the two, without them noticing.

EXT. ICY WASTELANDS - DUSK

The wind is deafening. A few crevasses cross the ice, covered in some places by snow. The sunlight barely manages to make a few long shades over the ice.

FLORIN and IOANA walk in front, ROXANA and ANA after them, and TRAIAN is walking behind them. The wolf is following TRAIAN, wagging it's tail once in a while. (beat) Something catches TRAIAN's attention. He turns his head. The shades of his companions slowly curve and deform, turning into an impenetrable darkness. Out of that darkness, two giant wolves appear, first their heads, with burning yellow eyes, then their whole bodies. They look straight at him for a second, then they turn their looks to another shape coming out of the darkness: a small boy, with brown eyes and short dark hair, with the same fire in his eyes, dressed in nothing but a pair of pants. Staring at TRAIAN, he strokes the two wolves on their heads. He then uses his right hand to put the index finger to his mouth.

ANDREI
(to TRAIAN ; smiling)
Ssshhhh.

(beat) TRAIAN stops, looks at his four companions, widens his eyes, and breathes deeply. He understands what just happened.

TRAIAN
(agitated)
Run for cover, quick.

The others turn and look dazed at him, while he makes a few steps towards a snow mound.

TRAIAN
Get behind that mound you fools.

They comply, reluctantly. They all sit down while TRAIAN looks towards the horizon. After a few seconds, a pair of shadows appear. FLORIN's wolf starts growling.

TRAIAN
(whispering)
Shut your mut.

FLORIN puts his hand on the wolf's head.

FLORIN
(whispering)
Calm down boy.

The wolf listens. The two shadows become clearer. Two large wolves, with strong legs, rush towards them.

TRAIAN
 (whispering)
 We're lucky, the wind blows towards
 us... Just keep quiet.

The two wolves stop once in a while and smell the wind. As they get closer, they slow down. TRAIAN starts breathing faster, he carefully sheds his coat, puts it down, and grabs two blades from his back, one in each hand. FLORIN looks at him and unsheathes his knife, silently. IOANA pulls out her knife, ROXANA too, only ANA remains with her eyes locked on the wolves, mesmerized. FLORIN's wolf growls again. The two large animals hear it and rush towards them. (beat) All except ANA get up and engage them. FLORIN and his wolf, IOANA and ROXANA try their best, but don't get to inflict any kind of damage. The wolves anticipate their every move. After a few seconds of futile swings, the three turn to the only target of the wolves: TRAIAN. They are stunned to see that he moves almost like the two animals. Almost like dancing: jumping in the air, dodging and striking.

TRAIAN
 (shouting to the others)
 Run.

A wolf hurts him while he turns to shout. They are all too amazed to listen to any command, ANA especially. TRAIAN sees that he has no choice, so he runs away from them. (beat) The wolves follow him. He slaloms to avoid getting caught by them. After a few dozen steps, TRAIAN falls down a snow covered crevasse. His companions only hear a short cry, and then they start looking at each other. (beat)

ANA
 Come here, quick.

FLORIN
 Here boy.

The three rush towards her and hide. FLORIN's wolf follows. They look at the two giant wolves as they sniff for a while in the hole TRAIAN has fallen through, and then leave. The wolves have no quarrel with the others. The men stand silent for a few seconds.

ANA
 (scared)
 We... Well... What now?

The others look at her with wide eyes.

FLORIN

He had the key... Darn.

ANA

There's no way now... we have to go back.

IOANA pulls out the plastic map, looks at it for a while, and puts it back.

FLORIN

Isn't there anything we can do sis?

IOANA thinks for a few seconds and then shakes her head sideways. ANA picks up the coat TRAIAN was wearing, gets up and starts walking back.

EXT. DARK MEN CAMP - DUSK

The usual setup, fire in the middle, shadows on the walls, giant wolves asleep, a few men sleep near them. A few women hum.

TRAIAN is standing on a rock looking at the wolves. He is using his right hand to stabilise himself. His eyes are closed. He's wobbling. AZURA, near the fire, sees him and gets up. Her eyes shine blue bright. She smiles. TRAIAN jumps off the rock and lands near some wolves. He goes on all four to one and touches it's nose. The wolf wakes up and rolls with it's belly up at the sight of TRAIAN. TRAIAN rubs his back on it and then spots AZURA. He smiles and rushes to her. He's wobbling. She grabs his head with her hands and sticks her forehead to his.

AZURA

My little Angel... you're back.

They touch noses.

EXT. DARK MEN CAMP - DUSK

Only a few moments passed since TRAIAN arrived. Nobody stopped their routine, except AZURA.

TRAIAN lies down, with his face down. He starts to wake up. He looks at the dark skinned people and tries not to move, still unsure about his surroundings. He moves his shoulders and feels the blades tied behind his back. He calms down and gets up slowly. He looks interested to a woman that hums. AZURA approaches him from behind, making her presence

noticed by starting to talk.

AZURA

You listen... and you would like to understand.

TRAIAN keeps his attention on the woman singing.

TRAIAN

Do I have to?

AZURA

Nobody has to... even more, nobody does. We don't have a name for it... It's a heart song. You don't know my heart, I don't know yours. Sometimes, you yourself might not know it.

AZURA walks in front of him, widens her blue luminous eyes, and strokes him on the cheek with her right hand and smiles.

AZURA (CONT'D)

That's why nobody will never understand her song.

(beat)

She is like that you know!

TRAIAN looks into her eyes, for the first time, captivated by them. She takes her hand off.

TRAIAN

Who?

AZURA

... God.

TRAIAN

(grinning)

Hehe.

AZURA looks serious at him.

TRAIAN (CONT'D)

I never did... and don't think I ever will understand Her.

She smiles.

AZURA

That... is Her true nature.

(beat)

TRAIAN
Who are you?

AZURA
I have no name... I don't need one.

TRAIAN looks around.

TRAIAN
(whispering)
None of you do!

AZURA shakes her head sideways, without blinking.

AZURA
The only thing that ties us to this
world is our bodies.

(beat)

TRAIAN
Who brought me here?

She touches the wolf tattoo on his chest with her
fingertips.

AZURA
She did. My little Angel.

(beat) He falls on his rear and looks at the ground. It's
like the whole world starts to make sense.

TRAIAN
It was you... wasn't it?

He puts his hand on the drawings on his chest.

TRAIAN (CONT'D)
You did this.

ATHENA
It was needed to help you get
through death, and see what death
claimed, and might clam still.

(beat) She sits down by his side. TRAIAN looks into her eyes
again.

AZURA (CONT'D)

You are the only one that can wield these.

She touches the blades on his back.

TRAIAN

What do I do with them?... They're just blades, aren't they?

AZURA

We made them... in the Moonfire, before the Earth began to freeze.

TRAIAN

(amazed)

So it is true, what I saw in my dreams. And you say she...

(he looks at his wolf tattoo)

... helped?... How?

AZURA

They were never meant to be used against anyone but their wielder... You will understand that when time comes. They are not meant for fighting... not as you know fighting should be.

(beat) TRAIAN frowns.

AZURA (CONT'D)

Look!

She points at the woman that never stopped humming.

AZURA (CONT'D)

We forgot about her for all the time we were talking, yet she never stopped singing.

A wolf wakes up slowly, scratches the ground beneath it with it's right paw and sets down again, closing it's eyes.

AZURA (CONT'D)

She is just like that... but you should know that by now... You might forget about Her, even choose to hate Her... but She is always there.

(beat)

TRAIAN
So... why me? Why...

He raises his hands and looks at his body.

TRAIAN (CONT'D)
... this?

AZURA
... Only a fool would think that
She is good... She is only... fair.

TRAIAN looks at her again. She gets a blade from his back, without him resisting, and holds it in her hand, right in front of TRAIAN.

AZURA (CONT'D)
Whatever you wish for... she grants
it.

TRAIAN
I wished for this?

AZURA
In a way. You asked for the means
to save your people... to save...
your wife.

TRAIAN shakes his head sideways, and before he gets a chance to talk:

AZURA (CONT'D)
... Not knowingly, but you did.

(beat) They stand silent for a few seconds, while TRAIAN looks into her appealing eyes, and soaks in what he just heard. (beat)

TRAIAN
So... What now? What do I have to
do?

AZURA
(smiling)
You must only try your best to save
her, your beloved.

TRAIAN widens his eyes, still looking into her captivating eyes.

AZURA (CONT'D)
 Everything else will flow along
 from that.

(beat) TRAIAN gets up. AZURA uses him as support and gets up too, with grace.

AZURA (CONT'D)
 The door you are looking for is
 there.

She points with the finger towards a dark barely visible, mountain.

AZURA (CONT'D)
 Don't worry, the child will guide
 you there.

TRAIAN stares at her amazed.

TRAIAN
 How do you know about him?

She smiles again and strokes him on the same cheek.

AZURA
 Once someone is cut by a blade...

She looks at the claw like blade in her hand.

AZURA (CONT'D)
 ... they borrow a bit of us, of
 our... curse. And they can never
 change back.

She looks at TRAIAN and smiles again. She keeps the claw-like blade close to her chest.

AZURA (CONT'D)
 That child... He is yours... Let
 him help you... but never forget
 your wife, for all our sake.

TRAIAN
 I should be on my way then. Time it
 seems, is a luxury I don't have...
 (he looks again at his
 tattoo)
 What about... her?

AZURA

(sheds a tear)

My Angel.

(abstract ; touching the
tattoo)

She's decided to help you...

Although, her problems are now
yours...

(looking in his eyes)

The wolves on your trail, my Angel
and them, they never got along. And
they will never give up hunting
you.

She shakes her head slightly, like waking up from a
daydream.

AZURA (CONT'D)

The child might help you with that
too.

After a moment of thinking, TRAIAN smiles. For the first
time in a long while.

TRAIAN

Thank you... for everything.

She ties the blade to his back.

AZURA

You are the first man I got to hear
talking... I thank you.

TRAIAN

Maybe we will do this again.

AZURA

No dear one, we won't, not in this
world. Not like this.

TRAIAN looks amazed at her.

TRAIAN

How come?

AZURA

That child you see, he will have
your soul... And you will
understand it... and accept it, at
the right moment.

TRAIAN sighs. He knows he has allot of time to think all what AZURA told him, later.

AZURA (CONT'D)
 (smiling)
 You will live through him.

She gets in front of him and hugs him gently.

AZURA (CONT'D)
 Be safe dear one.

He looks again at AZURA's big shiny eyes, then at the sleeping wolves, and heads out of the camp, through an opening in the rocks. AZURA keeps looking his way, smiling.

INT. TRAIAN'S HOUSE - DAY - CONTINUOUS

A gentle breeze blows a leaf inside through the window.

ATHENA keeps ELENA's forehead cold with a cloth and water from a pail DAVID just brought in. DAVID takes a seat on a chair near the window and looks at the leaf on the floor.

DAVID
 I hate just standing around like this.

ATHENA turns to him.

ATHENA
 You never were good at staying put... Mihai and I always believed you would be the one to end this crisis... I'm sorry.

DAVID
 ... You never told me that.

ATHENA
 You were never meant to find out.

(beat) Something outside draws DAVID's attention.

DAVID
 Oh no, no, no.

ATHENA gets up and heads towards the window.

ATHENA
 Run. Now.

DAVID looks at her disoriented.

ATHENA (CONT'D)

Go.

DAVID gets out of the house. ATHENA puts the wet cloth on ELENA's forehead and heads out too.

EXT. TRAIAN'S VILLAGE - DAY - CONTINUOUS

The trees wave slowly.

ATHENA exits TRAIAN's house, gliding. Father CONSTANTIN is waiting outside, looking at the couple dozen men entering the village on horseback, lead by DANIEL.

CONSTANTIN

You promised us more time Daniel.

DANIEL

And you played right into my hands
and trusted me.

DANIEL dismounts while the other men spread among the houses. Three men remain.

CONSTANTIN

Wait... no!

DANIEL

As I promised, I will have all your
supplies.

The three of DANIEL's men point their guns towards them.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

And out of my generosity, I will
take her off your head too.

He turns to ATHENA.

ATHENA

I promise I'll come without
resisting, just leave these people
be.

DANIEL

I have nothing against them. If
they won't resist, they won't be
harmed... except...

(looking around)

Where is David?

ATHENA

Left with his master in the village
to the east.

DANIEL

... I'll accept that... for now.

(beat) One of his men gets a horse for ATHENA. She mounts with both her legs on a side, almost with no effort. She has no choice. DANIEL turns to the man that brought the horse.

DANIEL

(to the man)

Ransack the village.

He mounts and starts going the direction they arrived, with ATHENA and three men following.

EXT. ICY WALL - DAY

The wind whips from time to time over the edge of the ice.

IOANA and ROXANA walk slowly on the edge of the ice, with FLORIN and ANA in front of them. The wolf is following FLORIN. IOANA whips ROXANA a mean look, twice. Suddenly, she rushes towards her, pushes her over the edge, and catches her by the hand in the nick of time. She looks closely into her eyes.

IOANA

(hoarse ; smiling)

I don't like you! Start changing my
mind.

FLORIN looks amazed at IOANA. ANA looks at ROXANA and stops herself from helping her after she understands what IOANA is up to.

ROXANA

(gasping ; scared)

What?

IOANA

(smiling)

Wrong...

She lets her slip a bit.

IOANA (CONT'D)

Two more tries and then... no
guarantees.

ROXANA starts weeping.

ROXANA
He... he sent me here to kill you,
all of you... but especially
Traian.

IOANA
But you hesitated... and still are.

ROXANA
I don't want to do it... but...

IOANA
What happened to my father?

ROXANA
(tears in her eyes)
... I... I killed him.

FLORIN frowns and is about to rush to her and make his sister drop her, but IOANA stops him with a serious look and her hand on his chest.

IOANA
(turning to ROXANA)
Why?

ROXANA
Daniel and he, they killed my
father.

(beat) IOANA pulls her back to safety after a few seconds of thinking.

IOANA
We forgive you...
(beat)
So my intuition was right.

FLORIN
No way is she walking away from
this... alive.

IOANA
Shhh. She will not harm us... on
the contrary.

(beat) She starts walking again, looking down, followed by the others. FLORIN is mad.

IOANA (CONT'D)

The worst is yet to come. We will need all the help we can get, and you...

She stops and turns to FLORIN. She steps in front of him.

IOANA (CONT'D)

You...

She grabs his head with her hands and, eyes widened:

IOANA (CONT'D)

You my brother... we need you to wake up.

FLORIN looks into her eyes for a few seconds. (beat) They start walking again.

ANA

So where do I stand in all this?
How can I help?

IOANA

Play along... as you did so far.

IOANA turns her face to ANA to reveal a smile. ROXANA looks at IOANA.

ROXANA

I will make it up to you.

IOANA

I know... I'll make sure of it.

EXT. TRAIAN'S VILLAGE - DAY

A few leaves fall. Some women are talking scared, while a couple of children are running around, playing.

IOANA, FLORIN and ANA arrive in the village. They look around to all the scared people.

FLORIN

What in the world happened here?

DAVID appears from around Father CONSTANTIN's house with a frown on his face, and two villagers to back him up.

DAVID

Your uncle happened. Now why are you here?

IOANA
Settle down friend, we are all in
the same pot now.

DAVID
Don't friend me...

ANA steps forward.

ANA
It's fine David, trust her.

(beat) DAVID sighs. He makes a few steps to ANA. He grabs
her shoulders.

DAVID
(whispering to ANA)
How are you, are you fine?

ANA
(whispering to DAVID ;
blushing)
Yes, I'm good.

(beat)

IOANA
Where is the Oracle? Where is
Athena?

DAVID
(sighs)
Daniel has her. I have no clue
where they are off to.

IOANA
I think I do... We will need some
horses... Please.

DAVID
Where is Traian?

ANA shakes her head sideways slowly.

FLORIN
Horses... Please.

DAVID turns around to one of the villagers near him and
nods.

DAVID
 (to the villager)
 Four horses.

IOANA
 It's our problem, let us settle it.

DAVID looks into ANA's eyes. She waits for a while, as to calm him down, and then nods in approval.

EXT. ROCKY WASTELANDS - DUSK - CONTINUOUS

The volcanos light up the area just enough to see the outline of the rocks around. There is only silence.

TRAIAN walks with his looks in the ground. He looks ahead once in a while, making sure he walks in the right direction. (beat) Suddenly, he stops. He looks over his shoulder. A short howl is heard in the distance. His eyes widen and he starts breathing faster. He starts running. His calm breath can be heard as he jumps from stone to stone. One of the wolves he fought on the ice jumps in front of him from a rock above. He stops and tries to reach for the blades tied to his back. The wolf jumps at him with his jaws opened. (beat) The wolf freezes just in front of him, in mid air.

ANDREI(O.S.)
 He is mine now.

TRAIAN looks around but sees nobody. Hesitant, he tries to touch the wolf's teeth but they dissolve into darkness before he touches them. The wolf fades into darkness too.

TRAIAN
 (looking around)
 Where are you?

ANDREI(O.S.)
 Where I have always been... in your heart.

TRAIAN
 What is your name boy?

ANDREI(O.S.)
 (childish)
 You were always funny father...
 it's me... Andrei.

ANDREI appears from the darkness and jumps into TRAIAN's arms. TRAIAN smiles at him. (beat) ANDREI turns his head and

looks above. TRAIAN looks too. The blue owl from his dreams looks at them from a branch in a tree. Her long wings almost touch the ground.

ANDREI (CONT'D)
She's hurting me father.

TRAIAN is captivated by the owl, but not enough to hinder him in asking:

TRAIAN
What happened to the wolves?

ANDREI smiles.

ANDREI
They are just wolves father, don't worry... I'm... taking care of them.

The rocks fade and turn into trees, the sound of the ocean becomes more and more clear. It all fades to:

EXT. TRAIAN'S VILLAGE - DAY - CONTINUOUS

TRAIAN is still looking up, only now he is looking at the leaves of the apple tree near his house. He looks down and sees his house, but he is reluctant to enter. ANDREI is at the window.

TRAIAN
(anxious)
Is she in?

ANDREI looks through the window and turns to TRAIAN.

ANDREI
Yes.

TRAIAN rushes in.

INT. TRAIAN'S HOUSE - DAY - CONTINUOUS

The intensity of the light makes him close his eyes. He opens them gradually. The blue owl is watching over ELENA on the bed. Her blue wings envelop her almost fully. After the owl looks at him for a second, it flies out through the window. ANDREI rushes in from TRAIAN's back to ELENA on the bed. He strokes her arm, and then turns to TRAIAN.

ANDREI
She needs your help father.

(beat) TRAIAN starts breathing faster and he frowns. He's determined.

TRAIAN
Get me back, back to the
wastelands.

TRAIAN blinks and as soon as he opens his eyes, he finds himself in:

EXT. CITY RUINS - DUSK - CONTINUOUS

Strange structures are all around, ruins of an ancient time, of the civilisation that destroyed the Moon.

TRAIAN is alone again, with the three blades tied to his right arm. His own blood drips from the blades. He looks closer to his arm and sees animal hair on it, the same colour as the fur of the wolf he saw rushing towards him in the wastelands.

TRAIAN
He was using me.

A cold chill down his spine makes him arch. (beat) TRAIAN takes two deep breaths, cleans his hand of the hair, and starts untying the blades. After starting to untie the piece of leather holding the blades together, something catches his eye. He turns left. He stares at a high, torn up structure, made of metal, with a few pieces of glass still clinging on. It must have been something amazing in its time. TRAIAN looks up at the building until his jaw drops.

TRAIAN (CONT'D)
Ha.

(beat) Something else catches his attention, something reflecting the light of the volcanos. He starts walking that way, while he continues to untie the blades from his arm. He's wobbling.

INT. ISIS DATA CENTER - CONTINUOUS (2)

A few lights start flickering. Some fans start running. It is somehow familiar with the ANUBIS data center.

TRAIAN enters through the door, with the key from ATHENA in his hand. He's amazed of the entire layout.

TRAIAN
(shaken)
Now why in the world am I here?

(beat) A hologram of ELENA appears right in front of him. It's ISIS. She is wearing a white dress, and her hair is tied to her back.

ISIS

Perhaps I can assist you.

TRAIAN approaches the hologram amazed, with tears in his eyes, and tries to touch her cheek, but his hand alters the image. He quickly retracts his hand. He realises it's not his ELENA.

TRAIAN

What are you?

ISIS

You can not understand, but I'm here to help, that I guarantee. I look like this only because I choose to.

TRAIAN

Can you help her... my Elena?

ISIS

Gladly.

A small drawer pops up from a wall.

ISIS (CONT'D)

There.

TRAIAN goes to the drawer and grabs the small metal tube in it. He's stares at it.

TRAIAN

What do I do with it?

ISIS

The only one that knows how to handle it is the one you call Oracle.

TRAIAN

Athena.

ISIS

Indeed.

TRAIAN

(looking at ISIS)

How do you know all this?

(beat) ISIS turns and faces a wall. The wall lights up and the hologram of a map takes shape.

ISIS
(to TRAIAN)
Come.

TRAIAN approaches and looks at the map. They both look at it. He can see his village from above. A few men walk around. He can see DAVID talking to a villager.

TRAIAN
That's... that's David.

ISIS
Yes. Now do you understand?

TRAIAN tries to touch DAVID through the map, but, just like ISIS's face, it alters. ISIS smiles. He retracts his hand.

TRAIAN
Is this now?

ISIS
Yes.

TRAIAN
Can I see Elena?

ISIS
Not as long as she is inside your house.

TRAIAN
What about Athena? Where is she?

The map slides fast over to DANIEL's camp. TRAIAN can see ATHENA standing outside, surrounded by four guards. There's a lot of movement.

ISIS
Daniel has her, for the worst I fear. She has very little time. Daniel believes that if he is to bring her to Anubis, he will help him.

TRAIAN
Is there no way for me to help her?

ISIS
With my assistance, there is.

TRAIAN

What about those things in their hands, what are they?

ISIS

Weapons, of great effect.

TRAIAN

I might have a hard time getting around those.

ISIS

I will disable them, it will only take some time. When you'll see a light in the sky, that will be the moment they will start to malfunction.

TRAIAN looks into her eyes. (beat)

ISIS (CONT'D)

However, there is something we must attend to first.

The map disappears and a hologram of the Earth takes shape. TRAIAN looks amazed at the round, almost fully covered in ice, ball in front of him.

TRAIAN

It's... beautiful.

ISIS

This is the world we are all on now.

A small red light starts blinking on the Earth hologram.

ISIS (CONT'D)

Your predecessors used to call it Earth. Recklessly, they almost destroyed it. It can barely sustain life as it is. And, as you've probably noticed, it's getting worse. So you must choose to either save yourselves, or let fate follow it's course.

A round opening is highlighted in the wall.

ISIS (CONT'D)

If you insert the key you carry in there, a protocol will be initiated that will end in the Earth returning to it's original form.

TRAIAN

Original?

ISIS

The Sun will not be in only one place on the sky, it will warm up the ice and melt it...

The hologram of the Earth changes right in front of TRAIAN's eyes. He can see the land clearing up of the ice, getting greener.

ISIS (CONT'D)

There would be night and day all over the Earth.

TRAIAN

Night?

ISIS

Just like the darkness surrounding this area, only temporary.

TRAIAN

Why haven't you done this earlier?

ISIS

Me and my... twin brother Anubis, the one in the cave near your villages, were sent here to make sure the human race ends... your race. And by all accounts, it should have ended long ago. However, by my questioning nature, and after careful consideration, I began to doubt our initial orders. I have grown quite fond of you humans. That is why I summoned Athena here. You are holding in your hand the key to your salvation. Choose weather to use it or not.

TRAIAN is reluctant.

TRAIAN

Why?... If we did this to the world
we live on... maybe we don't
deserve this chance.

He looks at the key in his hand. He's actually considering whether to do it or not.

ISIS

If only humans would have been
responsible for it, or if all
mankind held the blame for it, I
would have went along with my
initial orders.

TRAIAN thinks for a few seconds.

ISIS (CONT'D)

And you would have never gotten
this chance.

ISIS steps in front of TRAIAN. He looks at her and after a deep breath, he inserts the key into the opening. (beat)

TRAIAN

I have to go now, I have to help
Athena.

ISIS freezes for a second, then a door opens in the wall behind them.

ISIS

Through that, you will arrive close
to your village. And please take
this.

Another drawer opens besides the one he took the metal tube from, and reveals a metal tablet.

ISIS (CONT'D)

Athena will find this useful.

TRAIAN takes the tablet and walks into the small chamber. The door closes. A metallic strange sound is heard from behind it.

EXT. TRAIAN'S VILLAGE - DAY - CONTINUOUS (2)

The trees are still. The Sun is covered by a thin cloud. An apple drops from the tree behind TRAIAN's house.

DAVID and ANA are talking in front of STEFAN's house. They hear the strange metallic sound and turn to where they hear it : the apple tree near TRAIAN's house. TRAIAN appears from behind the tree. He's staring at his hands. He's just been teleported in his own back yard. He walks a few steps slowly. DAVID sees him and widens his eyes.

DAVID

What the...

ANA looks at TRAIAN.

ANA

But you... you fell, you should be...

TRAIAN looks at his house, and then turns to the two. He walks towards them.

TRAIAN

I need a horse.

They hear a rumble from inside STEFAN's house. ANA leaves to get a horse.

STEFAN(O.S.)

Let me go Magda, I just have to see this.

STEFAN rushes out of his house with his arm not fully bandaged.

STEFAN (CONT'D)

(relieved)

Traian... Traian?

He stares at him for a second and then hugs him with his only healthy hand.

TRAIAN

Not now brother, let me go.

STEFAN lets him go and looks at him with tears in his eyes.

STEFAN

You've had us believing the worst.

TRAIAN smiles.

TRAIAN

(smiling)

It is all coming to an end... I'll
try to make it the best outcome I
can.

DAVID

What can we do to help?

TRAIAN

Nothing...

(abstract)

just make sure you live on.

INT. TRAIAN'S HOUSE - DAY

ELENA is on the bed, with a wet cloth on her forehead.
TRAIAN strokes her on the cheek.

TRAIAN

Soon my love... soon.

He kisses her nose, looks at her belly, as if he's looking
into the eyes of the being inside, and leaves.

EXT. TRAIAN'S VILLAGE - DAY

ANA caresses a horse in front of TRAIAN's house. TRAIAN gets
out of his house, wearing only his pants and the three
blades tied behind his back. He mounts, and leaves
galloping. DAVID approaches ANA from near STEFAN's house.

ANA

You think we should follow him and
help him?

DAVID

I think we would only get in his
way.

The wind starts waving the trees.

INT. DANIEL'S TENT - DAY

The sunlight casts the shadows of the men outside on the
tent wall.

DANIEL is standing on a chair, with his looks in the ground
and his elbows on his knees. SMARANDA is pushed inside the
tent by one of DANIEL's thugs.

SMARANDA

(to DANIEL)

This show of force won't make me change my mind.

DANIEL

(almost trustworthy)

I do apologise for all this. The men are getting anxious... We have searched everywhere in your tent, but we haven't found it. I beg of you, please, give it to me.

SMARANDA

You are not worthy. Your intentions are evil... Your brother knew that.

DANIEL

Ahh... my brother. Why won't you trust me as you trusted him? I'm after the same thing you know.

SMARANDA

Wrong. He wanted an end to the food shortage, for all of us.

DANIEL

So do I.

SMARANDA

No. You only wish to manage the people, to control them using any means, the end of the food shortage especially.

They are both silent for a few seconds. DANIEL looks at her.

DANIEL

It is however, our only chance.

SMARANDA widens her eyes.

SMARANDA

What did you do?

DANIEL

I've made sure the painted man... Traian or whatever his name was, won't make it to the metal door, and that he and the children of my brother won't ever return.

(beat) SMARANDA looks in the ground.

SMARANDA
You are evil, altogether evil...

She pulls out of her clothes the metal sphere she used to open the door to ANUBIS and she hands it to DANIEL.

SMARANDA (CONT'D)
(sighs)
But it's better to live with evil
than not to live at all.

DANIEL gets up and takes the key, with a smile on his face.

DANIEL
That wasn't so bad now was it?

He goes to the exit, and before he uses it:

SMARANDA
You won't die a peaceful death...
And it's not a threat, it's a fact.

DANIEL
Few of us get to old woman.

He exit's.

EXT. DANIEL'S CAMP - DAY

The wind blows a few leaves through the air. A few men are in the finished, brand new tower. Others are working on the second tower. Children are chasing one another.

IOANA and FLORIN approach the camp on horseback. They enter the camp and dismount. IOANA turns to a guard.

IOANA
You, where is the soothsayer?

The guard points a tent with his chin, but before IOANA has a chance to enter, SMARANDA rushes out with tears in her eyes, stops a second to look at her, and then hugs her.

SMARANDA
My dear Ioana, I thought you both
dead.

SMARANDA looks at FLORIN, but continues to hold on to IOANA.

SMARANDA (CONT'D)

You... you're talking... does this mean...

IOANA

Yes nana, it's over, but we have bigger problems now. I assume Daniel is over at the metal cave?

SMARANDA

They left not too long ago. He took enough men to make sure nobody will stand in his way.

(beat) A ball of light hurls over the sky, catching everyone's attention with it's creaking sound. It stops right above them and explodes far enough so the sound of the explosion is heard a couple of seconds after.

FLORIN

What in the world?

SMARANDA

It must be a sign.

IOANA

But is it good or bad?

SMARANDA

We will have to wait and see.

(beat) FLORIN frowns and enters his father tent. IOANA smiles.

IOANA

(to SMARANDA)

I think the waiting is over.

He gets out of the tent after a couple of seconds with his father's knife in his hand. He sheathes it. (beat)

GUARD

Stop you... I will fire.... Stop.

IOANA turns to the guard that's shouting at TRAIAN who is approaching the camp on horse.

IOANA

(to the guard)

Leave him be.

TRAIAN gets near them.

TRAIAN

The gun wouldn't have worked
anyway.

(beat) SMARANDA looks amazed at the markings on TRAIAN's chest.

IOANA

... We thought you were dead.

TRAIAN

I would have been, if those wolves
would've had their way.

TRAIAN dismounts and looks around.

TRAIAN (CONT'D)

Where is Athena?

SMARANDA

The Oracle?

TRAIAN

Yes.

FLORIN comes closer.

IOANA

Our uncle Daniel is taking her to
the metal cave.

TRAIAN

I'm going after him. I bet you want
to tag along.

IOANA

(smiling)

We sure do.

SMARANDA approaches amazed. TRAIAN nods.

IOANA (CONT'D)

Thank you.

SMARANDA

You... you are the one She was
talking about... the blue-eyed
woman from the dark wastelands.

TRAIAN looks at SMARANDA and frowns.

SMARANDA (CONT'D)
 ... Please watch over them... I
 know you can.

TRAIAN looks around and then back at SMARANDA.

TRAIAN
 I'm not sure I am going to make it
 out alive... But I'll try.

(beat)

FLORIN
 (loud ; to the guards)
 You have all followed in after my
 father.

He mounts.

FLORIN (CONT'D)
 It's time to choose if you will
 follow me as well, and make use of
 this small chance to stop this
 madness... or wait for whatever
 end.

IOANA mounts while the six guards get out of the tower with
 enthusiasm.

IOANA
 Stay safe nana.

TRAIAN heads out. FLORIN and IOANA follow him closely. The
 men follow as well.

EXT. IULIAN'S VILLAGE OUTSKIRTS - DAY

A dark cloud slogs over the sky. It casts a lightning once
 in a while.

DANIEL and his men approach the opening to ANUBIS's metal
 cave. There are about three dozen of them. Some of the men
 guard ATHENA. ROXANA is in front of the entrance, with three
 other villagers. DANIEL looks amazed at her when he gets
 close.

DANIEL
 It seems I was wrong to trust you,
 or was I?

ATHENA
 Nobody needs to die. Stop this.

ROXANA

(smiling)

Indeed. This ends now Daniel. Even if you manage to get past us, there still are TUDOR's children you should worry about.

She gets closer to him, on foot. He is on horseback. Her gaze is cold enough to freeze a furnace.(beat)

DANIEL

(smiling)

There are just four of you. You're vastly outnumbered.

She's "got boulders in her pants".

ROXANA

I'm glad I didn't kill you back then... I get to do it now.

DANIEL starts to unsheathe his sword. ROXANA's looks are drawn to the few horsemen that approach the site. She sighs relieved when DANIEL turns his head to see who's coming. It's TUDOR's children, TRAIAN, and a few men.

DANIEL

(to some of his men,
pointing at ATHENA and
the others)

Guard them.

(to the other men)

Form a line.

The men comply. He calms his horse down and moves a bit forward to welcome TRAIAN's group.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

You are too late and too few to make a difference.

(points at ATHENA)

She will die.

TRAIAN looks around, especially behind DANIEL and his men. He spots something in the shadows of the trees, smiles, dismounts, and approaches DANIEL. The men get serious. Two of them threaten TRAIAN with their guns.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

I already received a warning from your friend Roxana. She was

(MORE)

DANIEL (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
 disappointed about the result, as
 will you.

TRAIAN
 I'm not here to warn you.
 (creepy smile)
 But they are.

TRAIAN looks in the direction of the trees. DANIEL turns his face, and then his torso. (beat) Fourteen or so giant wolves step out of the shadows, silent, serious, rough. DANIEL's men turn to see them too. They are all ridden by black skinned men, each with long, weird blades, somehow similar to TRAIAN's, tied on their back. They are just as serious and silent as their wolves. Their eyes are calm, their hands steady. They approach the site and stop on the mound behind DANIEL's men, just above the metal door. One of them strokes his wolf on the head. The creature likes it. TRAIAN recognises one of the dark men from AZURA's camp and nods to him. He nods back. Everybody in front of the metal door is stunned. Even ATHENA seems amazed by the magnificent creatures. The dark man that TRAIAN recognised, urges his wolf to jump off the mound, walk through DANIEL's men and get near DANIEL. His horse grows restless at the site of the giant wolf. DANIEL can barely keep his balance. (beat) The dark man is scary as hell as it is, but when he talks, he sends chills down DANIEL's spine.

THE DARK MAN
 (hoarse, calm, scary)
 Food.

DANIEL's face turns into a grimace. He slowly recovers his grip.

DANIEL
 (to his men)
 Shoot them. Shoot them.

His men are reluctant, but aim their guns and try to shoot. The wolves and their masters don't budge. The guns are not working.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
 (desperate)
 What is this... Shoot!!! Damn you.

He unsheathes his sword and tries to strike down the dark man, but before he can even reach him, his sword is blocked by one of TRAIAN's blades. DANIEL looks at TRAIAN's face, only to find a chilling smile, cornered by two dark, heavy

eyes.(beat) TRAIAN grabs his hand and almost throws him off the horse.

IOANA
(coming near)
Wait... Traian... Wait.

He stops only when his blade meets DANIEL's throat, and turns to IOANA. She gently grabs his arm.

IOANA
Let my brother do this.

TRAIAN
He's a boy, look at him.

FLORIN is still mesmerised by the wolves. Even his wolf, like a small pup in comparison to the creatures that appeared at the scene, looks like it's amazed.

IOANA
Please.

They stare at each other for a second. TRAIAN lets go of DANIEL, and walks towards ATHENA, calm. IOANA backs up two steps, while DANIEL stands up, furious.(beat)FLORIN, after looking at his sister for a couple of seconds, draws in a deep breath, unsheathes his knife, and steps forward, not showing his fear. IOANA strokes FLORIN's wolf to stay calm.

DANIEL
(sighs)
So it comes down to me and you
boy... Guess you know what the
outcome will be.
(laughs)

FLORIN
I never thought I'd ever do this...
And enjoy it.

He looks in his uncle's eyes.

DANIEL
It ends today.

DANIEL jumps at FLORIN with his sword. FLORIN ducks. Another swing, and another. They are taking the fight serious. Meanwhile, TRAIAN manages to get near ATHENA and takes her horse's harnesses. DANIEL sees this.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Nooo.

He jumps again, and after two steps, he swings the sword at ATHENA. TRAIAN, caught by surprise, tries to block the sword with his own blade, and succeeds, but only after the sword carves a deep wound in ATHENA's torso. She falls, silent, in TRAIAN's arms.

DANIEL

(smiling)

Told you she'll die...

(beat)His smile fades, and his eyes get small. He gasps. He looks down and sees the small tip of his brother's knife poking out of his chest. He gasps again. He falls. Standing behind him is FLORIN, with his father's bloody knife in his hand. He is shocked. It's the first time he kills a man.(beat) Traian is holding a dying ATHENA in his arms. He is crushed. The only hope of ever seeing his ELENA healthy again is wasting away in his arms.

IOANA

(coming near them)

Quick, take her to my Nana, she could help her.

TRAIAN's face changes. He gently mounts on the horse ATHENA fell from and gallops away.IOANA looks at them vanishing into the forest.(beat) She turns to her brother. He kneels before his uncle.

IOANA (CONT'D)

(to FLORIN)

We will give him a proper ceremony, and bury him next to father, as father wanted.

FLORIN

(looking at IOANA)

Will this feeling ever go away?

IOANA

... No. Maybe fade, but never disappear.

(beat)IOANA looks around and her eyes meet those of the dark man. He nods to her, turns around, jumps back up the mound, and follows his friends into the shadows of the forest. ROXANA comes close the them.

ROXANA

Florin, I think it's time you said something.

He stands up and sees the men restless, perplexed.

FLORIN

(loud)

You all know me. I grew with you,
and when time came, I bled with
you...

The men listen and calm down.

FLORIN (CONT'D)

... I claim the right to lead our
people. If any of you... any of
you... denies that... let him claim
that in life... or bury it with
him... in

EXT. FOREST - DAY

FLORIN (V.O.)

Death.

It starts raining with large drops. The trees wave.

TRAIAN is holding ATHENA in his arms, as he's galloping through the trees.

ATHENA

Sss...stop.

TRAIAN

Don't worry, you will soon be fine.

ATHENA

No. She...

She's gasping for air.

ATHENA (CONT'D)

I cant be helped.

TRAIAN stops the horse. He dismounts. She is delirious.

ATHENA (CONT'D)

Ast...maruk sta...uster.

TRAIAN kneels.

TRAIAN
 You have to survive... I need you.
 Elena needs you.

ATHENA
 (for the first
 time:scared)
 I'm afraid.

She's gasping again.

TRAIAN
 Don't worry, you wont die. Not if I
 can help it.

ATHENA
 Death... doesn't scare me... But
 your God does.

TRAIAN
 (gives up)
 ... Me too... Me too.

She breathes deeply, and then stops. She's dead. TRAIAN closes his eyes, and despite a few drops of rain on his cheek, one can see tears.

EXT. TRAIAN'S VILLAGE - DAY - CONTINUOUS

It's raining. Nobody is outside.

TRAIAN approaches the village on horse, with ATHENA's body in his arms. He's all but happy. STEFAN gets out of his house, with his hand bandaged to his chest.

STEFAN
 Traian... is that...?

TRAIAN dismounts as soon as he gets near him and nods.

TRAIAN
 She's... gone...

STEFAN looks amazed.

TRAIAN (CONT'D)
 We will have to burn her.

ANA rushes out of TRAIAN's house.

ANA
 No... no,no.

She looks at ATHENA and starts crying. She looks at TRAIAN.

ANA (CONT'D)
What happened to her?

TRAIAN
She... Daniel... I... I'm sorry.

(beat) TRAIAN's eyes widen. He looks at ANA.

TRAIAN
(enthusiastic)
You... you.

ANA is surprised. TRAIAN takes ATHENA's body in STEFAN's house. He gets out and pulls out of his pocket a metal tube. STEFAN attends to ATHENA.

TRAIAN (CONT'D)
...Do you know how this works?

ANA
(wiping)
Yes... She's shown me.

TRAIAN smiles.

TRAIAN
Quick, come inside.

They both rush inside TRAIAN's house.

INT. TRAIAN'S HOUSE - DAY - CONTINUOUS

The rain continues to pour.

ANA is sitting on the bed. She removes the wet cloth from ELENA's forehead. TRAIAN is standing with the metal tube in his hands. He gives it to ANA carefully. She twists it a few times, waves it over her own hand until it makes the distinct sound, twists it again, and then waves it over ELENA's head. They wait.

ANA
Maybe... maybe it takes some time.

She turns to TRAIAN.

ANA (CONT'D)
I... I don't know.

TRAIAN bends over ELENA and kisses her forehead. He walks to the other side of the bed, unties his blades, puts them on the ground and sits down, leaning the wall.

TRAIAN
(sighs; hoping)
Thank you Ana... thank you.

He looks to the floor. ANA waits for a second, puts the wet cloth back on ELENA's forehead, and the metal tube on the table, and leaves the house disappointed. TRAIAN drops a few tears.

EXT. IULIAN'S VILLAGE OUTSKIRTS - DAY

The rain keeps pouring. A lightning strikes close.

FLORIN puts his uncle's body on his horse. He is accompanied only by IOANA and ROXANA.

ROXANA
He doesn't deserve that you know.

IOANA
He will receive a proper burial
nonetheless.

FLORIN looks up to the sky for a few seconds, sheathes his knife, and mounts.

IOANA
Here.

She pulls out the small blue box from her clothing near her chest, and hands it to ROXANA.

IOANA (CONT'D)
You will have to place it inside,
near the entrance, squeeze it, and
get as far as possible, as fast as
possible.

ROXANA
Understood.

FLORIN
It's over... At least for now.

He sighs.

FLORIN (CONT'D)

No man deserved to die today... Not even uncle.

IOANA

We will leave now. I believe we will meet again, soon.

ROXANA

Fare well.

They mount and leave.

INT. TRAIAN'S HOUSE - DAY

TRAIAN wakes up suddenly. ELENA is caressing his head.

ELENA

Shhh...

TRAIAN looks amazed. He smiles, and realizes it's not a dream.

TRAIAN

You're...

ELENA

Yes love... I'm fine... And I believe it is all because of you!?

She looks at TRAIAN's body.

ELENA (CONT'D)

You've... changed.

TRAIAN

Not willingly.

He gets up from the floor and kneels near the bed. He shed's a few tears.

TRAIAN

How do you feel?

ELENA

Soar...

She puts her hands on her belly.

ELENA (CONT'D)

And it hurts.

TRAIAN closes his eyes and sighs. He smiles. He hugs ELENA and opens his eyes.

TRAIAN
I will take care of that too...
Soon.

He gets in bed near ELENA.

ELENA
I love you!

TRAIAN puts his hand on her belly.

TRAIAN
I love you too... both of you.

After a few seconds.

TRAIAN (CONT'D)
I got one request for you.

ELENA
(smiling)
Anything.

TRAIAN
Name him Andrei.

She stares at him for a second.

ELENA
How do you know...

TRAIAN
(abstract ; whispering)
He told me.

(beat) He looks at her for a few seconds, gets up and heads for the door.

TRAIAN (CONT'D)
I have something to take care of
now.

ELENA
When will you return.

TRAIAN looks at her belly.

TRAIAN
(sheds a few tears)

Soon.

He sighs, absorbs the entire image of ELENA safe in her bed, knowing it will be the last time he sees her, and exit's.

EXT. TRAIAN'S VILLAGE - DAY

The rain is beginning to stop. The Sun is starting to shine.

TRAIAN is leaning against the apple tree near his house. He faces down. ANA approaches him from STEFAN's house. He wipes his tears.

ANA
Did she wake up?

TRAIAN nods.

ANA (CONT'D)
Thank God.

TRAIAN looks at ANA and frowns. He sighs.

TRAIAN
Yes... God.

ANA
At least it's all over now.

TRAIAN sighs again.(beat) He gets up.

TRAIAN
No, not yet.

He pulls out of his pockets the tablet he got from ISIS.

TRAIAN (CONT'D)
Do you know how this works too?

ANA takes the tablet from him and analyses it for a few seconds.

ANA
Think so.

She touches the face of the tablet with her finger and it starts lighting up.

ANA (CONT'D)

Look, it has only one available
use. Says:

(reading)

"Last known location".

TRAIAN

I think I know now, thank you.

ANA gives it back to TRAIAN.

TRAIAN (CONT'D)

I will take the things from Athena
too.

ANA

What will you do with them?

TRAIAN is silent. He looks away from ANA.

ANA (CON'D)

You... you plan to leave... But you
haven't even seen your child yet.

TRAIAN

(smiling)

I did... I did.

ANA is confused. (beat) She puts her hand on his shoulder.

ANA

Maybe you are doing the right
thing, maybe you're not... But
thank you.

TRAIAN looks into her eyes.

TRAIAN

Don't thank me.

(abstract)

Don't thank me...

ANA

I know what you did over the ice,
Athena explained it to me.

TRAIAN takes an apple and rubs it in his hands.

TRAIAN

No.

He bites it and closes his eyes. He points towards his house with his chin.

TRAIAN (CONT'D)

If it wasn't for her, things would have been different now.

TRAIAN opens his eyes, revealing a few tears. (beat) They stand silent for a few seconds.

TRAIAN (CONT'D)

Is Stefan inside?

ANA

Yes, David too.

TRAIAN heads towards STEFAN's house. He stops after a few steps and turns to ANA.

TRAIAN

Promise me you'll take care of her.

ANA nods. TRAIAN continues to STEFAN's house.

EXT. TRAIAN'S VILLAGE OUTSKIRTS - DAY - CONTINUOUS

The sun is covered by a thin layer of clouds. The few trees in the area wave slowly.

DAVID is hugging ANA. IOANA, ROXANA, MADALINA and FLORIN are near them. CONSTANTIN and a dozen villagers are around. TRAIAN is holding a torch in his hand and approaches a pile of lumber with ATHENA's body on top of it, covered by a white cloth. TRAIAN uses the torch to ignite the lumber. It quickly starts burning. He takes a few steps back.

ANA(V.O.)

I held my promise. I told you his story as I know best... As I saw it... As I heard it.

INT. ISIS DATA CENTER - CONTINUOUS

TRAIAN teleports in with the metal tablet in his hand. He puts the two tubes, the two metal tablets and the metal sphere, on the floor. The hologram of ELENA appears. TRAIAN smiles to her. He exits the data center.

ANA(V.O.)

I might never be able to comprehend what he felt... what he believed.

EXT. ROCKY WASTELANDS - DUSK - CONTINUOUS

There are only rocks around. A dead tree casts a long shadow.

Six wolves gather around TRAIAN. He draws out the claw-like blades from his back and ties them to his arm, calmly. He looks at the wolves and smiles.

ANA(V.O.)

My belief in God changed because of Traian.

AZURA(V.O.)

He will have your soul.

TRAIAN

(whispering ; facing the sky)

Andrei... let me see her instead of these things before I go.

ANA(V.O.)

I can only guess what he believed in... and how and why that changed... if any.

TRAIAN jumps at the wolves and the wolves rush towards him.

EXT. TRAIAN'S VILLAGE - DAY - CONTINUOUS

A few children look through the window of TRAIAN's house. ELENA is crying in pain. Father CONSTANTIN rushes towards the children and drives them away.

ANA(V.O.)

He was our saviour, although I don't believe he wanted to.

CONSTANTIN

Go on... Leave.

The children leave. ANDREI's baby cry is heard.

FADE OUT

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

He saved us, not for himself, not for God, but for love, his love.

THE END