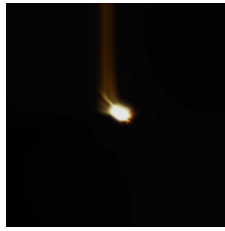


The Stopover between Life and Death



PITCH

Dive into an odyssey where an angel guides a human along the mysterious path that separates life from death.

STATEMENT OF INTENT

This script mixes different film genres:

- Drama
- Comedy
- Experimental: the story is filled with reflections and questions about the meaning of life, the existence of God, and the mysteries of the Universe.

In addition, the peculiarity of this film is that there are almost no cuts. Apart from some cuts at the beginning of the film and some transitions, the movie is made of a single sequence shot..

INTRODUCTION VIDEO TO THE PROJECT :

ENGLISH : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YFjycgqkeOM>

FRENCH (with english subtitles) :

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S1GGxruhc80>

CHARACTERS :

- **Human** : Main character. He's an ordinary human who has just died. He is old at the beginning of the film but then becomes young again until the end..
- **Angel** : His identity is open to interpretation. Still, the character is the physical form of a spirit that accompanies humans toward death. Additionally, he appears to be around 30 throughout the film..

Short synopsis

First part of the film:

The old man is absorbed by the Light and finds himself in a dark nothingness.

He meets a young stranger...

Nothing (except a table and two chairs) stands out in the darkness that stretches as far as the characters can see...

Then, we witness an interrogation of the human by the stranger (or angel).

It's some kind of "final judgment".

At the same time, the man asks the angel many questions, trying to understand where he is and where he's going next...

Second part of the film:

The movie becomes more experimental and contemplative, with greater use of voice-over.

The spectator witnesses a reconsideration of earthly life as the angel makes a long plea about Earth's injustices.

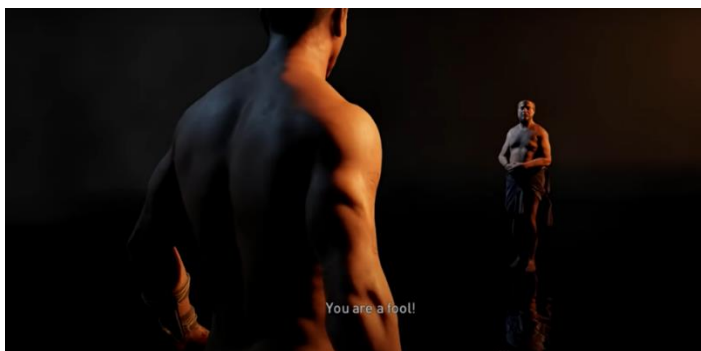
Later, the human returns to the real world to attend his funeral and burial.

Unfortunately, the man is invisible (the living beings can't see him).

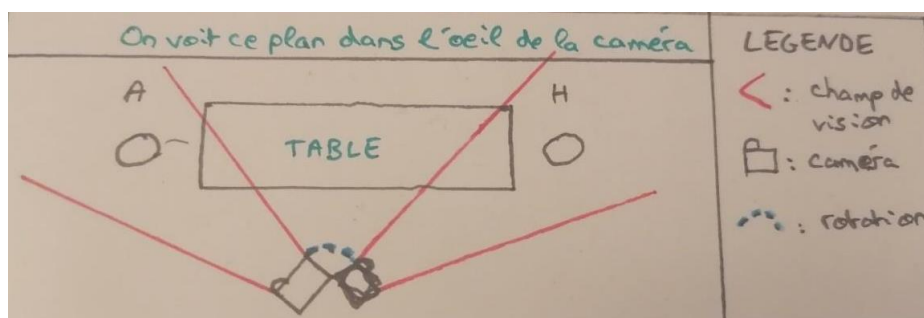
Finally, he gradually approaches death, whether through hell or heaven...

Pictures (Moodboard)

- **Dark environment (images from Assassin's Creed and Sad, XXXTentacion)**



- **A Diagram (here representing the interrogation):**



Complete Screenplay

IN TOTAL DARKNESS

On the black screen appears the following text: "There is a 99.999999999999...% chance that this story is not real"

Cut to :

IN A COMPLETELY DARK ENVIRONMENT

An old man, asleep and levitating, has his back parallel to the ground. He gently lands on the surface of the dark void. Right after, he suddenly wakes up and stumbles to his feet.

Old Man

What the hell is this?

He observes the void but does not feel lost because he knows he has been to this place before in his life, giving him a terrifying experience of déjà vu.

Furthermore, a mysterious sound vibration breaks the silence. Despite the fear that grips the human, he is driven by an irresistible curiosity and begins to walk toward this sound source..

As he progresses, the initial vibration fades and is replaced by a rustling sound reminiscent of a keyboard clicking. Simultaneously, the old man begins to see a tiny shape, extremely far away from him. By comparison, this shape would be like seeing, from a beach, a boat on the horizon.

The old man slowly but surely walks towards this shape and manages to guess a table and a human silhouette, which is actually a man in his thirties. The character is sitting on a chair, focused on his computer, not even looking at the old man approaching.

Old Man

Hey !!??

The stranger does not respond.

Old Man

Who are you?!

Stranger

Ah, there you are... Calm down, I couldn't hear you, I was working...

Old Man

What?

Stranger

Come, please, sit down...

Old Man

But where are we?

Stranger

Sit down, I will explain everything to you... I am a guide.

Old Man

A guide?

Stranger

Sit down, we have all the time in the world...

The old man sits and examines the messy desk full of files of the young stranger with blue eyes.

Old Man

What happened to me?

Stranger

You just died, don't you remember?

The old man can't believe it and observes the void.

Stranger

Don't worry about your memory, it often happens... Actually, everyone is dying right now, it's crazy...

The old man remains silent and he starts remembering.. Meanwhile, the young stranger continues to talk...

Stranger

For your information, it was a taxi accident. Any souvenirs?

The old man thinks...

Old Man

A ray of light...

Stranger

Oh yes, that's the basic procedure...

Old Man

But how could...

Stranger (interrupting him)

Because the driver was totally drunk. I'm sorry for you...

Old Man

Damn...

Stranger

See : memories come back quickly...

The old man does not respond and looks again around him.

Old Man

So this is Heaven?

Stranger

No, you are between Life and Death.

Old Man

But will I go to Heaven?

Stranger

You know, people are afraid of where they will be after their death but they never care about where they were before their birth...

The old human is confused.

Stranger

Well, now I will ask you a few questions...

Old Man

Do you do this for everyone?

Stranger

What are you talking about?

Old Man

Welcoming people here, asking questions...

Stranger

Oh... of course.

Old Man

So you speak every language?

Stranger

Yes. I adapt, and I change my appearance to consider and respect the living being I welcome.

Old Man

Wait... So you put humans and animals on equal footing?

Stranger

All beings come from Nature. There is no reason for some beings to be inferior to others.

Old Man

Ok... But then, you must have seen incredible people..

Stranger

I have judged all of Humanity. For example, I judged Pablo.

Old Man

Escobar?

Stranger

Of course. I have judged everyone: the poor, the rich, mainly unknown people...

Old Man

And celebrities?

Stranger

Obviously, ancient characters like Cleopatra, Alexander the Great, Confucius, Louis XIV, Joan of Arc... and many others..

Old Man

Like Michael Jackson?

Stranger (interrupting the human)

Listen, you're pissing me off with your questions.. My turn to ask.. Last name and first name?

Old Man (hesitating)

Damien Boris.

Meanwhile, the stranger types on his computer keyboard.

Stranger

How old?

Old Man

83 years old

Meanwhile, the stranger types on his computer keyboard.

Old Man

Oh no actually 84, sorry.

The stranger looks at the human with an exasperated look.

Stranger

So 84 years old, for sure?

Damien nods. The stranger adjusts the information on his computer.

Stranger

How could you get it wrong?

Old Man

Today is my birthday.

Stranger

So you were born on May 19, 2004, right?

The old man nods.

Stranger

You died on the day you were born. Lucky one.

Old Man

No, not really...

Stranger

Why? What do you know about death?

Damien remains silent...

Stranger

See, you know nothing. Stop being afraid of what you don't know.

The stranger rummages through his files, muttering...

Stranger

Hang on... Give me two seconds... Damn printer!

The old man waits but begins to get bored...

Old Man

And what do you do for the blind, the deaf...?

Stranger (continuing his search more intensely)

What?

Old Man

What do you do for all the handicapped people?

Stranger

Here, it's wonderful, there is no disease. The blind see, the deaf hear, the quadriplegic walk and the mute talk endlessly but for you, that's already the case. By the way, now that I finally found your file, we can continue... Any children?

Old Man

Two daughters. The first one wants to remarry. She already has three sons. And one of them recently had a little boy.

Stranger

So you are a great-grandfather, well done... And your second daughter?

Old Man

I don't even know if she is still alive.

Stranger

Do you want to know what happened to her?

Old Man

Sure. How can you know that?

The stranger pulls a cable from under his desk.

Old Man

What is that?

Stranger

Put your right hand on the table...

The man obeys but doesn't understand.

Stranger

Don't move.

The stranger attaches the cable to the old man's hand and goes back to face his computer.

Stranger

Careful, it might sting.

An alarm goes off. Instantly, Damien receives an electric shock in his hand and screams. Simultaneously, he bends over in pain and hits his head hard against the table.

Old Man

Damn it!!

The stranger does not care for a second and continues his research on his computer.

Stranger

Sorry but it is the only method I have to find your daughter... There it is... Yes... Now I remember: she died 23 years ago.

The human is shocked..

Old Man

And you don't remember her?

Stranger

I can't remember everyone. Generally, I remember either the kindest or the meanest of Humanity which means I'll quickly forget you.

Old Man

Thanks, that's nice... And how did my daughter die?

Stranger

She was robbed and it escalated..

Old Man

Who did that?

The young stranger does not respond and continues his research on his computer.

Old Man

WHO ?!!

Stranger

Calm down! Let me search...

The stranger types again on his gigantic white computer keyboard.

Stranger

Sorry though: it's going to sting again...

The old man stands up in pain and screams at the same time.

Old Man

Ah for Christ sake !!!

The young stranger laughs looking at the human and keeps working on his computer.

Old Man

This shit hurts so much!

Stranger

Come on : shut up for a second..

The old man continues to lament and tries to free his hand from the electric cable.

Stranger

OK..

Old Man

What? Did you find the motherfucker?

Stranger

Affirmative.

Old Man

And?

Stranger

Well, the guy is untraceable in the System. He is therefore still alive...

Old Man

Fuck me... This world is so unfair...

Stranger

Unfortunately, I do agree...

The stranger gets up, walks around the desk, and stands next to the human.

Stranger

I'll remove the cable...

The man lets out one last scream of pain. The stranger returns to his seat and stores the cable under his desk.

Stranger

Well now, it's time you chose your next body.

The stranger stands up.

Stranger

Follow me.

The human remains seated..

Stranger

Come on, get up! What the fuck are you doing?

The human obeys and rises.

Stranger

Let's go.

The two characters walk away from the table and move towards the horizon of the dark void..

Stranger

One rule during this trip: follow me and don't take your eyes off me.

Old Man

There are two rules then

Stranger

No. The rule is "follow me". "Don't take your eyes off me" is some kind of advice.

Nevertheless, while following the young stranger, the old man looks around...

Old Man

What's far away?

Stranger

As you can see: the void.

Old Man

Yes but... is it just emptiness?

Stranger

There are also doomed souls.

Old Man

And what happens if we meet them?

Stranger

We won't meet them, I'm here to protect you... Well, we've arrived...

The 84-year-old man and the mysterious stranger are still in the dark environment but a continuous beam of light from the "sky" crosses the nothingness, touches the ground, and illuminates a tiny surface... Damien is disturbed...

Old Man

What is that?

Stranger

Stand under the Light.

The old man is wary but complies anyway.

Stranger

Now, you need to think about an age.

Old Man

Why?

Stranger

You'll see... Choose an age...

Damien thinks...

Stranger

What is your choice ?

Old Man

17 years. In adolescence...

The stranger does not answer, closes his eyes, and murmurs... At the same time, a human shape appears behind Damien but he does not realize it... The cells of the new human are created from scratch, assemble, and form a single entity.

A few moments later, the light beam that touched the top of Damien's head fades. The old man notices it, turns around, and sees a human form that has appeared. It is a wax statue of himself at 17, extremely realistic. The old man is shocked and moves forward to see it.

Old Man (laughing)

What is this crap? You should put it in the Grevin Museum...

Damien examines the statue...

Old Man

It's crazy...

The stranger does not say anything..

Old Man

What do we do now?

The young stranger approaches the statue and touches its face. The statue comes to life with the soul of the old man whose body has now disappeared. The old man, now young again, looks at his hands and experiences his new body by jumping in the air.. He is shocked by the flexibility he possesses again.

Human

Incredible!

Stranger

Come, we have other things to do...

Human (moving around and doing push-ups)

Wait, I'm getting used to it... Thank God I chose 17 and not 2 years old... Otherwise, it would have been...

Suddenly, a corridor forms itself at high speed between the two characters. It turns out the walls are in fact a library but filled with tapes, not books.

Human

...complicated to communicate.

Stranger

These tapes contain memories of your Existence. The date is written on them like June 17, 2040 and there is also a note going from 0 to 5, with 0 being a shitty memory and 5 being an extraordinary one.

Human

How many tapes?

Stranger

One per day of life: 30,508 in total... You can watch one if you want... but only one.

The human goes through the tapes and selects one. Immediately, the library disintegrates. Instead, an ordinary couch appeared.

Stranger

Give me the tape.

17-year-old Damien throws the tape to the stranger and sits on the couch. The stranger takes a few steps and then violently throws the tape in front of him. It gets pulverized by an invisible force hidden in the dark void. The stranger comes to sit next to Damien. Shortly after, a massive projection of the memory chosen by the human appears in the dark environment. It shows the best moments of a party. We see Damien dancing in the middle of a crowd full of drunk young people...

Stranger

How old were you there?

Human

The same as now: 17 years old... I chose May 23, 2021.

Stranger

And what's the rating?

Human

4.8 out of 5.

During their conversation, the memory shows an alcohol contest where the losers, including Damien, have to swallow a pill and start experiencing visual hallucinations. Shortly after, Damien climbs onto the roof of the house and takes a run-up...

Stranger

What a dumbass...

Damien jumps off the roof to land in a pool.

Stranger

Fucking moron, you could have died younger than expected..

Human

I swear, I have no memory of this moment...

Stranger

That is exactly the problem

The projection of the memory ends..

Stranger

Come on, let's move on, stand up.

Human (obeying)

Again?

Stranger

Close your eyes.

Damien closes his eyes and noises begin to be audible (car sounds, footsteps, human voices...) He opens his eyes and realizes he has returned to the real world. He finds himself in front of a gigantic church.

He looks around: the stranger has disappeared. The 17-year-old decides to enter the sacred place. The organ is playing a symphony. A ceremony has just begun.

The people here are all standing, but no one notices Damien's presence even though he is walking alone down the central aisle. At times, he stops and looks at people. Some faces are familiar to him... Upon reaching the altar, the 17-year-old sees a closed coffin with a photo placed on top. The photo is the one of the 84-year-old man he was before his death.

The organ stops playing and the people sit down. The human sees only one person remaining standing among the congregation: the young stranger...

Priest

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit...
Amen.

The "Amen" resonates in Damien's ears, and he is quickly blinded by light rays passing through the stained glass windows of the church. Through the light, the human returns to the dark environment... Damien first thinks he is alone but slowly turns around and sees the young stranger in the distance...

Stranger

By the way, who is your God?

Human

What ? I don't know. I don't even know if He exists, or if She exists?

Stranger

God is neither man nor woman. God is not someone in particular. God is within each of us...

Human

But if God exists, is it Jesus, Allah, Buddha... ?

Stranger

No you don't get it. God is an idea that depends on each person's beliefs. Hopefully, everyone will find a God in death.

Human

But is that the case?

Stranger

Well, the all idea of God has been created by Humanity so in the end, not really. You are a lonely and tiny individual lost in the void of the Universe.

Human

So no one will ever judge me?

The stranger looks at the human with compassion.

Stranger

All I know is that the humans I talk to are suddenly enveloped by a great light...

Human

Like the one in the church?

Stranger

No, a different light, indescribable, as if it came from an unknown galaxy...

Damien is fascinated by the stranger's words...

Human

But then what is the meaning of Humanity in the Universe?

Stranger

Before understanding that, you need to know about the 3 pillars of Life...

Human

What's that?

Stranger

Well, there are 3 states in Existence: reality, dream, and a divine state. Reality, in which you are awake. Dreams, in which you are sleeping, whether these are normal or lucid ones. Finally, regarding the divine state, you were in it before your birth and you will be in it after your death... The divine state is therefore difficult to access. Some think that by doing good deeds, we get closer to God. Some believe in prayer that varies according to religion. Others believe in meditation. Some think that God hides among us and that contemplating the world is the Way. But in any case, what is divine is incomprehensible to humans...

Human

That doesn't help...

Stranger

All right, let's go back to the funeral...

A gust of warm air blows through the dark void...

Damien feels once again swept away by an extraordinary force and finds himself in the central aisle of the church, back to his own funeral. The priest is delivering his homily...

Priest

Brothers and sisters, we are gathered here today to celebrate Damien, a father, a grandfather, a great-grandfather for one lucky soul, an uncle, a cousin, a friend, perhaps an acquaintance, or maybe you never knew Damien at all.

But it doesn't matter. Today, we are all here to support him mentally and accompany him toward what we all aspire to: the Afterlife, Paradise.

Today, Damien has left us, but he has not disappeared because he remains in our hearts and because his soul is somewhere.

Damien might even be here with us; maybe he sees us even though we cannot see him...

Human (to himself)

Pretty clever thoughts...

Priest

Remember, brothers and sisters, we will all be judged by our actions. Not by our social, physical, or ethnic attributes, but by our deeds here on Earth.

Perhaps that's already the case for Damien.

Let us observe a moment of silence to think of him...

A cold, long silence follows. The human is fascinated by this moment and can't help but break it.

Human

Deadly silence, huh...

Stranger (sharply)

Shut up.

Priest (resuming his speech)

I will now continue my homily by addressing some values shared by Mr. Boris.

On Earth, some people think they hold power. But in reality, no one truly dominates because humanity is to the universe what atoms are to humans.

And people are so ignorant of everything. Life is so unpredictable. Anything can happen at any moment, yet no one admits it.

Human (to the stranger, speaking about the priest)

This guy's really good...

Stranger

He's learned his lines...

Cut to:

The church is now empty except for the 17-year-old human and the stranger.

Human

Am I still alive?

Stranger

Your body is dead, but your spirit remains.

The human says nothing and reflects in silence.

Stranger (heading toward the exit)

Well, I've got to go.

The human stands in the central aisle, his back turned to the stranger as he leaves.

Unbeknownst to him, a silhouette enters the church as soon as the stranger leaves.

Moments later, Damien turns around and sees a woman walking down the central aisle toward him...

The human doesn't worry too much at first, until the woman approaches aggressively...

Human

Can you see me?

The woman says nothing and keeps approaching.

Human (raising his voice)

What are you doing?!

The woman remains silent, forcing Damien to back away.

Human

Hey!!!

The woman prepares to strike. The human blocks the first blow. Then, she delivers a massive kick to his stomach, sending Damien flying backward into a church pew.

As the human struggles to get up, the woman prepares to attack again. He manages to dodge, crawl aside, and get back on his feet, but she lands an acrobatic kick squarely to his head this time.

Damien crashes to the ground, his face bloodied, half unconscious.

Woman (standing over Damien)

Well... what has God sent me?

Human (on the ground)

Who?

Woman

Still not introducing himself, huh?

Human (after catching his breath)

Who the hell are you?

Woman

I am what you call "the Devil." Or "Satan."

Human

What?? But... what are you going to do to me?

As she answers, the Devil destroys a church pew with her bare hands, pulling out a sharp wooden stake.

Devil

Here, I punish every sin. Chronologically. This is for the little one you hit in 2037.

Without hesitation, she hurls the stake at the human. It pierces his chest. The human screams in agony. Shortly after, Damien wakes up in a car. His sudden reaction terrifies the driver, who screams. In addition, Damien, old again, sees the driver's face in the rearview mirror... The driver has the face of the stranger he talked with for hours...

Old Man (shocked, pointing at the mirror)

Ah! You!

Driver

What's wrong with you?!

The old man struggles to breathe...

Driver

Are you okay, sir?

Old Man (still in shock)

I... What's happening?

Driver

Nothing special, we're right on time. Why are you panicking?

Damien doesn't understand what's going on...

Driver

Bad nap right?

Old Man

What? How long was I asleep?

Driver

20 minutes, I think.

The old man is still shocked... He looks out the window, blinded by the sunlight...

Cut to:

The taxi stops in front of the airport. The old man gets out. The driver takes his suitcase out of the trunk, says goodbye, and drives off. The old man stands alone, motionless with his luggage, still in shock... Lost in thought...

THE END