

When God owns a Motel

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FADE IN:

INT. MOTEL LOBBY - NIGHT

With the shades drawn and a howling wind outside, VIRGIL 35 and handsome, well groomed, wearing a sharp suit... Too sharp for a motel... Leans on top of the counter, nervously tapping his pen on his teeth.

VIRGIL

It's good Friday and not a soul to be found.

The front door opens and in walks DANTE 35, a visible scar under his left eye suggests he's nothing but a thug... He approaches the counter.

DANTE

Where the hell am I?

Virgil smirks... He picks up a sheet of paper and eyeballs it up and down.

VIRGIL

Hmmm... You're Dante, right?

DANTE

How did you know that?

VIRGIL

Quite a rap sheet you have here.

DANTE

How do you have info on me?... Are you a freaking cop?

VIRGIL

I know everything about you... I'm guessing you need a room for the night?

DANTE

Ok weirdo... I'm in somewhat of a motel, there's a hurricane outside... Options limited.

VIRGIL

Well, I have ten rooms in total... Right now, nine are occupied, you'll be in room number ten... If you choose.

Virgil hands him the room key... It hangs on a small wooden crucifix keychain.

VIRGIL (CONT'D)
I'll walk with you.

DANTE
I'm sure I'll be fine.

VIRGIL
No... No you won't.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Virgil and Dante approach rooms 1-10... Each door is open.

DANTE
I thought they were all occupied.

VIRGIL
Oh... They are.

Blood-curdling screams can be heard from room one, as Dante and Virgil get closer.

INT. ROOM ONE - CONTINUOUS

Dante's curiosity gets the better of him, as he steps inside the room.

It's empty... Bare from floor to ceiling... No furniture ... Just a pale faced poor excuse of a MAN, crouched in the corner and screaming in a high pitch wail.

DANTE
What's wrong with him?

VIRGIL
The unbaptized... Never committed a sin... But did not choose Christ.

DANTE
So?

VIRGIL
So he is forever damned to these four walls.

DANTE
Can't he just leave?

VIRGIL
It's the choice he made.

DANTE
Strange.

They leave the room and make their way towards room two. Virgil signals for Dante to enter.

INT. ROOM TWO - CONTINUOUS

A young COUPLE lie slain on the bed, their throats savagely slit from ear to ear... Dante is horrified and covers his mouth.

DANTE

What is happening around here?

VIRGIL

Don't be alarmed, their souls are black ---

DANTE

--- What wrong did they do?

VIRGIL

Adultery... They were overcome with lust and they paid for it.

DANTE

Who makes them pay?

VIRGIL

Our Lord of course.

DANTE

Is there another motel open around here?

VIRGIL

You'll be ok.

INT. ROOM THREE - CONTINUOUS

Dante stares squeamishly at a morbidly obese MAN, sitting upon a small wooden chair which creaks and groans under the massive weight... an endless table of a food and drink in front of him... Gorging disgustingly in a careless manner.

Dante shakes his head.

DANTE

Why?

VIRGIL

Gluttony... He ignores those around him... His family... His friends... Instead chooses to mutilate his own body in a very selfish, cold manner...

DANTE

I don't get it... Why let yourself be like this?... It's disgusting.

VIRGIL
This was his choice.

Dante starts to turn a whiter shade of pale.

VIRGIL (CONT'D)
You're not gonna be sick on me now,
are you?... Let's go.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Virgil and Dante start walking towards room four... Dante stops...

DANTE
Where am I?

Virgil laughs.

VIRGIL
Where are you?... Let me ask *you*
something... What brought you here?...
To a dead beat motel during a
hurricane?

DANTE
I don't know... But I feel like I
know you... But from where or when?

The strain on Dante's face depicts that he's thinking real hard.

VIRGIL
Let's walk.

INT. ROOM FOUR - CONTINUOUS

Like room one, it is empty... Except for a smartly dressed MAN, rolling majestically on the floor, holding money in his hand... His knuckles are white, suggesting, he is not letting go anytime soon.

DANTE
Well he seems happy.

VIRGIL
He is.

DANTE
He has money and I want some.

VIRGIL
Do you?... Money being the root of
all evil... Tell me, what else has
he got?

Dante looks around the room, it is empty, only the man and his money.

DANTE

Nothing.

VIRGIL

Exactly... Greed... Those who waste their life collecting money... Never sharing... Never giving.

DANTE

I had someone to share with... Once?

VIRGIL

I know.

Dante raises one eyebrow.

INT. ROOM FIVE - CONTINUOUS

The room is mostly empty... Except for...

A middle aged man, who lays back sleeping on a lazy boy wearing only a t-shirt and sweatpants... Snoring loudly and obnoxiously.

A woman deeply angered... Kicks and punches the walls... Shouting obscenities at the top of her voice.

DANTE

Husband and wife?

VIRGIL

Something like that... Two people that waste their lives... One completely lazy and the other always angry...

DANTE

That's sad.

VIRGIL

Yes... Yes it is.

DANTE

And I'm guessing it's their choice?

VIRGIL

Next room.

INT. ROOM SIX - CONTINUOUS

Another empty room except for a lone MAN standing encased from the waist down in a concrete block... He shakes his head from side to side, denying his reality.

Dante watches, then glances at Virgil.

VIRGIL

A heretic... He speaks defiantly
against God and His existence...
Which leads to the denial of his
soul's immortality... He will forever
be encased.

DANTE

Why would someone ignore God's
existence?... God is the greatest
being... It is greater to exist than
not exist... Therefore God exists.

VIRGIL

Well spoken... You know your
philosophers.

They leave room six.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

VIRGIL

Do you think you're learning
something?

DANTE

Next room.

VIRGIL

Be careful before you enter room
seven, it hosts the violent people
of the world.

INT. ROOM SEVEN - CONTINUOUS

Dante slowly approaches the entryway... Three people occupy
the room...

A woman hangs from a noose... A man wields a bloody knife,
vigorously slashing through the air... Another wears a
black balaclava, bombs strapped to his torso, with machine
gun in hand, screams obscenities at God.

VIRGIL

Each will be forever trapped.

DANTE

Explain.

VIRGIL

The hanging woman, a violent act
towards herself. She will not be
resurrected after the final judgment
since she gave away her body.

DANTE

And the man with the knife?

VIRGIL

Remember the slain in room two?
Taking the lives of others is no
different than taking your own...
It's selfish.

DANTE

The third?

VIRGIL

Violence against God... Against those
who believe in God...

DANTE

It's a sad world we live in.

INT. ROOM EIGHT - CONTINUOUS

A MAN wanders in circles in an empty room... Dante walks up
next to him... Studying his path.

VIRGIL

He can't see you... Nobody can see
you... It's their own personal limbo.

DANTE

What did this man do?

VIRGIL

He stole for everything he had.

DANTE

A thief?

VIRGIL

In a way... Fraud... Which is unique
to humans and therefore more
displeasing to God than sins of
concupiscence and violence...

Dante nods his head in agreement.

VIRGIL (CONT'D)

Ready for the last room?

DANTE

I suppose.

INT. ROOM NINE - CONTINUOUS

It feels a lot colder than the other rooms... Dante rubs his
hands together to stay warm.

DANTE

Why is it so freaking cold?

A MAN is doubled over in the middle of the room, face down... He breathes heavily and growls... He doesn't move... Like he's trapped in an invisible tomb.

VIRGIL

Finally your journey comes to an end.

DANTE

Is that?

VIRGIL

Yes... Satan himself... Condemned for committing the ultimate sin... Personal treachery against God.

Dante circles him, but Satan keeps his head down... Only to growl louder.

VIRGIL (CONT'D)

He is feeble, crippled, unenlightened and full of hatred.

DANTE

Explains the coldness.

VIRGIL

He is responsible, for the other rooms... Let us go to a room he cannot touch.

EXT. ROOM TEN - CONTINUOUS

Room ten stands alone unattached... The door is closed.

DANTE

So why me? Why was I shown the path of hell?

VIRGIL

You've been given a second chance... You still have the power to choose to turn to God...

DANTE

And what about them?

VIRGIL

They're all permanent residents... The damned... Perfectly suited for the rooms they have chosen.

Dante checks out his room key and stares at the room ten door.

DANTE
Will I see Beatrice?

Virgil smiles... A gentle smile.

VIRGIL
She is waiting.

Dante touches his room key to the door... A white light can be seen from underneath the door... He pushes it open and looks back... Virgil has disappeared.

DANTE
The right choice.

And he enters.

FADE OUT: