

YUSMARG

By

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FADE IN:

"So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body." - 1 Corinthians 15: 42-44

EXT. CATHOLIC FUNERAL - AFTERNOON

There is an overcast looming across the sky, dimly lighting the funeral below. There are mourners dressed in all black, circled around a casket as it slowly descends underground.

Our attention is focused on NATHAN SCOTT, 32, a handsome young man. It is clear to see that the burial ceremony is getting to him. He looks vulnerable, helpless, and guilty as the casket descends further and further underground. Tears silently roll down his face, like tiny minuscule streams.

A CATHOLIC PRIEST speaks to the congregation, reading from the Holy Bible.

CATHOLIC PRIEST

"Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uniformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind who have no hope..."

Nathan continues to wistfully stare at the descending casket, mourning with sorrow at this point.

NATHAN

No, no, mom, mom!

CATHOLIC PRIEST

"For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him."

NATHAN

Mom, mom! Come back please! Please come back! I'm sorry, I'm so sorry!

MARY (O.S.)

Nathan, Nathan!

INT. NATHAN'S APARTMENT/ NATHAN'S BEDROOM - EARLY MORNING

Nathan wakes up in bed, gasping for air and sweating. He finds his fiancée MARY MEADOWS, 29, beautiful, staring at him with concern. Nathan appears embarrassed.

NATHAN

Sorry.

MARY

Please don't be.

Mary kisses him and Nathan accepts it, she lets go of the kiss.

MARY

Another nightmare?

Nathan keeps his silence, clearly still embarrassed. Mary knows the answer.

MARY

Come on, let's get out of bed. It's time to get up anyway. We have a long journey ahead of us.

Mary rises out of bed and walks towards the bathroom. Nathan sighs.

INT. NATHAN'S APARTMENT/ BEDROOM - MORNING

Scattered around the bedroom are opened suitcases, clothes, and toiletries. Nathan and Mary are quietly packing their bags. Nathan folds a shirt as he watches Mary pack, he notices her packing many belongings.

NATHAN

We're only visiting for a weekend.

MARY

Well, you know how us women get.

Mary continues to pack her clothes, stuffing her largest suitcase.

Mary looks back at Nathan. She watches him for awhile.

He looks despondent, languidly packing his clothes. Mary attempts to gear his attention back on the trip.

(CONTINUED)

MARY
(perkily)
So, are you nervous!?

NATHAN
Your father sounds pious. That
scares me a little if that's what
you mean.

MARY
Well, I promise you he is a very
nice man.

NATHAN
The Nazis thought the same about
Hitler.

MARY
Nathan!?

Nathan chuckles a little and Mary joins him.

MARY
It's good to see you smiling, even
though you just insulted my father.

NATHAN
You know how I feel about religion.

MARY
You know how I feel about
non-believers.

NATHAN
Now you're insulting me.

MARY
Just continue packing.

Mary stares back at Nathan again. A beat.

MARY
Hey Nathan?

NATHAN
Yes?

MARY
Could you keep that between us?

NATHAN
What?

A beat.

(CONTINUED)

MARY

That you're a non-believer?

NATHAN

I prefer the term atheist.

MARY

(solemnly)

All jokes aside. Please. Don't bring it up this weekend.

Nathan stares at Mary for a bit.

NATHAN

Fine, fine. Now I have a question for you.

Mary waits for his question.

NATHAN

Can we have a quickie before the trip?

MARY

Continue packing.

INT. MARY'S CAR/ DIRT ROAD - AFTERNOON

Mary steers the car in the driver's seat as Nathan is in the passenger's seat.

Nathan stares at a photo in his wallet, the photo is of CHARLOTTE SCOTT, 57, she has a huge smile on her face. Nathan's attention is rapt in the photo. Mary notices and tries to distract him.

MARY

Three hours down, five more to go.

A beat.

MARY

Oh, here's the turn.

To the right of the road is an opening in the middle of the woods. Mary makes a right turn and drives through it, a never ending dirt road lies ahead of them.

Nathan digs in his pocket and pulls out a prescription bottle labeled: PROZAC. He opens it, takes two tablets out, and swallows them. He takes a swig from his water bottle, washing the pills down.

(CONTINUED)

MARY

Ugh, I hate those things.

NATHAN

Don't you want me to be nice and perky for your family?

Nathan fakes a huge and cheesy smile. Mary chuckles at him.

MARY

Seriously, you don't need them. I don't know why you take them. You're always complaining about how they don't work.

NATHAN

Dr. Kramer says it takes time for them to work.

MARY

How long did he say it will take?

NATHAN

About two weeks.

MARY

How long have you been on them?

NATHAN

About two weeks.

MARY

There you go.

NATHAN

They're all I've got right now.

MARY

You have me.

NATHAN

Do I?

MARY

(offended)

What is that supposed to mean?

NATHAN

Let me guess, daddy doesn't like anti-depressants because it's against his religion and since he doesn't like them, you don't either.

(CONTINUED)

MARY

My father is right, psychiatrists gain profit from anti-depressants because of the placebo effect. It's just a money making hoax.

NATHAN

There you go. Sometimes, I think you love your father more than me.

MARY

What?

NATHAN

You sure listen to him more than me.

MARY

Oh, we are not having this argument right now. I was there for you through everything, thick and thin. How dare you!?

Mary continues to drive in silence. Nathan begins to feel guilty. A beat.

NATHAN

Listen, I know you were there for me through everything, even the worst moment of my life. I'm sorry okay?

A beat.

MARY

I told you many times before. She is not gone. She's resting with Christ, one day you will understand and believe.

NATHAN

Now, you're starting to sound like her.

Nathan chuckles and Mary joins him. Nathan gears his attention to the woods and looks ahead at the elongated dirt road ahead.

NATHAN

You told me your parents lived eight hours away, not in the middle of the boonies.

(CONTINUED)

MARY

Sorry.

NATHAN

I'm starting to get the idea that they're Bible thumping hillbilly rednecks.

MARY

(playfully)

Stop it!

They both laugh. Then a thought comes to Nathan's mind. A beat.

NATHAN

We've been engaged for seven months now. Why am I now meeting your parents?

Mary takes a long pause.

MARY

Because, I wasn't sure how they would take you being an atheist but we'll just keep that between us for now.

Nathan is dissatisfied with the answer but changes the subject.

NATHAN

What's the name of the town again?

MARY

Yusmarg.

NATHAN

What kind of name is that?

MARY

It's Kashmiri, it means "The Meadow of Jesus".

A beat.

NATHAN

Whatever, I didn't get much sleep last night. I think I'm going to take a nap.

(CONTINUED)

MARY

You know what? That's a fabulous idea, you seem grumpy.

NATHAN

Maybe I'm sexually frustrated.

Mary sighs.

MARY

Good night, Nathan.

Without another word Nathan reclines the seat and rests his eyes.

EXT. MARY'S CAR/ DIRT ROAD - EVENING

The sun is setting now. Mary continues to drive, in the distance, she sees an elaborate sign up ahead planted in the ground. She jolts with excitement and repeatedly taps Nathan to wake him.

MARY

Nathan, wake up! We're here!

Nathan wakes automatically, still drowsy and processing his surroundings.

NATHAN

Okay, I'm up.

He looks ahead at the road and sees the distant sign as well. Mary continues to drive as she smiles from ear to ear. They are closer to the sign now. Nathan examines it, the sign reads: YUSMARG. Mary drives past the sign.

Even though it is evening and the sky's light isn't very fluorescent; Nathan peeks through the window to get a glimpse of this town.

The site is very lush and serene. It looks more like a village, with many tiny hills and tiny white houses scattered around the meadow. Some houses are in valleys, some on top of hills. The hills seems to dance as the car drives past them.

It's like they've entered a whole new country.

NATHAN

Wow, this place is beautiful.

(CONTINUED)

MARY

You should see it in the sunlight.
Uh, I've missed this place.

INT. MARY'S CAR/ YUSMARG VILLAGE - EVENING

As Mary continues to drive on the dirt road, Nathan continues to absorb the majestic nature of Yusmarg through the car window.

In the far distance, an elaborate Catholic cathedral approaches them from ahead, it resembles a palace.

This erect and elephantine building is like no other in the village. The building has high ceilings, it's intricate in detail, and there are vivid sun-stained windows plastered all around the circumference of the building.

Nathan is in awe again.

NATHAN

What is this place?

MARY

This is the Yusmarg Cathedral.

Nathan continues to study the building in astonishment.

MARY

It is also my home.

NATHAN

What!?

MARY

Yeah, my family lives there. That's where I was born and raised.

NATHAN

You are full of surprises.

Mary smiles back at Nathan.

INT. MARY'S CAR/ YUSMARG VILLAGE - EVENING

Mary pulls up to the front of the cathedral and parks the car. We see that there are three entrances to the magnanimous building.

(CONTINUED)

MARY

So, the middle entrance is the church; the entrance to the sanctuary. On the right, is the prayer chamber and the entrance on the left is the residence wing.

NATHAN

Now I'm worried I'm meeting royals.

MARY

Don't be silly.

A beat.

MARY

Now before we go in, what are my parents names?

NATHAN

John and Caroline.

MARY

Good, now how many sister do I have?

NATHAN

Five.

MARY

And what are their names?

NATHAN

Rachel, Judith, Sophia?

MARY

Sapphira.

NATHAN

Right, Sapphira. Miriam and...

MARY

And?

NATHAN

Penelope?

MARY

(disappointed)
Phoebe.

(CONTINUED)

NATHAN

Sorry, there's so many of them.

MARY

Whatever, let's get out. Are you ready?

NATHAN

As ready as I can be.

Mary kisses Nathan and they both exit the car.

EXT. YUSMARG CATHEDRAL/ RESIDENCE WING - EVENING

Mary rings the doorbell to the residence wing: DING DONG!
The bell rings deep with resonance, vibrating from the inside.

Mary and Nathan has all of their belongings with them. Mary appears jovial while Nathan appear doubtful at this point.

Someone opens the door, it is CAROLINE MEADOWS, 52, she wears an all white clergy gown. She smiles at Mary and opens her arms to her.

CAROLINE

Angel!

Mary leaps in Caroline's arm and hugs her with constriction.

MARY

Mother! How art thou?

CAROLINE

I am grand, darling! Just grand!

Nathan takes in the change of dialect. Caroline turns over and looks at Nathan.

CAROLINE

This is he!?

MARY

Yes mother, this is he, Nathan,
Nathan Scott.

CAROLINE

Oh, blessed it be!

Caroline constricts Nathan with her arms too.

(CONTINUED)

CAROLINE

Tis so great to meet thee! I am
Caroline. Caroline Meadows.

NATHAN

Nice to meet you too ma'am.

CAROLINE

Please children, cometh in the
house.

(to Mary)

Thy father awaits us.

Mary struggles with lifting her bags a bit.

CAROLINE

No need to struggle dear.
Elizabeth! Diana! Come hither and
help Mary with her belongings.

Nathan sees two women, ELIZABETH and DIANA, dressed in maid outfits that belong in the 1600's, half-hidden in the dark corridor in front of him.

They gradually walk towards the entrance of the house. Nathan can finally see thieir faces, their smiles seem eerie to Nathan; vacant.

MARY

Elizabeth! Diana! How happy I am to
see thee!

ELIZABETH

Oh, always an honor to see thee
Mary!

DIANA

Tis been so long without thy
presence!

Elizabeth and Diana hugs Mary together. Mary happily accepts their warmth. Diana looks over to her left and studies Nathan. She gasps.

DIANA

Is this he?

Elizabeth lets go of her hug and studies Nathan also. Nathan appears puzzled and guarded.

MARY

Yes, this is Nathan. Nathan Scott.

(CONTINUED)

Diana and Elizabeth both scream with joy, scaring Nathan. He backs away a little. Elizabeth and Diana can't contain their joy as they hug him aggressively, practically knocking him over.

ELIZABETH

Oh, how grand it is for thee to be here!

DIANA

We are so happy thou hast come to Yusmarg, may Yusmarg feel like home to thee.

Mary and Diana slightly bow down to him. Nathan is confused.

CAROLINE

Elizabeth, Diana, please help Mary and Nathan with their many belongings. Send them to Mary's old bedroom upstairs please. We have no more time for chitter-chatter. Mary and Nathan must eat. It hath been such a long journey for them, I am sure they are famished.

ELIZABETH AND DIANA

Yes, ma'am.

Elizabeth and Diana grabs the luggage from Mary and Nathan without another word and carries them upstairs. We can hear them conversing in the distance.

DIANA (O.S.)

He hath arrived. He hath finally arrived!

CAROLINE

(to Mary and Nathan)

Come! Tis time for supper!

Mary and Nathan enter the cathedral together. Caroline smiles.

INT. YUSMARG CATHEDRAL/ CORRIDOR - EVENING

Nathan and Mary follows behind Caroline. Nathan observes the prestige of this place; the velvet carpet rug that stretches across the entire floor of the corridor, the high ceiling that ascends so high it is strenuous to try and find the roof, and the intricate details ingrained in the wallpaper. Nathan has never seen anything like it.

There is an opening in the corridor to the right; Caroline walks through it, Nathan and Mary enters the opening behind her.

INT. YUSMARG CATHEDRAL/ DINING HALL - EVENING

Inside of the room is a vast table, of course very refined.

We see five females surrounding the table sitting in their seats; RACHEL JOHNSON (23), JUDITH MEADOWS (17), SAPPHIRA MEADOWS (13), MIRIAM MEADOWS (10) and PHOEBE MEADOWS(6).

A young man sits next to Rachel, he is OSCAR JOHNSON (24).

At the head of the table sits JOHN MEADOWS, 58, a very solemn man. John holds a little one year old, JAMES JOHNSON.

Everyone wears white clergy gowns. John is the only one wearing a white kippah on top of his head.

CAROLINE
Guess who hath arrive!

John looks up and lights up at the sight of his eldest daughter.

JOHN
(to Mary)
Darling!

All of the girl's heads turn and they all jolt with excitement, Rachel appears unaffected.

JUDITH
Mary!

MARY
Hello everyone!

All of the girls rise out of their seats, runs to Mary, and hugs her in a group, greeting her with huge smiles on their faces. Rachel is the last to get up but eventually decides to greet Mary and hugs her half-heartedly.

MARY
Tis nice to see thee Rachel.

RACHEL
Likewise.

Mary walks towards her father John. John rises to his feet, hands baby James to Rachel, and embraces his oldest daughter.

(CONTINUED)

Rachel flashes a glare of disdain towards John and Mary as she sits, holding her baby.

JOHN

Mary, oh how thou hast been in my heart. It hath been almost 10 years. How hast the outside world treated thee?

MARY

Wonderful father, just wonderful.

John lets go of the hug and stares into Mary's eyes.

JOHN

My eldest daughter is finally a woman.

A beat.

NATHAN

(awkwardly)

Hello everyone.

John takes his eyes off of Mary and gears his attention to Nathan who stands awkwardly. John studies him, scrutinizing him. John turns back to Mary.

JOHN

This is he?

MARY

Yes, father.

John turns back to Nathan. All of Mary's sisters and Oscar stare at Nathan, smiling from ear to ear. Rachel stares too but doesn't crack a smile.

JOHN

Greetings, my son! Come!

Nathan walks further in the dining room, with unease. Nathan walks closer to John to greet him.

NATHAN

I am Nathan Scott.

JOHN

I am well aware of thee.

John has an unsettling smile on his face, it makes Nathan's spine shiver.

(CONTINUED)

Now that Nathan is closer, he can see that John has a few faint scars on his face, not noticeable at first but apparent up close. They could possibly be unhealed scars from decades ago.

JOHN

I am John. John Meadows.

John sticks his right hand out and Nathan shakes it. Nathan feels silk cotton on his hands, he notices John wears white cotton gloves.

JOHN

Pleased to meet thee.

NATHAN

Likewise.

John continues to grasp Nathan's hand. Nathan tries letting go but John prolongs his grip. A beat.

Finally, John lets go of Nathan's hand.

JOHN

Please, have a seat by me.

John suggests to the seat to the right of the head chair.

NATHAN

Sure.

Nathan moves toward the suggested chair without hesitation.

Diana and Elizabeth walks inside of the dining room, through a door connected to the kitchen. They still have those vacant expressions on their faces.

DIANA AND ELIZABETH

Dinner is ready!

INT. YUSMARG CATHEDRAL/ DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Food is laid out on the gigantic dining room table; an oven baked turkey, mash potatoes, and green beans. The whole family holds hands together with bowed heads. John leads us in prayer.

JOHN

Heavenly Father, we thank thee for
blessing us this evening, for the
food that hath been laid upon us.
We thank thee to allow us to see

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

JOHN (cont'd)

another day. We thank thee for allowing us to all be here together as one family. We thank thee for the safe arrive of my daughter Mary and her husband to be Nathan. Please bless this young man. Wash him with thy blood, for he is thy child.

Nathan opens his eyes and pierces John with a suspicious glare.

JOHN

Bless his heart with purity and bless his mind with competence. Bless him with the knowledge and the aptitude to be the best husband to Mary. Make him more than a man my Lord. Make him as ethereal as thee.

A beat.

JOHN

Amen.

EVERYONE

Amen.

The family depart their hands and begins passing around the dishes and putting food on their plates in silence. Nathan looks over to John in the uncomfortable silence.

NATHAN

Thank you, for including me in your prayer sir.

John looks over to Nathan and smiles.

JOHN

Thou art family.

Miriam passes the bowl of green beans to Nathan.

MIRIAM

Dost thou enjoy green beans?

Nathan turns his head to Miriam, she beams at him.

(CONTINUED)

NATHAN

Of course.

Nathan takes the green beans away from her and smiles back. He is still unsettled as he serves himself.

RACHEL

Father, I don't remember thee
praying to Oscar when I brought him
home two years ago.

Rachel struggles with passing the food and holding James.

JOHN

Aye, I did Rachel. I pray for all
of my children and their
companions.

RACHEL

Thou didst not pray to bless
Oscar's heart with purity and to
bless his mind with competence and
all the other rubbish.

OSCAR

Ah! Dost thou sayeth I am empty of
purity and competence?

RACHEL

(to Oscar)

I dost not sayeth thee dost not
possess those qualities. I saith my
father favors Mary and her fiance.

MARY

Rachel!?

JOHN

Thou speak lies, Rachel!

RACHEL

(to Oscar)

Dost thou see? If I were a
dissembler, he would not harbor
such animosity.

JOHN

Envy is a deadly sin Rachel. Thou
shall cast that demon out of thy
body!

Nathan uncomfortably takes in the feud between John and Rachel. Caroline sits at the head of the table, opposing John.

(CONTINUED)

CAROLINE

John and Rachel, halt thy
bickering! We have a guest, respect
him!

Silence resides at the table. Nathan continues to eat. John
gears his attention to Nathan.

JOHN

Nathan.

Nathan turns his attention to John.

NATHAN

Yes?

JOHN

How didst thou meet my daughter?

Mary and Nathan smile to each other, exchanging reminiscent
glances to each other.

NATHAN

It was at Tampard University.
English class, with Professor
Mallard. It was a core curriculum
class. As you know, Mary was
studying to be a nurse. I was
studying law.

A beat.

NATHAN

I knew the moment I laid eyes on
her I wanted to marry her.

The family seems enchanted, we hear "Awww" from some of the
girls. Mary blushes. John smiles delightfully.

JOHN

How sweet.

A beat.

JUDITH

I hope to meet my husband in
college.

NATHAN

Do you plan on going?

JUDITH
I've already been accepted to
Crawford University.

NATHAN
Oh, congrats. I heard that is a
very great school. What do you want
to study?

JUDITH
I want to be a nurse like Mary.

Judith smiles at Mary and Mary smiles back.

NATHAN
Well, good luck and don't let the
boys distract you too much.

Nathan smiles at Judith and Judith chuckles a little.

NATHAN
And who knows maybe your husband is
right here in Yusmarg.

JUDITH
He can't be.

NATHAN
Why so?

JUDITH
Tis forbidden in this family, I
must find a husband out of Yusmarg.
To marry someone in Yusmarg is a
sin.

Nathan is baffled.

NATHAN
Okay?

John turns his attention back to Nathan. He decides to
change the subject.

JOHN
(to Nathan)
Where dost thou work now?

NATHAN
I work for the Bankford Law Firm
now.

JOHN
Thou hast worked yonder how long?

NATHAN
About three years now.

JOHN
Dost thou find pleasure in thy
career?

NATHAN
Yes, but I am taking a sabbatical.

JOHN
Why so?

Nathan turns cold. A beat.

NATHAN
I rather not talk about it right
now.

John notices Nathan's change of attitude.

JOHN
So be it.

A beat.

JOHN
Thou believe in God Nathan?

Mary and Nathan lock eyes.

JOHN
Tis a very important question if
thou wish to marry my daughter.

John and the family awaits Nathan's response patiently.

JOHN
Well?

A beat.

NATHAN
(quietly)
Yes.

JOHN
Good, good. Wonderful, I don't want
a fine gentleman like thyself
burning in Hell.

John chuckles, the rest of the family joins him. Nathan leers directly at Mary. Mary apologizes with innocent eyes.

NATHAN

You know what? Actually, I'm getting tired.

JOHN

Already son?

NATHAN

Well, you know it's been a long trip and I didn't really sleep well last night.

Nathan rises out of his seat.

NATHAN

(to everyone)

Goodnight everyone, it's been a pleasure to meet all of you. I'm sorry to check out so quickly, but I think the trip has me wiped out.

Nathan dashes towards the hallway, he locks eyes with Mary and glares at her.

MARY

I think I shall go to bed too.

Mary rises from her seat.

MARY

Like Nathan saith, t'was a long and tiresome journey.

Before Nathan leaves the dining room, John calls for him.

JOHN

Nathan!

Nathan turns his head towards John.

JOHN

I will like to be a comrade to thee. We shall chatter more in the morrow and I shall show thee the rest of Yusmarg.

Nathan nods his head.

NATHAN
Sounds like fun.

Nathan heads toward the hall, then all of a sudden a hand grabs Nathan's arm, it is Oscar; smiling oddly and spasmodically shaking Nathan's hand.

OSCAR
I just want to say, what an honor
it is to meet thee.

Nathan smiles superficially and forcefully lets go of the handshake and heads towards the hallway with Mary running after him.

INT. YUSMARG CATHEDRAL/ MARY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Mary sits on the bed and watches Nathan pace back in forth, venting to her.

NATHAN
I mean who does he think he is to
question me about my beliefs!?

MARY
Pipe down Nathan, he might hear
you.

A beat.

NATHAN
And why is everyone smiling at me!?
And those two ladies Elizabeth and
Diana practically bowed to me
earlier!

MARY
Everyone is just excited to meet
you Nathan. I told my family a lot
about you, all positive things,
bowing is a form of appreciation,
is that so terrible!?

NATHAN
Are Elizabeth and Diana servants or
something?

MARY
Yes, handmaids for the Cathedral's
residence hall.

(CONTINUED)

NATHAN

You never told me you have servants.

MARY

What is the big deal!?

NATHAN

And what is up with the dialect of this town?!

(mockingly)

How art thou? Please to meet thee!
I dost not sayeth!

MARY

Nathan, it's just the archaic dialect used in the Holy Book. Yusmarg believes the conservation of it keeps the Holy Book relevant.

NATHAN

What is Rachel's deal?

MARY

She always had it out for me. She thinks my father favors me because I'm the oldest daughter. Which is totally false, my father loves all of his daughters equally.

NATHAN

Oh, I don't know.

MARY

What do you mean?

NATHAN

He seemed really excited for you to be home.

MARY

It's been nine years since I've been here!

NATHAN

Why did you leave?

MARY

To get a college education!

NATHAN

What about Rachel? Did she ever leave?

(CONTINUED)

MARY

Yes, that's how she met Oscar. All of my sisters will eventually leave for college after homeschooling. My father wants the best for his daughters. Now, could you please just calm down!?

Nathan sighs, breathing deeply.

NATHAN

Sorry, it's just I didn't expect any of this, you kept me in the dark.

Mary takes in his comment.

MARY

I just didn't want you to turn down coming here and meeting my family without knowing them first.

NATHAN

I wouldn't do that.

MARY

Oh, yes you would. The moment I told you my father was a bishop you immediately judged him.

Nathan ponders on her words.

NATHAN

I am here now right? I am still here with you. Actually, engaged to you for seven months now, despite you being a virgin. So don't you dare accuse me of being judgmental!

MARY

What does that have to do with anything!?

Mary calms down. A beat.

MARY

I thought an engagement was supposed to be about love, Nathan.

NATHAN

Oh honey, I love you. I really do. I just find it a little strange that just because daddy says no sex

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

NATHAN (cont'd)
before marriage a twenty nine year
old woman still follows his every
last word.

MARY
It's not just my father. It's my
religious belief!

NATHAN
Passed down by your father!

MARY
It's a custom that all of my
sisters follow as well! Everyone in
the village to be exact!

NATHAN
Okay, whatever you say. It sounds
like brainwashing to me!

MARY
Don't say that! You're insulting my
beliefs, you're insulting me!

Mary and Nathan pause reticently.

NATHAN
Listen, Mary.

Nathan walks closer to Mary and embraces her on the bed.

. NATHAN
I'm sorry and you're right, an
engagement is about love but it is
not about keeping secrets from your
partner.

MARY
You're right okay, I said I'm sorry
what else do you want from me?

NATHAN
Just promise me, no more secrets
okay?

Mary stares into Nathan's eyes.

MARY
I promise.

Mary and Nathan tenderly kiss each other and slowly lets go
of it. Nathan signs. A beat.

(CONTINUED)

NATHAN

Alright, I'm going to bed now. It sounds like I have a long day ahead tomorrow with your father.

MARY

It should be fun.

NATHAN

(sarcastically)

Sure.

A beat.

MARY

Who knows? Maybe my father can help you.

Nathan takes in Mary's words.

NATHAN

With what?

Mary is silent. Nathan knows the answer. He appears pissed.

NATHAN

Let's just go to bed.

EXT. YUSMARG VILLAGE - AFTERNOON/ THE NEXT DAY

Nathan and John walk together side by side. Nathan takes the beauty of Yusmarg in. John wears an all white robe, white kippah, and cotton gloves; his usual regalia.

It is a beautiful day, the sunlight illuminates the green meadows, the breeze is slight; swaying the tall grass, the sky is especially clear with cumulus clouds scattered across the atmosphere.

JOHN

I walk with thee this noon to show thee Yusmarg. I wish for thee to feel at home here.

A beat.

JOHN

Here in Yusmarg, we live in our own community, we grow our own food, and breed our own livestock.

John and Nathan continue to walk, we come across a village.

(CONTINUED)

JOHN

Here lies the beginning of the town; the villager's habitat.

Nathan sees villagers riding on horses and carriages, fetching water, selling eggs, vegetables, bread, herding goats and sheep, and etc. The villagers are all wearing clothes that belong in the 1600's.

JOHN

Come and greet them!

NATHAN

Okay?

John and Nathan enters the village. As they creep further and further in the habitat; the villagers all stare with starry eyes at John and Nathan in silence, they cease all activity. Nathan can't help but notice the corpulent physique of some of the villagers.

A few villagers looks up to John and then shift their eyes to Nathan, their faces beam with joy.

VILLAGER

Is it he!?

JOHN

Aye, he is Mary's fiance. Nathan Scott. He hath arrived.

Villager #2 shakes Nathan's hand frenziedly.

VILLAGER # 2

Oh, how our hearts bleed with joy, Nathan!

VILLAGER #3

Welcome! Welcome good man!

VILLAGER #4

May God bless thee!

Nathan backs away, in defense.

JOHN

Don't have a fright my son, they show thee admiration, thou art family now!

The village all clap, cheer, and bow to Nathan; making thunderous noise.

Nathan is in disbelief but waves his hands to the villagers; it's too much attention for him.

EXT. YUSMARG VILLAGE - DAY

John and Nathan continue to chatter and walk together; away from the villagers.

NATHAN

What a rowdy bunch.

JOHN

Aye, the villagers hath waited for thee for some time now.

NATHAN

Why were they waiting for me?

John contemplates the question. A beat.

JOHN

The villagers are always jovial when one of my daughters are engaged. The same happened when Oscar arrived. Don't harbor fear Nathan.

Nathan takes in the information and decides to change the subject. A beat.

NATHAN

It looks like they eat well in the village.

JOHN

Ah yes, what a glutton bunch. They prepare for the Holy Sacrament.

NATHAN

What is that?

JOHN

A special event here in Yusmarg. The tradition is for the villagers to gain a corpulent physique, to satisfy the Lord. It shall grant a special villager a place in heaven.

Nathan is confused.

(CONTINUED)

NATHAN

Okay?

JOHN

It shall take place morrow night. I wish for thee to join us.

NATHAN

I need to gain weight too?

JOHN

Nay, tis only for the villagers.

NATHAN

I was only joking John.

Nathan chuckles to himself. A beat.

NATHAN

Mary and I plan to leave Sunday anyway, so we won't be there.

JOHN

We shall see.

Nathan looks over to John questioningly. A beat.

JOHN

My apologizes for yesternight.

NATHAN

What about it?

JOHN

My bickering with Rachel. Caroline was right, how rude of me.

NATHAN

Every family has problems John.

JOHN

I love Rachel dearly, I wish she knoweth my heart bleeds for her and all of her sisters unfeigned.

A beat.

JOHN

What about thy family Nathan?

Nathan takes a pause.

(CONTINUED)

NATHAN
What about them?

JOHN
Tell me about them, I want to know more. Do you have any siblings?

NATHAN
No, I am the only child.

JOHN
Likewise, what about thy father and mother?

NATHAN
I never knew my dad. He ran off with another woman when I was two and my mom...

Nathan has a wistful expression on his face.

JOHN
Yes?

NATHAN
I rather not talk about it.

JOHN
I sense something horrid has happened.

NATHAN
Please, just drop it.

JOHN
Sorry to intrude.

A beat.

JOHN
Come, walk with me.

John changes direction, heading left now, and Nathan follows behind him.

EXT. YUSMARG CATHEDRAL/ GRAVEYARD - AFTERNOON

John and Nathan walks closer to a graveyard. The grave site has enormous marble gravestones aligned next to each other, eleven all together. John stops in front of the monuments, Nathan behind him. John despondently stares at the eleven marble gravestones.

(CONTINUED)

JOHN

This site is where the bodies of my
deceased ancestors lie.

John takes in the view. As a breeze slightly hits John's face, Nathan notices a forlorn expression from John. Nathan observes this and gives John his condolences.

NATHAN

I am so sorry, John.

JOHN

No need to apologize. Twas all in
God's plan.

A beat.

JOHN

I show thee this cemetery to show
how important our ancestors are to
us in Yusmarg. Even after they
decease, we believe they are always
present with us, still watching our
every move, helping to guide us
into God's light.

Nathan absorbs John's words; contemplating them.

JOHN

Every once in awhile, I like to
view the grave to pay my respects
to those who came before me, to
honor them, and to remind myself
how mortal I am on this earth. Tis
quite humbling.

John gives Nathan a very slight smile. The smile unnerves Nathan, he uncomfortably smiles back.

JOHN

Now come on, lets get back inside
the house.

INT. YUSMARG CATHEDRAL/ KITCHEN - AFTERNOON

Nathan and John walks inside of the kitchen. In the kitchen, Nathan sees Caroline, her daughters including Mary, Elizabeth, and Diane, all dressed in white robes.

They are cleaning and cutting vegetables, singing a harmonious hymn together; they are so immersed in the hymn that they all appear to be in trance-like reverie. John smiles.

(CONTINUED)

JOHN

What a beautiful melody ladies.

Mary notices Nathan and John staring at them; she immediately snaps out of her trance and is startled.

MARY

Oh! You two gave us a fright.

NATHAN

Sorry about that.

MARY

(to Nathan)

How was your time with father?

Nathan looks over to John. John smiles, Nathan smiles back.

NATHAN

Fine, just fine. Yusmarg is beautiful.

MARY

Especially in the sunlight?

NATHAN

Yes, especially in the sunlight.

Mary smiles at Nathan, he smiles back. A beat.

JOHN

(to Mary)

Darling, I will like to speak with thee? Privately please.

Mary looks concerned but doesn't hesitate.

MARY

Yes, father.

Mary sets her kitchen knife on the counter and walks out of the kitchen and passes by Nathan giving him a peck on the lips.

MARY

See you around.

NATHAN

See you, I'm going upstairs for a nap.

Nathan watches as John and Mary walk away towards a secluded office down the corridor. John and Mary enters the office together.

As John closes the door behind them, John stares at Nathan again, prolonging his gaze until the door is completely shut. Nathan looks at the closed door suspiciously, then he heads upstairs.

INT. YUSMARG CATHEDRAL/ UPSTAIRS CORRIDOR - DAY

Nathan walks down the corridor heading towards his and Mary's bedroom. As Nathan walks further down the corridor, an adjacent door opens gently and Oscar walks out of the door, carefully closing it back, holding baby James.

Oscar sees Nathan and is ecstatic.

OSCAR
Greetings Nathan!

NATHAN
(off-putting)
Hello.

OSCAR
What art thou doing here?

NATHAN
Just going to rest, maybe take a nap and you?

OSCAR
Just going to feed little James here.

A beat.

OSCAR
Didst John showeth thee the Yusmarg village?

NATHAN
Yes.

OSCAR
How dost thou see Yusmarg?

Nathan smiles. A beat.

NATHAN
If I were to speak honestly, I'm a little freaked out.

Oscar looks concerned.

(CONTINUED)

OSCAR

How come?

NATHAN

Because everyone is overly zealous when they see me. It's sort of weird.

OSCAR

Don't be scared my friend. They love thee. They want thee to feel at peace here.

A beat.

NATHAN

I have a question, you were married in this family. Did they do the same to you?

OSCAR

Aye, aye they were very excited about my presence.

NATHAN

When you first arrived, did they ever bow to you? Or anything like that?

A beat.

OSCAR

No, never. Not that I can recall.

James begins to cry and squirm. Oscar readjusts James in his hands, holding him over his left shoulder.

OSCAR

I think little James here is famished. I have to go now.

Oscar gives Nathan an uncanny smile. He bows slightly to Nathan before he walks downstairs.

Nathan is dumbfounded, still processing what he saw. He snaps out of it, enters his room door, and closes the door behind him.

INT. YUSMARG CATHEDRAL/ DINING ROOM - EVENING

The entire family eats supper together, laughing and talking. The family eats linguine pasta with fresh beef smothered in tomato sauce and vegetables, a side salad, and slices of bread seasoned with garlic and rosemary.

Nathan sits next to John again.

JOHN

Today, I showed Nathan here the
Yusmarg village and the villagers!

The family claps.

JOHN

Tell the family what thou thinketh
of Yusmarg.

The family silently anticipates Nathan's reply. They all stare at him intently.

Nathan is on the spot and careful about his words.

NATHAN

It was great.

A beat.

NATHAN

The villagers are all so welcoming.

The family smiles at the response.

CAROLINE

Oh, I remember the first time I
came to Yusmarg. It was about 30
years ago now.

NATHAN

So, you decided you wanted to stay?

CAROLINE

Why yes.

NATHAN

You never left?

CAROLINE

I had no reason to.

(CONTINUED)

OSCAR

Likewise.

NATHAN

But what about the family you left behind?

CAROLINE

Oh, I've always been so distant. I've told them they are welcomed to come visit me here but they never made the effort.

NATHAN

Do you still keep in contact with them?

CAROLINE

I don't have a reason to. I am happy here. Yasmarg has changed my life.

Caroline smiles, Nathan superficially smiles with her.

CAROLINE

Who knows, maybe thou wilt want to stay as well.

A beat.

NATHAN

I've enjoyed my stay but Mary and I should probably get going tomorrow.

Everyone at the table stares at Nathan disappointingly; including Mary. Nathan notices.

NATHAN

If that's okay with everyone.

The family continues to stare.

JOHN

Let us all continue with supper.

The family continues to eat their supper. John turns his attention to Nathan.

JOHN

(to Nathan)

I will like to speak with thee after supper.

(CONTINUED)

NATHAN

Of course.

John smiles as he chews a slice of garlic bread.

INT. YUSMARG CATHEDRAL/ JOHN'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Nathan sits in a chair across from John. John sits at an elegant office desk, with filled bookshelves behind him.

Nathan notices some decoration in John's office. There is a display glass hanging on a wall above John's head. Inside of the display is a sword, an intricate sword, sleek, and sharp along with a short dagger.

JOHN

I called thee into this space
because I want to be assured thou
wilt take care of Mary.

NATHAN

Of course John.

JOHN

Promise me thou will embrace her,
love her, and protect her for all
eternity.

NATHAN

I promise John. I am so committed
to her.

JOHN

I need to know she is taken care of
when I am gone.

NATHAN

What do you mean gone?

A beat.

JOHN

Son, I have news for thee.

John appears grim now. Nathan has his attention.

NATHAN

What? What is it?

A beat.

(CONTINUED)

JOHN
I shall be dead soon.

Nathan's eyebrows furrow.

NATHAN
What are you talking about?

JOHN
Death. Tis coming for me.

Nathan looks confused.

JOHN
Don't worry, I am ready. Mary knows
and the rest of my daughters know
too. Death is coming for Caroline
as well. I just thought I should
warn thee.

NATHAN
What is the matter? Are you two
sick or something?

JOHN
Nay, our death is predetermined. I
predict it very soon. We've made
amends with the Lord, so we have no
fear.

Nathan still looks confused.

JOHN
But do not worry my son. Thou hast
a grand spiritual life ahead of
thee. It is a precious gift. Enjoy
it.

Nathan smiles uncomfortably, this is too unsettling for him.
He rises to his feet.

NATHAN
Okay, I think I should be going to
bed now.

JOHN
I agree, I am tired as well. I have
to get my rest. I will be preaching
morrow morning at eight in the
Yusmarg sanctuary. It shall be my
very last sermon. I will like thee
to be there.

NATHAN
Okay, no problem.

Nathan walks towards the door and exits out of the door.

INT. YUSMARG CATHEDRAL/ MARY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Nathan walks inside of the room and sees Mary in bed, still up reading a book. He closes the door behind him.

MARY
Hey.

NATHAN
Hey.

Nathan walks towards the bed, taking his clothes off, changing into night clothes. Nathan's face looks disturbed, Mary notices.

MARY
What's wrong?

A beat.

NATHAN
Umm, your father told me something a bit odd.

MARY
About his death? And my mother's?

Nathan is puzzled.

NATHAN
Yes. Are you not concerned?

MARY
It's all in God's plan.

Nathan looks confused and Mary chuckles.

MARY
Come here.

Nathan joins Mary in the bed and moves closer to her as she sits up. She shows him the title of the book she reads: "THE GOSPEL OF THE VESSEL".

MARY
The Church of The Vessel is the religion we practice here in
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

MARY (cont'd)
Yusmarg. The religion was
constructed thirteen generations
ago by my ancestors and we continue
to practice it today.

Nathan takes this in.

NATHAN
But I thought you were a Christian.

MARY
I am, this branch of Christianity
is very small. It's unheard of
outside of Yusmarg. So many
Christians out of Yusmarg aren't
getting the true word from the Holy
Spirit.

Mary flips through the pages. As she flips through, Nathan
sees archaic illustrations of:

A man and woman cutting a large man's chest with a dagger
together...

A man and woman having sexual intercourse ...

A man decapitating another man with a sword...

Nathan is perplexed. A beat.

MARY
Anyway, my father truly believes in
this passage.

Mary continues to flip through the book, looking for a
specific passage. She finds it and begins to read.

MARY
"The Vessel knows when death is
near. He can sense it and feel it
in his bones. The Lord hath giveth
the Vessel a vision of his death.
When his eldest or only child is in
the presence of love, he can smell
an earthly death where a heavenly
life begins. The Vessel and his
wife shall enter the gates of
heaven together, their bond
unyielding. "

Nathan absorbs the scripture but it isn't resonating with
him.

NATHAN

I don't understand.

MARY

Because we are in love, my father believes his and my mother's death are near.

NATHAN

That's ludicrous.

MARY

Don't mock my father.

NATHAN

It just doesn't make sense. It looks like Rachel and Oscar are in love why aren't your parents dead now?

MARY

It's different with us.

NATHAN

What do you mean?

MARY

I am the eldest. He believes when his eldest daughter is in love, earthly death will seek him and my mother.

NATHAN

You believe this too?

MARY

I believe every word in this book.

Nathan scratches his head.

NATHAN

Does he believe I am the reason for their impending death? Is that why he keeps giving me the creeps?

MARY

He just believes it is their predestined fate granted to them by the Holy Spirit.

Nathan is still confused and laughs a little. A beat.

(CONTINUED)

NATHAN

On that note, when are we leaving tomorrow?

Nathan smiles a little. Mary looks stunned and is silent.

NATHAN

Hello? Mary? What time are we getting out of here tomorrow?

Mary snaps out of it.

MARY

Right, we shall leave right after the morning service.

Mary smiles at Nathan.

MARY

Now, lets go to bed. There's a long day ahead of us tomorrow.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

Charlotte Scott lies on a hospital bed. She has many tubes attached to her body including a ventilator; she breathes steadily. Nathan dreadfully stares at her.

She opens her eyes wearily, processing her environment. She spots Nathan, her eyes widen but only slightly. Tears fall out of Nathan's eyes.

NATHAN

(whispering)

Hey mom.

Charlotte is silent, clearly unable to speak.

NATHAN

I know it's been a long time.

A beat.

NATHAN

We haven't seen each other in about six years now. Sorry our reunion is under these circumstances.

Another beat.

(CONTINUED)

NATHAN

I just wanted to say, thank you for everything. It kills me that I wasn't there for you, when you needed me the most.

Nathan mourns in sorrow now, trying to be strong but guilt overrides him.

NATHAN

I could've been there to take care of you, I should've been there! It shouldn't end like this!

Charlotte haltingly creeps her hand closer to Nathan, her hand still stationed on the hospital bed.

Nathan observes her attempt to touch him. Nathan grasps her hands very delicately; he mourns aloud, not so guarded this time.

NATHAN

I love you mom. I always have. I always will.

Charlotte stares directly into Nathan's eyes for a moment, communicating "I love you too". About five seconds later, she gradually begins to close her eyes.

NATHAN

Mom!?

Her eyes are shut now. The ventilator BEEPS.

NATHAN

No! Mom! MOM!!!

INT. YUSMARG CATHEDRAL/ MARY'S ROOM - DAWN

Nathan wakes up bedraggled in sweat. He gasps for air, slowly catching his breath. Mary is sound asleep next to him. Nathan realizes he was dreaming and sighs.

INT. YUSMARG CATHEDRAL/ SHOWER - DAWN

Nathan takes a shower, still musing through the nightmare he experienced.

INT. YUSMARG CATHEDRAL/ MARY'S ROOM - EARLY MORNING

Nathan is soaked and wet. He has a towel wrapped around his waist. He sees his suitcase and rummages through it, he is searching for something specific, it's not there.

Mary is awake and dresses herself with a white robe.

MARY
Good morning.

NATHAN
Good morning.

Nathan checks his pants, shirt pockets, inside the drawer, under the bed; nothing. Nathan appears agitated now.

NATHAN
Have you seen my pills?

MARY
No, I haven't seen them.

NATHAN
I don't know where they could be, I specifically left them in the front pocket of my suitcase.

MARY
I'm sorry, I don't know what happened to them.

A beat.

MARY
You'll have time to look for them after the sermon.

NATHAN
I swear, I left them in this pocket right here.

MARY
I'm sorry babe I haven't seen them.

A beat.

MARY
Maybe this is a good thing.

NATHAN
What?

(CONTINUED)

MARY

You always told me how you were waiting for them to work. Maybe you're better off avoiding addiction from placebos.

Nathan absorbs her response.

NATHAN

Did you take my pills Mary?

A beat.

MARY

No, I didn't touch them. I promise you.

Nathan pauses to examine Mary's face, she looks innocent to him. Nathan drops the subject and continues to search for the pills.

A beat.

MARY

Do you mind wearing this to the sermon this morning? It's tradition.

Mary holds up a white clergy robe on a hanger, the same exact robe everyone in the family wears.

NATHAN

Are you kidding me?

INT. YUSMARG CATHEDRAL/ CORRIDOR - MORNING

Nathan is dressed in his all white clergy robe. He walks together with Mary, in front of them is Caroline, behind them stands Rachel, Rachel holds James, next to Rachel is Oscar.

Behind Rachel is Judith, behind Judith is Sapphira, behind Sapphira stands Miriam, behind Miriam is little Phoebe.

Caroline is the first to enter through a pair of double doors leading out of the corridor.

MARY

Come on let's go.

Mary grabs Nathan's hands tightly and they both begin to walk. Everyone one follows behind them as they enter the double doors.

INT. YUSMARG CATHEDRAL/ SANCTUARY - MORNING

Nathan and Mary enters the double doors. The double doors leads everyone on a stage, lined up against the back of the stage are nine elegant chairs.

A golden, 15 foot, statue of the crucified Jesus lies above the family, attached to the wall behind them.

Nathan looks out past the stage, the pews in the church are all filled with standing villagers dressed in their all white robes. Nathan and Mary reaches their chair, Nathan decides to sit.

MARY

Nathan, stand up!

NATHAN

Okay geez.

Nathan rises to his feet immediately. He notices that the family stands in front of their chairs as well.

They bow to the congregation. Nathan is late in bowing but catches up with the family. The congregation bows back to them.

CONGREGATION

HAIL, THE HOLY FAMILY!

Nathan looks up to the congregation, making sure he heard them correctly.

Nathan looks over to Mary, she stares back at him; she is stoic, not communicating much with her eyes.

A door opens on the left side of the stage. Out comes John dressed in his usual gown along with some additional attire. He wears a cassock, angelican rochet, traditional chimere, pleated cuffs, a tippet, and a decorated mitre.

He walks in front of the pulpit and raises his hands in the air. Nathan notices that John's hands are bare now; no gloves.

John continues to raise his hands in the air. Nathan studies John's hands, there is something strange about them; how can light beam through John's hands?

Nathan squints his eyes and is stupefied. Nathan notices the stigmata marks of Christ implanted in John's hands. John continues to raise his hands in the air; waving to the congregation. Nathan gasps.

(CONTINUED)

CONGREGATION
HAIL, THE VESSEL!

The congregation all bow to John, John accepts their admiration with a smile. Nathan watches the commotion; stupefied. John speaks into a microphone connected to the podium.

JOHN
Thank you all! Now, please have a seat!

The congregation all sit in the pews in silence. John speaks to them.

JOHN
Greetings my children.

CONGREGATION
GREETINGS!

The congregation all listen intently.

JOHN
I would like to begin by making some vital announcements. The first being, my daughter Judith hath been accepted to Crawford University and will be attending next year.

Judith stands up and the congregation claps and cheers for her. Judith smiles and waves. The applause slowly decrease and she sits back down.

JOHN
I also want to announce that my eldest daughter Mary is engaged and she hath returned to Yusmarg with her fiance Nathan Scott!

John motions for Mary and Nathan to stand. Mary stands, the congregation begins to clap.

MARY
Stand up Nathan.

Nathan slowly stands up. As soon as he is on his feet, the congregation stands, cheer, and roar into thunderous applause and bedlam.

Nathan smiles and raises his hand in the air to wave. When his hand is in the air, the noise increases in volume. Nathan is perplexed by this.

(CONTINUED)

JOHN

Please children, sing to them!

The congregation begins to sing a hymn, the exact song Nathan heard Mary and her family singing in the kitchen. The song is very melancholic yet triumphant. The song's lyrics are in Aramaic. '

Once again Nathan is uncomfortable with this much attention.

The song continues for about three minutes...

After the song ends, the congregation has a seat.

JOHN

We all wish them a happy marriage.

Mary sits down and soon after her, Nathan sits. Nathan is still perplexed.

JOHN

This is my last announcement.

A beat.

JOHN

Christ hath invaded my body, mind,
and heart for thirty years now.
I've built such a strong
relationship with him in that
duration of time. He hath warned me
about my anticipated death along
with my lovely wife.

John takes a moment to look back at his wife. Caroline gently smiles to him, shedding a tear. John focuses his attention back to the congregation.

JOHN

We have made our amends with Him,
so we harbor no fear.

A beat.

JOHN

Now, we shall continue the service
with our weekly offering, remember
to donate at least fifty percent of
thy earnings. Remember, tithing is
an act of faith based on the divine
principle that everything we have
comes from God.

John smiles to the congregation.

(CONTINUED)

JOHN

Show God thou art thankful for his sacrifice.

INT. YUSMARG CATHERDRAL - DAY/ MOMENTS LATER

The congregation is lined up, giving their tithes in a golden plate in front of the podium.

John reads from his copy of "THE GOSPEL OF THE VESSEL".

JOHN

"If thou want to invite God fully into thy life through tithes, agree in thy heart to give fifty percent of thy income for Him weekly. "

The congregation continues to give their tithes in an orderly fashion.

JOHN

"If thou keep thy promise. The Holy Spirit shall beam his light to thee in heaven. Thou shall be in his grace and his divine presence. Thou shall sing to him in glory for thou art only mere mortals. Humble thyself to him. Let thy hearts not be in vain - "

One villager, THOMAS STOKES, 35, stops in front of John. He has his wife and two young children behind him. He looks up to John pleadingly.

THOMAS

Father?

John looks down to Thomas.

JOHN

Yes?

THOMAS

I canst not pay my tithes this evening. I pray thee will understand.

JOHN

Thou must pay thy tithes like everyone else here today.

(CONTINUED)

THOMAS

But I will not have enough to feed
my children!

JOHN

This is not my problem! Pay thy
tithes!

Thomas is livid now.

THOMAS

How dare thee speak to me like
this! Thou hast no right! Thou art
a fraud!

The congregation gasps. John leers at Thomas.

JOHN

How dare thee!? How dare thee speak
blasphemy!?

John stares at Thomas, inspecting him. Thomas is not
intimidated.

JOHN

You stand before me? Proud of your
sin!?

THOMAS

How dare thee speak to me like God!
Thou art no messiah! Thou art a
mere mortal like the rest of us!
The Holy Spirit does not speak
through thee!

The congregation gasps again.

JOHN

Dost thou deny me as The Vessel?

THOMAS

Thou art not sacred. I hast seen no
miracles from thee. Jesus could
turn water into wine, walk on top
of rivers, and resurrect the dead.
Thou posses no qualities of Christ.
Thou only posses a royal lineage!
And using us to pay for thy
daughters education!

John is furious at this point. A beat.

(CONTINUED)

JOHN
 (to the congregation)
 My children. Behold a blasphemer.

The congregation all stare at Thomas with vengeance. Thomas loses his confidence a little but still remains sturdy in his stance.

JOHN
 Take him away.

Two villagers standing next to Thomas grabs his arms; holding him hostage.

THOMAS
 Let go of me!

THOMAS'S WIFE
 NO, PLEASE GOD NO!

THOMAS'S CHILDREN
 (terrified)
 DADDY! DADDY!

Thomas tries to resist, almost escaping but two other members in the congregation join in holding Thomas down on his knees.

THOMAS
 LET ME LOOSE!

One of the villagers grabs Thomas's head and plunges it against the offering table with powerful force.

BAM!

Thomas is knocked out. Thomas's nose gushes blood.

THOMAS'S WIFE
 NOOOO!!!

She cries on her knees holding her children.

Nathan is in shock, looks at Mary with terror; breathing heavily. Mary continues to be stoic; unresponsive.

The four villagers drag Thomas's body out of the church. Thomas's wife continues to cry.

The rest of the congregation continue with their offering peacefully, one pew at a time, in an orderly fashion. Nathan looks up to Mary again.

(CONTINUED)

NATHAN

What is going on Mary?

MARY

We will deal with him after the service.

EXT. YUSMARG VILLAGE/ FOREST - AFTERNOON

Nathan stands alongside with Mary and the rest of the Holy Family. Nathan looks down at his feet, he stands upon a floor of stones.

Nathan looks out to the forest trees, he sees about five skeletal figures tied to scattered trees around the forest. Some of the figures still have decaying flesh attached to them, being consumed by flies, maggots, and buzzards. Nathan is aghast.

Nathan gears his eyes to John who is in front of the Holy Family. John's back is towards them, he holds his copy of "THE GOSPEL OF THE VESSEL", watching Thomas's unconscious body that is tied to a nearby tree.

Thomas's wife continues to howl in sorrow, along with her children. She is helpless, no one to help her.

Behind the Holy Family stands the entire cult, intensely watching Thomas's body.

Thomas wakes up, his nose stopped bleeding but there is still dry blood around it, his white robe is stained with red splotches. He tries moving his arms and legs but the rope restricts him. He looks down and notices he is tied to a tree, in a standing position.

His sight is still fuzzy and unfocused. When his vision finally clears he sees John standing before him, reading out of "THE GOSPEL OF THE VESSEL."

JOHN

"Those who deny The Vessel's competence has committed a grave sin. They shall be put to death. By stones of the congregation."

John walks away to the side of the congregation. The Holy Family walks behind John, moving out of the way. There is now a large space between the villagers and Thomas.

All of the villagers lifts the stones beneath their feet and throws them directly at Thomas with all of their might. Thomas yells in pain. The stones collide with his body.

(CONTINUED)

CLUNK! THUMP! CRACK!

THOMAS

HELP!

THOMAS'S WIFE

NOOOOO!

Nathan watches in horror.

NATHAN

What is wrong with you people!?

WHAT IS WRONG WITH YOU PEOPLE!?

STOP IT!

Thomas's wife covers her children's eyes and ears with her arms as she whelps, enduring the sounds of her husband's screams.

The villagers continue to throw the stones at Thomas; repeatedly without any pauses.

CLUNK! THUMP! CRACK!

THOMAS'S WIFE

PLEASE STOP!

THOMAS

HELP! SOMEBODY! ANYBODY!

The gigantic stones hit Thomas, one impales his knee. CRACK!

His stomach. THUMP!

Thomas vomits blood. The stones continues to rain on Thomas's body, violently peeling his skin, crushing his bones, and ripping his flesh.

Nathan winces at the site.

THOMAS'S WIFE

OH MY GOD! OH MY GOD!

CLUNK! THUMP! CRACK!

THOMAS

OH GOD! FORGIVE ME!

Thomas is a bloody mess now, his body is scathed all over. His scars continue to ooze blood. Nathan continues to watch in terror.

(CONTINUED)

NATHAN
MARY!? WHAT ARE THEY DOING!? WHAT
IS GOING ON!?

Nathan tries running towards Thomas but Mary, Oscar, and Rachel all hold him down.

A stone rams into Thomas's eye.

CLUMP!

The stone rips out his right eyeball, the eyeball hits the ground, and blood rushes out of his eye socket. Nathan vomits.

THOMAS
FATHER! FORGIVE ME! FOR I HAVE
SINNED!

A stone crashes in to Thomas's mouth.

THUMP!

Thomas spits out blood and teeth from his mouth.

Another stone collides with Thomas's forehead at full force.

CRACK!

His forehead is caved in, blood and brains leaks from it. Thomas is unconscious now; silent, clearly dead.

THOMAS'S WIFE
NOOOOOOOO!

The villagers all stop, observing Thomas's bloody corpse. Nathan continues to hyperventilate.

Thomas's wife continues to mourn and sob, her children joining her. She is out of breath as she sobs, still shocked and bewildered by what she witnessed.

Mary, Oscar, and Rachel continues to hold Nathan down.

NATHAN
WHAT THE FUCK IS WRONG WITH YOU
PEOPLE!? WHAT THE FUCK IS WRONG
WITH YOU PEOPLE!?

John walks in front of the congregation reading from "THE GOSPEL OF THE VESSEL."

(CONTINUED)

JOHN

"Let his soul enter the damnation
of Hell. For he may suffer
eternally for his wicked sin."

CONGREGATION

AMEN!

NATHAN

YOU ALL ARE FUCKING PSYCHOS!

John turns over to Nathan. Then he looks over to Mary,
Oscar, and Rachel.

JOHN

Silence him.

Rachel and Oscar all hold Nathan's body down as Mary takes
his head and smashes it unto a nearby tree.

SMASH!

BLACKOUT.

INT. YUSMARG CATHEDRAL/ PRAYER CHAMBER - NIGHT

Nathan wakes up frenziedly, processing his surroundings. His
vision is still blurry and unclear. He notices that his body
is constricted and tied, he lies on a cold, stone platform.

Nathan lies on his back, looking up to the ceiling of this
dark chamber. Nathan notices a blurred figure standing above
him. His vision gradually becomes sharper.

He sees John standing before him, staring at him directly in
the eyes; kneeling down. Nathan looks around the room, the
room is lighted with dim candles on tall, slender candle
holders, only slightly illuminating the adumbral chamber.

Nathan notices that the Holy Family surrounds him in a
circle, all eight of them; Caroline, Mary, Rachel, Oscar,
Judith, Sapphira, Miriam, and Phoebe.

Behind the family, half-hidden in the shadows, are eleven
marble pillars, aligned next to each other. Placed on top of
each pillar is a glass container, each one filled with
preservation fluid and the decapitated head of a male.

Nathan's eyes widen in terror but his body is still weak;
unable to move. John kneels closer to Nathan, examining his
face.

(CONTINUED)

JOHN

He's up now.

Nathan appears terrified, only half conscious, still unable to communicate verbally.

JOHN

Hello Nathan. We were waiting for thee to awaken.

Nathan shakes in fear, trying to escape the constriction of the ropes.

JOHN

Before I leave this earth. I must confess to thee.

A beat.

JOHN

I took thy medication away from thee.

A beat.

JOHN

I noticed agitation in thee. I asked Mary about it. She confessed to me thou art suffering, suffering from depression. Thou choose to consume anti-depressants because of the guilt.

A beat.

JOHN

Thou were the only child. Thy mother a single parent. She could only depend on thee. Unfortunately, thou were too busy for her. Even on her death bed, thy career was more important. She passed away from breast cancer; right before thine eyes.

Nathan eyes well up with tears, they trickle down the sides of his face.

JOHN

Don't worry Nathan. Thou hast my sympathy. I know the treacherous impact of losing one's parents. I lost both of mine thirty years ago right after I married Caroline.

(CONTINUED)

A beat.

JOHN

But be aware that here in Yusmarg we do not believe in psychiatric medicine. Thou dost not need them, thou only need God's mercy. Those pills are tainted and impure. We need thee to be pure this night.

John takes out his "THE GOSPEL OF THE VESSEL" book and turns to a passage.

JOHN

"The demon of depression. One of the most hazardous to the human spirit. When manifested it can cause sorrow, anger, resentment. It can haunt the human mind and lead to a dark path away from God's light."

John lays his book on a nearby wooden stand. On top of the stand is a case of holy water and a golden crucifix. John takes the holy water and crucifix from the stand. He opens the case of the holy water. John sprinkles holy water on Nathan, holding the cross towards Nathan's body.

JOHN

May the power of Christ compel thee demon! Leave out of Nathan Scott's body! Leave his body untainted and pure!

Nathan is still silent and confused at this point; there is no affect.

JOHN

I saith out demon!

John sprinkles more water on Nathan. John begins to speak in tongues abruptly.

JOHN

Ah sha la la la la bo ka le ta ta
la ma ka!

John closes his eyes intensely.

JOHN

Ah ba la la la la te ma boo ka sha
sha te ma!

John profusely sweats now, clutching tightly to the cross.

(CONTINUED)

JOHN

Fa ka la meh meh meh ta la ka bleh
 ah! Re le ya ya ya meh meh meh ga
 ta leh meh!

John's eyes opens widely, sweat dripping from his forehead. He breathes heavily, all we hear is his steady breath in the silence, it fills the dark chamber.

All of a sudden, John jerks backwards as if an invisible force hits him. The family gasps.

John keeps steady and balances himself against this force. John grips the cross tighter and extends his arm as far as he can.

JOHN

TAAA LEEHHH KA LA LA LAAAA SHA TEH
 MAAAA FOO KAA LEHHH TAAAAHHHHH!!!

John prolongs his screaming and stops momentarily. John's echo resonates in the room. Nathan continues to stare at John, perplexed about what he just witnessed.

John continues to breathe heavily, catching his breath, and dripping with sweat. He wipes his forehead with a handkerchief from his pocket. His hands on his knees.

Caroline runs towards him with a goblet of water. John gulps the entire goblet without hesitation. John proceeds with his gasping and turns to Mary.

JOHN

(gasping)

It is gone now.

A beat.

JOHN

Are there any other demons we
 should know about?

MARY

No father.

A beat.

JOHN

Untie him and get ready for the
 Holy Sacrament.

John exits the chamber through a backdoor. Mary, Rachel, and Oscar untie Nathan. Nathan quietly mumbles words.

(CONTINUED)

NATHAN

Whe - whe- wher...?

MARY

Shhh, Nathan. Don't worry.
Everything is going to be okay.

Mary helps Nathan to stand up, he still feels a bit dizzy but can manage himself.

MARY

Follow me, Nathan.

Mary helps Nathan walk out to the back door of this mysterious chamber.

EXT. YUSMARG CATHEDRAL/ BACKYARD - NIGHT

Mary continues to help Nathan walk. Nathan looks out to the yard and sees tiki torches set up across the entire backyard of the cathedral, creating a wide, circular barrier along the yard, igniting the night.

The villagers all cheer at the presence of the Holy Family.

Nathan squints his eyes, inside of the barrier are the villagers, all in nude; their skin glowing amber and red against the firelight.

They stand around a twenty foot wooden cross. The cross has a purple drape wrapped around the crossbar and a crown of thorns rests above it.

On the other side of the barrier is a wedding arbor placed in front of the monumental grave site.

Mary continues to help Nathan walk. They walk towards a raised stage with nine elegant seats stationed in the back. Caroline in front of them, and everyone else follows behind.

The Holy Family bows to the congregation.

CONGREGATION

HAIL, THE HOLY FAMILY!

The Holy Family takes their seats. John stands at the front of the stage waving his hands. Nathan notices the stigmata marks again, it makes him shudder. The congregation bows again.

(CONTINUED)

CONGREGATION
HAIL, THE VESSEL!

John speaks into the microphone attached to podium. His voice resonates through speakers.

JOHN
Greetings all!

CONGREGATION
GREETINGS!

JOHN
I will like to ask my daughter Mary
and her fiance Nathan to please
step forward.

MARY
(to Nathan)
Come on lets go.

Mary grabs Nathan's arm. Nathan is reluctant to stand but does it out of fear. Mary and Nathan both rise to their feet and walks towards John and looks out to the crowd. Nathan is astonished about the number of people he sees, hundreds.

John reads out of "THE GOSPEL OF THE VESSEL."

JOHN
"When the eldest or only child of
The Vessel decides to wed. There
shall be a holy ceremony. The Holy
Sacrament..."

The villagers all clap and holler in chaos; some howl to the moon, others dance feverishly and chants. John raises his hands to the congregation. They are silent now.

JOHN
"The Holy Sacrament shall be
celebrated into three segments. The
Holy Communion, The Holy Matrimony,
and The Holy Transfer."

A beat.

JOHN
Let us bow our heads in prayer
before the commencement.

The congregation closes their eyes and bows their heads. John closes his eyes too.

(CONTINUED)

JOHN

Most sacred Jesus, dear Lord dost thou hearest me? Thank you for bringing us all together for the Holy Sacrament.

A beat.

JOHN

I accept from thy hands the kind of death it may please thee to send me this night with all its pains, penalties, and sorrows; in reparation for all of my sins, for the souls in Purgatory, for all those who will die this night and for thy greater glory. Amen.

CONGREGATION

AMEN!

John opens his eyes and smiles to the congregation and begins reading from "THE GOSPEL OF THE VESSEL" again.

JOHN

"In The Holy Communion, The Vessel shall choose one villager willing to sacrifice themselves for the Holy Family..."

Nathan looks over to Mary, stupefied.

NATHAN

Mary...what is...?

John looks out to the villages.

JOHN

May the sacrifices please come forward.

About twenty of the corpulent villagers furiously huddle around the front of the stage, all begging to be chosen.

CORPULENT VILLAGER

Please choose me master!

CORPULENT VILLAGER #2

I weigh 317 pounds! Use me thy majesty!

(CONTINUED)

CORPULENT VILLAGER #3

I long to be with the Lord. Let my
body nourish thee!

John looks out to the crowd, scanning through them. John spots a silent sacrifice, reticently bowing down; serene and zen. John smiles to himself, satisfied with him.

JOHN

You there.

The sacrifice looks up to John, mesmerized.

SACRIFICE

Yes, father.

JOHN

I choose thee!

The sacrifice is dumbfounded, shaking in bliss.

SACRIFICE

Me, father?

JOHN

Yes, come hither to the stage.

The sacrifice rushes to the stage smiling; almost hyperventilating.

The village claps for him, as well as the other sacrifices. The sacrifice reaches the stage. John smiles to him.

JOHN

Please lie down.

The sacrifice happily lies down on the stage, crazed and delirious.

JOHN

(to Mary and Nathan)

Please kneel down before him.

Mary kneels down by the sacrifice, she grabs Nathan's hands and forces him to kneel down with her.

Caroline elegantly walks over towards Nathan and Mary. Caroline carries a velvet pillow, on top of the pillow is a sharp and sleek dagger.

She reaches them and bows down. Caroline pushes the pillow in her hands closer to Nathan and Mary. Mary carefully grabs the dagger and holds it by its handle.

(CONTINUED)

JOHN

"The husband and wife to be shall send this sacrifice to heaven. For he chooses to give his life for the Holy Family during the Holy Sacrament..."

MARY

(to Nathan)

Please join me.

Mary suggests to the dagger.

NATHAN

Mary...I can't...

JOHN

If thou refuses to participate in the Holy Sacrament then thou has committed a grave sin. You have dishonored The Vessel therefore you have also dishonored The Lord. If thou chooses to dishonor The Lord above, then thou shall be stoned to death by the congregation.

Nathan looks out to the congregation across from him. Every last one of them penetrates him with malicious stares, threatening him.

He reluctantly grips the dagger with Mary, his hand shaking. Mary slowly leads the tip of the dagger right below the neck of the sacrifice, lightly piercing his skin. The sacrifice beams in ecstasy; clearly still delirious.

Mary punctures the skin of the sacrifice, piercing his skin. Nathan gasps in shock. The sacrifice yelps in pain but ironically begins smiling, blood spilling from his chest.

SACRIFICE

I'm going to meet the Lord!
Rejoice! REJOICE!

The villagers all clap and cheer in an ocean of bedlam.

Mary carefully slides the dagger down the sacrifice's chest, ripping his skin, blood seeping from his body. He continues to yelp in a medley of joy and pain.

The dagger creates a long incision in his body, the incision reaches his stomach, blood gushes out of his stomach along with some intestines.

(CONTINUED)

The sacrifice is silent now; dead. Nathan quickly lets go of the dagger; breathing heavily, having a panic attack.

JOHN

"May the body of the sacrifice be consumed by the Holy Family. They shall eat his flesh and drink his blood in remembrance of Jesus Christ, who died to save us all from sin."

John looks up from his book and smiles to the congregation.

JOHN

Let us feast!

The villagers create bedlam again.

EXT. YUSMARG CATHEDRAL/ BACKYARD - NIGHT

The corpse of the sacrifice hangs horizontally above an open fire. Much of the corpse's flesh has been dismembered, the figure is unrecognizable, resembling an animal carcass.

The fire roasts the corpse, the flesh burns and sizzles in the firelight.

Diane nurses the corpse under the fire.

EXT. YUSMARG CATHEDRAL/ BACKYARD - NIGHT

The Holy Family all sit together at a table set up on stage. John is at the head as always and Nathan is to his side. The family eats, chats, and laughs together. Nathan watches with a disturbed face, traumatized. He stares at Mary but she ignores him, talking to her sisters.

Nathan looks out to the villagers, they all dance and gyrate around the erect wooden cross in a reverie trance, drinking out of goblets and eating bread. Some villagers hold hands in a circle prancing around the cross like children, chanting playfully in Aramaic. To the side, some villagers stir a mysterious liquid in a black cauldron.

Nathan looks back to his table. Lying right beside him is a goblet filled with a peculiar velvet liquid, inside of the liquid are chunks of leaves, perhaps from an indigenous plant of some kind.

(CONTINUED)

Nathan looks at the golden plate right next to the goblet. The plate consists of peppered asparagus, roasted potatoes with garlic seasoning, and a peculiar looking meat, covered in a gray and savory gravy. Nathan looks at the family again, watching them all devour their meat horridly.

John decides to tap his goblet with a fork, trying to get everyone's attention.

TINK! TINK! TINK!

The family all look up to John and John smiles to them all in pure bliss. The family cease all activity.

JOHN

My beautiful, beautiful family.

The family beams at John.

JOHN

I just want to say what an honor it is to have thee as my earthly family, as you all know I will go soon, along with my lovely wife.

Caroline smiles to John, tears fall out of their eyes together.

JOHN

I just want to say that I love each and every one of you.

The family appears forlorn.

JOHN'S DAUGHTERS

We love you too.

All of his daughters including Mary walks up to him and hugs him in a group. They are silently crying, except Miriam and Phoebe who are wailing loudly. John kisses each of them on the cheek, continuing to shed tears.

JOHN

But do not harbor fear my family. I will always be with thee, just like the past Vessels before me.

A beat.

JOHN

Now, be good girls and take thy seats.

(CONTINUED)

His daughters slowly take their places again at the table, wiping their tears. John wipes his tears with a nearby napkin and clears his throat.

JOHN

But tonight is not about me. Tis
about Mary and Nathan!

John claps and the family joins him. John holds his goblet up in the air.

JOHN

To Mary and Nathan!

EVERYONE

To Mary and Nathan!

JOHN

For they shall wed in Holy
Matrimony tonight!

Nathan immediately darts his eyes to Mary. Mary smiles at him.

The family all clink their goblets together.

Nathan looks back at John. John looks directly into Nathan's eyes.

JOHN

I just want to thank thee. Thou art
a son to me. The son I never had.

John holds up his goblet and Nathan reluctantly does the same, they collide their goblets. The family gulps the liquid out of their goblets together. Nathan joins them.

The velvet liquid tastes metallic but also overbearingly sweet; very repugnant indeed. Nathan makes a disgruntled face.

The family all smile, clap, and, cheer together. Then the family continues to devour their supper.

Nathan focuses on John right beside him, listening to his molars grind the meat thoroughly, Nathan is disgusted. John looks up to Nathan.

JOHN

Eat the meat son, tis delicious!

Nathan looks back at his plate; horridly.

JOHN
Don't disappoint me.

John winks at Nathan, it sends a shiver down his spine.

Nathan looks at the family again and they all stare in anticipation.

Nathan slowly sticks his metal fork inside of the meat. He slowly lifts the fork and the meat attached to it with his mouth. He reluctantly presses his two front teeth and bottom teeth together to rip a tiny portion of the flesh and accepts the meat on his tongue. He chews very slowly, his face very disgruntled, and he swallows; GULP!

The family cheers, claps, and smiles.

Nathan looks sick to his stomach, his face distorted again; he is clearly nauseated. He rapidly turns his head around his chair and vomits on the floor.

John and the family hysterically laughs.

JOHN
Don't worry my son, tis only your
first time.

A beat.

JOHN
Elizabeth! Please come clean his
mess!

Elizabeth rushes to Nathan's seat, carrying a towel and wipes the vomit up.

Nathan turns towards the family, there is still a little vomit around his mouth.

JOHN
Thou hast something yonder.

John points to a spot right under Nathan's bottom lip. Nathan immediately wipes his mouth with a nearby napkin.

The family teasingly laughs at Nathan again.

Nathan looks over to Mary, scathing at her. Mary notices and looks concerned. He stands up from his seat abruptly, walks away, off the stage. Mary follows behind him.

EXT. YUSMARG CATHEDRAL/ BACKYARD - NIGHT

Nathan continues to walk in tears away from the family, he breaks down on his knees. Mary follows behind. He sobs uncontrollably now. Mary tries to embrace him, but he resists violently and she backs away.

MARY

Nathan!? What is wrong with you!?

NATHAN

(heated)

What is wrong with me!? Are you fucking serious!? Explain to me why I witnessed two deaths, played the part in one of them, and just ate human flesh!

MARY

Thomas deserved it for being a blasphemer and the sacrifice was willing to give his life for us for the Holy Sacrament. What is wrong with that?

NATHAN

What is going on here!? What are you trying to do to me!?

MARY

What?

NATHAN

If you all are trying to kill me, just do it already!

MARY

Nathan!? We are not trying to kill you!

NATHAN

I want to go now! Where are the keys!?

MARY

Nathan, you do not understand, you can't leave, we have to finish the rest of the Holy Sacrament. We have to wed tonight.

NATHAN

If you think I am marrying you after this you've got to be delusional!

(CONTINUED)

MARY

The completion of the Holy
Sacrament is my father's wish.
Please do not dishonor him. I don't
know what he will do.

Nathan sobs again, realizing his defeat.

NATHAN

You knew! You knew this entire time
even before we made this trip that
I would be forced into this! All of
this! You forced me into this God
forsaken, fucked up place, without
telling me a goddamn thing! You set
me up! There is no way to escape!
And I'm left without a goddamn
choice! Oh wait, unless I want a
fucking stone in my brain!

MARY

Nathan, we are not trying to kill
you, we just -

NATHAN

What did we say about keeping
secrets Mary!?

Mary looks guilty while Nathan pierces her with a menacing
glare.

MARY

Nathan trust me, you will thank me
in the long run for this, all of
this.

Nathan burns Mary with a leer, extremely heated.

NATHAN

Fuck you Mary. Fuck you.

Mary is taken aback by his comment. Nathan storms away.

EXT. BACKYARD/ WEDDING ARBOR - NIGHT

John, Nathan, Caroline, and the rest of the family stands
under the white wedding arbor placed in front of the Yusmarg
graveyard.

John holds his copy of "THE GOSPEL OF THE VESSEL" and smiles
at Nathan. Nathan looks jaded and worn out, clearly tired,
his vision begins to blur, nothing is clear.

(CONTINUED)

Nathan looks out to the congregation, the tiki fires continues to ignite them and the night.

The congregation continue to dance and gyrate, split into two separate groups shaped like squares, creating a walkway in between the two groups.

Mary steadily and gracefully walks in the middle of the walkway, dressed in an all white gown, wearing a crown of white lilies, and carrying a bouquet of them. She resembles a goddess.

As she walks, the congregation cease all action and bow to their knees to her. They begin to hum a familiar hymn (the same hymn heard in the kitchen and at the cathedral), creating majestic yet haunting music as she walks towards Nathan and the arbor.

She finally reaches the arbor and smiles at Nathan, her eyes glistens; filled with tears. The tears begin to fall out of her eyes. Nathan stares back at her clearly upset and speechless. His vision is still distorted he tries to focus his sight; vaguely seeing a frightening demon in her eyes.

JOHN

Dearly beloved, we are gathered together here, in the sight of God, and in the presence of these witnesses, to join together this man and this woman, in holy matrimony.

John turns towards Nathan.

JOHN

Nathan, wilt thou have this woman to be thy wedded wife, to live together in the holy bonds of matrimony? Wilt thou love her, comfort her, honor and keep her, in sickness and in health; and forsaking all others, keep thee only unto her so long as ye both shall live?

A beat.

NATHAN

(reluctantly)

I do.

John turns to Mary.

(CONTINUED)

JOHN

Mary, wilt thou have this man to be thy wedded husband, to live together in the holy bonds of matrimony? Wilt thou love him, comfort him, honor and keep him, in sickness and in health; and forsaking all others, keep thee only unto him so long as ye both shall live?

Mary beams at Nathan.

MARY

I do.

JOHN

Tis time to exchange the rings.

John looks over to Caroline, Caroline walks closer to Nathan, standing next to him. John stands closer to Mary. The both of them begin taking off their golden wedding rings.

JOHN

These rings have been in the Meadow's family lineage for twelve generations. I will now pass them to the thirteenth generation. May they continue to be passed on to future generations.

John hands his ring to Mary and she takes the ring. Caroline motions for Nathan to take her ring. Nathan takes the hint and takes the ring out of her hand.

JOHN

Now I ask thee to exchange the rings in holy matrimony.

Mary begins first, slowly grabbing Nathan's hand. She places the golden ring on his right hand, on the ring finger. Nathan does the same to Mary.

JOHN

I now pronounce thee husband and wife. Thou may kiss the bride!

Nathan stares into Mary's eyes, her eyes are all black, she resembles a demon again. Nathan does a double take and looks at Mary again, she appears normal suddenly.

(CONTINUED)

Mary looks concerned. Nathan snaps out of it and kisses Mary, forcefully. Mary happily accepts. John and Caroline clap their hands in triumph.

The congregation clap and cheer, dancing and gyrating once again.

Nathan lets go of the kiss. Mary waves her hands to the crowd as they continue to cheer. John looks to Mary.

JOHN

Tis time my dear.

Without any hesitation Mary begins to undress herself. Nathan watches in bewilderment.

John looks over to Nathan.

JOHN

Take thy clothes off son.

NATHAN

Why?

JOHN

Thou shall conceive a child to assure the continuation of the Meadows lineage.

Nathan takes in the information submissively.

Nathan looks over to Mary, she is completely naked now, she lies down with her back on the ground.

Nathan awkwardly takes his robe and underpants off. John seems satisfied.

Nathan is completely naked now, standing before the entire congregation.

John raises his hands in the air and the congregation cease all activity. They are silent, attentively listening.

JOHN

We gather tonight on the graveyard of our ancestors! For tonight the bride and groom shall conceive the future heir of Yusmarg!

The congregation cheers and then transitions into a Aramaic chant.

John signals Nathan. Nathan is apprehensive but slowly walks towards Mary lying under the arbor, with her legs open, waiting for him.

Nathan uncomfortably gets on top of Mary. Mary stares directly in his eyes and Nathan stares back. Her face becomes warped into a demon again.

MARY

Are you ready my love?

He looks at her again and she is back to normal. Nathan says nothing but forces his body against Mary's. Mary gasps in shock and pleasure. Nathan thrusts again, Mary gasps again as Nathan grunts.

Nathan continues to force his body against Mary's, closing his eyes; grunting. Nathan is very uncomfortable. The villagers continues to chant, becoming delirious.

Nathan begins to force his body deeper unto Mary's. His body repeatedly propels Mary's body. The sounds of the chant sinking in his ears.

Nathan begins to lose control of his body; he opens his eyes widely, staring directly in Mary's eyes, sweating, grunting, and gasping. Nathan huffs and puffs, building a rhythm.

Nathan sees Mary's face is disfigured again into a demon, all black beady eyes staring into his, but he is unfazed, and continues to mate.

The chanting continues to sink in his ears, possessing him, he looks crazed. Mary grips the soil beneath her body, moaning.

Nathan continues to ram his body against Mary's; she wails. He propels harder and harder with each thrust. His skin slapping viciously against Mary's, the sound coincides with Aramaic chant.

SLAP! SLAP! SLAP!

Mary and Nathan groans and grunts in pleasure.

SLAP! SLAP! SLAP!

Mary and Nathan's groans elevates into hollers. Sweat dripping from the both of them.

SLAP! SLAP! SLAP!

(CONTINUED)

Nathan's eyes widen, as if something is sucking his life force away. Then, Nathan moans in pleasure and bliss, releasing himself, the moan prolongs, his body spasms.

Nathan gasps for air, his mouth gaped opened and staring down at Mary. His body is still now, only his torso contracts back and forth for air. His sweat drips on top of Mary. Mary beams to him, she is out of breath as well, her face back to normal.

MARY
(breathlessly)
Thank you, my love.

Her smile becomes wider. A beat.

MARY
We did it. I believe our baby has
been conceived.

Mary kisses Nathan, Nathan passionately kisses Mary back. John smiles at Nathan and Mary.

The congregation cheers and gyrate once again.

Nathan rises up on his feet heavily, still catching his breath. Mary does the same. Mary bows to the congregation and Nathan looks out to the crowd.

The congregation's faces are all deformed, resembling ghoulish demons, with horns, tails, and bat-like wings.

The fire continues to ignite the villagers and the night, creating a Hell-like atmosphere. Nathan is terrified and does a double take, they appear normal now.

John continues to smile at Nathan and Mary and holds up his hands to the crowd. The crowd is silent.

JOHN
Now, tis time for the final
ceremony of tonight, The Holy
Transfer.

John open his "THE GOSPEL OF THE VESSEL" book and begins to read it.

JOHN
"Now that the husband and wife has
wedded and conceived the future
heir, "The Vessel" must transfer
the Holy Spirit to the new king,
for only a male can host the spirit
of Christ..."

Nathan looks over to John, John resembles Satan in the flesh; the horned-devil in his purest form. John looks over to Nathan. Nathan jumps in fright.

JOHN
Come hither son.

Nathan slowly walks over to John in fear, still naked. Nathan reaches John, John notices Nathan's fearful reaction, John smiles to him.

NATHAN
Am I in Hell?

John laughs. His voice is not the same, he sounds diabolical and sinister.

JOHN
I told thee before my son, there is no reason to harbor fear. I see fear in thine eyes and heart. Thou art afraid of me because thou fear thyself. Thou still need healing in thy mind, body, and heart.

A beat.

JOHN
Hast thou seen God before?

Nathan continues to stare at the haunting creature in front of him, dumbfounded.

NATHAN
No sir.

JOHN
Thou shall see Him tonight.

A beat.

JOHN
Kneel down before me.

Nathan kneels down submissively. John place's his right hand on Nathan's forehead, still appearing like Satan.

JOHN
Oh God! Dost thou hearest me!? Come down and bless this young man! Heal his heart from sorrow and pain! Wash him with thy blood, show him thy mercy and grace father! So that
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

JOHN (cont'd)
thou can posses his mind, body, and
heart!

Nathan looks up to the clear night sky. Scattered across the sky is an array of bright stars, scintillating in the night. Nathan focuses on one star in particular, placed in the center of the sky, shining brighter than the others.

The star's light expands.

JOHN
Lord God, I beg of thee to descend
and lay thy hands on him! Lay thy
hands on him! Heal him Lord! Heal
him!

Nathan watches the light expand across the sky. He sees a figure slowly descending from the sky. Nathan gazes in astonishment. The shape of the figure is unclear, it is a glaring white light slowly descending to the ground.

The figure finally stands under the arbor next to John. We can only see the feet of the figure, there is a punctured hole impaled in each of His feet.

Nathan continues to stare at the feet, awe-struck. Nathan is silent, and crawls to the figure's feet, gasping for air and sweating. He is humbled by this ethereal being, Nathan looks up to His face but we never see His face.

His body and white robe radiates fluorescent light.

NATHAN
This must be a dream.

A beat.

NATHAN
How can I feel your flesh? How can
this be real?

A beat.

NATHAN
I've resented you for so long!

Nathan begins to sob.

NATHAN
Why did you take her away from me!?
Why an innocent woman who never did
anything wrong!

(CONTINUED)

A beat.

CHARLOTTE (O.S.)
But I am not gone Nathan.

Nathan freezes completely, then slowly looks over to his left; hyperventilating.

Standing next to him is his mother Charlotte Scott, wearing a white robe, smiling down to him enchantingly, radiating as well.

CHARLOTTE
Hello, my son.

Nathan takes a pause, completely bamboozled. He crawls to her feet and kisses them as he wails, similarly like an infant. Charlotte kneels down to him and embraces her son as he cries, resting his head on her breasts.

NATHAN
Mother...I...how?

Nathan is silent now, absorbing this moment with his mother before it dissipates.

NATHAN
All I ever wanted to know is if you were okay.

Nathan continues to sob but smiles.

NATHAN
I am so happy to be able to talk to you again, to feel your flesh, to be in your presence. I've missed you so much!

CHARLOTTE
I've missed you too!

NATHAN
Where did you go?

CHARLOTTE
To heaven, resting with Him.

Nathan looks up to Charlotte.

NATHAN
How can this be?

CHARLOTTE
He is real Nathan.

A pause.

CHARLOTTE
It can always be like this.

NATHAN
What do you mean?

CHARLOTTE
You can always speak to me and see
me. I can always be here.

Nathan looks up to Charlotte curiously.

CHARLOTTE
You just have to accept Him Nathan.

The celestial being taps Charlotte on her shoulders. She looks up to His face humbled by His presence. She looks back to Nathan.

CHARLOTTE
I have to go now.

Nathan begins to cry.

NATHAN
I love you so much mom! Please
don't leave me again!

Nathan continues to embrace his mother.

CHARLOTTE
Until we meet again.

Nathan continues to hold his mother. With a blink of an eye, he notices he is holding on to thin air, Caroline has vanished.

Nathan begins to cry, tears rolling down his cheek. He looks unto the array of stars in the night, searching for her.

NATHAN
MOM! WHERE ARE YOU!?! MOM!?!

John watches Nathan attentively, absorbing Nathan's actions.

NATHAN
MOM! MOM! PLEASE COMEBACK!

John walks over to Nathan. Nathan's head dives to the ground in defeat, he sobs uncontrollably again. John places his hand on his shoulder. Nathan jumps a little, still astonished, looking around as if he is lost, he forgot where he was. John embraces him.

JOHN

Shhh, my son it will be alright.

Nathan looks up and sees John smiling down on him. His face is back to normal.

JOHN

Have you seen Him Nathan?

NATHAN

(quietly)

Yes, I have.

JOHN

And thy mother too?

A beat.

NATHAN

Yes.

JOHN

Wilt thou be willing to host the spirit of Jesus Christ into thy mind, body, and heart?

NATHAN

Yes.

JOHN

Possessing Him into thy spirit comes with the responsibility of becoming the new Vessel of Yusmarg. Wilt thou be willing to become the new Vessel? To study the sacred verses of "The Gospel of the Vessel" and to spread the word and teachings of Christ to the children of Yusmarg?

Nathan takes a pause, letting the question resonate in his mind. Nathan looks over to Mary. Mary watches, anticipating his answer.

NATHAN

More than willing.

John smiles to Nathan and so does Mary.

(CONTINUED)

Oscar gracefully walks closer to both Nathan and John carrying a sleek sword, one hand under the handle and the other under the blade.

Caroline kneels under the arbor, Judith drenches her in gasoline from a container.

JOHN

Stand up my son and face the congregation.

Nathan stands up slowly and faces the congregation, they are all bowing to him, on their hands and knees, their heads pointing towards him.

Oscar bows to John, handing him the sword. John carefully takes the sword away from Oscar. Oscar gets on his hands and knees with his head towards Nathan and John, along with the rest of the Holy Family, including Mary.

John slowly kneels down. John continues to grasp the sword, the sword penetrates the ground beneath, creating support for John to kneel.

JOHN

Heed The Sword of The Vessel,
Nathan. My blood contains the power
of Christ in it. Behead me and
drink the blood from my head. Then
ye shall possess the power of
Christ.

Nathan takes in John's words, stunned by them. He slowly walks behind John and grips the sword's handle. He pulls the sword out of the soil and holds it momentarily. His thoughts run wildly, he's conflicted.

JOHN

Do it son. I have made amends with
the Lord. It is my destiny granted
to me by the Holy Spirit.

Nathan absorbs his words once more. Nathan turns over to John's side still holding the sword, he pauses. John is on his hands and knees now, he begins to pray under his breath.

JOHN

(whispering)

Though I walk through the valley of
the shadow of death, I will fear no
evil...

Nathan lifts the sword over his head; hesitating.

JOHN

For though art with me; thy rod and
thy staff they comfort me...

Nathan screams frantically. SLINK!

Blood splatters on Nathan's face. He still holds the sword, the sword pointing down. Nathan's eyes follow the direction of the sword.

He sees John's decapitated head on the ground, blood oozes out of the head creating a ruby puddle. He is stunned and drops the sword.

Caroline takes a match and lights it, she places the match on herself. Her entire body engulfs in flames, she shrieks in pain and praise, raising her hands in the air. Nathan watches, stunned.

CAROLINE

HALLELUJAH!

The cult raises their hands in the air too.

CONGREGATION

HALLELUJAH!

Nathan grabs John's head, turns it upside, and begins drinking the blood from his head. As he drinks, the blood oozes into his mouth, dripping from the sides of his mouth unto his chest.

Caroline continues to burn to death, she is on her knees, still screaming in the process. The congregation watches her body disintegrate into ashes. Her screaming gradually ceases.

Nathan continues to consume the blood from John's head. He takes in the last few gulps and removes the head from his lips, his mouth covered in blood. He drops John's head to the ground.

THUD!

He closes his eyes, falls to his knees, and raises his hands in the air.

NATHAN

Oh dear God! I feel thee in my
body, heart, and mind! I welcome
thee Lord! I welcome thee!

A beat.

(CONTINUED)

NATHAN

Ah sha la la la bo ka sha te la ma
ka teh ba ba feh ka ma!

As Nathan continues to speak in tongues, his body begins to quiver and convulse. He feels something creep up his spine, into his lungs, into his entire body.

He screams deliriously, full of euphoria. His spine curves, making his chest protrude outwardly, contorting his body, as his eyes roll to the back of his head.

Momentarily, he sighs heavily and breathes steadily again, his chest back to normal. He looks out to the congregation, his eyes are all white, still rolled to the back of his head.

Nathan begins to speak, his voice has changed; it is humbled, serene, and silky. He speaks in Aramaic tongues.

SUBTITLES:

NATHAN

My children, I speak to thee
through Nathan Scott. I beg of thee
to welcome him in Yusmarg and to
accept him as the new Vessel.

The congregation listens attentively.

CONGREGATION

Yes, Lord.

NATHAN

Tonight, remind thyselfes of the
sins of mankind, remind thyselfes
of your desperate need for
redemption. Crucify his body the
way the blasphemers tortured me on
Calvary.

CONGREGATION

Yes, Lord.

NATHAN

Only through this will we know if
he is worthy of becoming thy
"Vessel". Only through severe
physical pain can he endure the
spiritual task of becoming thy
leader.

(CONTINUED)

CONGREGATION

Yes, Lord.

NATHAN

He shall sacrifice his body like I
did to save thee from damnation.
Crucify him and he shall be
transformed. Crucify him and thou
shall be redeemed.

All of a sudden Nathan gasps and catches his breath as if he had been suffocating, his eyes back to normal. He looks around his surroundings in panic, forgetting where he is again.

VILLAGER

GET HIM!

The entire congregation all run towards Nathan, screaming in rage and charging after him. Nathan is alarmed and immediately runs away, scared for his life as the congregation causes a riot, chasing after him.

EXT. YUSMARG FOREST - NIGHT

Nathan enters a forest and runs through it, it is thick and murky, he's not looking back. The forest is very dark and Nathan has trouble adjusting his eyes and navigating his body through it.

The villagers continue to run after him screaming and chasing him feverishly, like a mad mob. Their naked bodies dimly reflecting the moonlight.

NATHAN

HELP! SOMEBODY HELP!

The branches of the trees have sharp thorns. As Nathan runs, they scratch his skin, slashing his arms, legs, and other places on his body; blood seeps from his wounds.

All of a sudden, stone collides with the back of his head.

THUMP!

Nathan crashes to the ground, bleeding from his head. The villagers take advantage and impales him with various stones and ripping the branches from the trees, whipping his body with them.

Nathan screams for help.

(CONTINUED)

NATHAN
OH FATHER! WHY DO THEY ATTACK ME!
WHY DO THEY HATE ME!

They continue demolishing his body with stones, branches,
and with their bare hands.

NATHAN
FATHER! FORGIVE THEM! FOR THEY DO
NOT KNOW WHAT THEY ARE DOING!

Nathan is a bloody mess now, he is scratched, bruised, and
scathed.

SLASH!

THUMP!

CLUMP!

BLACKOUT.

INT. YUSMARG CATHEDRAL/ PRAYER CHAMBER - DAY

Nathan wakes up, gasping in pain and whimpering. He lies on
a stone platform, padded with bedding. His body has healed
slightly but he is still severely bruised and wounded.
Sunlight beams inside of the chamber, gleaming upon his
face.

He sees Mary standing next to him, attending to his bruises
and scars with a washcloth. There is a little wooden stand
set up next to her, on top of the stand is a bowl of
steaming liquid. She dabs the washcloth she holds in the
bowl.

She delicately dabs the washcloth on a bruise on top of
Nathan's forehead. Nathan winces in pain. Mary smiles to
him.

MARY
He lives. The Holy Sacrament is
complete.

A beat.

NATHAN
(groggily)
What happened? What happened to my
body?

(CONTINUED)

Nathan whimpers again, feeling sharp pains in his hands. He raises his hands to his face, they are wrapped in white bandages, stained with blood.

NATHAN

What happened to my hands?

Mary stares at Nathan, with concerned eyes.

MARY

I will show you.

Mary slowly unravels the bandages on Nathan's left hand in a circular motion.

Mary finishes unraveling the bandage. Nathan is bamboozled at the sight, there is a hole impaled through his palm, he gasps in shock.

Mary unravels the right hand, there is another hole impaled through his right palm. Nathan stares at his stigmata marks in disbelief.

NATHAN

How did this happen?

Mary smiles to him.

EXT. YUSMARG FOREST - DAWN/ FLASHBACK

It is the break of dawn, the sunlight barely creeping through the forest trees. The murky forest is surrounded in a thick, white, translucent mist, crowding the forest.

MARY (V.O.)

It was during the final step of The Holy Transfer.

The villagers carries Nathan's unconscious, naked, and tortured body back through the misty forest. His body laying on top of the herd of villagers. We can't tell if he is alive or dead. His body is shaped similarly to a crucifix.

EXT. YUSMARG CATHEDRAL/ GRAVEYARD - MORNING/ FLASHBACK

A blanket of gray asperitas clouds covers the entire sky above, a heavy gust blows across Yusmarg.

The villagers stands in front of the large, twenty foot tall wooden cross with purple drapes. The herd bows to it, still lifting Nathan's body above them.

(CONTINUED)

Some villagers depart from the group and walks towards the tall and erect wooden cross in unison.

The villagers lifts the cross in a group effort, struggling a bit. Finally, the cross is lifted from the soil. The group works together, slowly descending the cross, laying it on its back.

Mary has a piece of cloth in both of her hands. She reaches for the crown of thorns attached to the cross and carries it away.

The villagers places Nathan's body on the cross, aligning his arms on the patibulum and his head and legs on the stipe. They begin to wrap his elbows around the patibulum with rope; tying it in a durable knot.

Three villagers carrying hammers and nails stations themselves at the cross. One at Nathan's left hand, one at Nathan's right hand, and the other at Nathan's feet.

They begin to hammer the nails into his hands and feet.

BAM! BAM! BAM!

This awakens Nathan, he screams in pain, bloods squirts from his punctured hands and feet.

NATHAN
ARRGGGGHHH!!!

Nathan falls back into unconsciousness.

The three villagers are finished now and depart out of the way.

We see Mary standing, she studies Nathan's body. The entire cult bows to their hands and knees.

Mary continues to carry the crown of thorns. She walks delicately towards Nathan, drawing closer to his body.

MARY (V.O.)
Twas time to crown the new king.

Mary places the crown of thorns unto Nathan's head. Mary forces the crown down, making his forehead bleed in the process, blood seeping unto his face.

Mary backs away and is satisfied. She signals some of the villagers. About ten villagers run to the cross. The villagers attempt to raise the cross again. They all struggle but eventually ascends the cross, making it stand on its stipe again.

(CONTINUED)

The ten villagers looks up to Nathan's body attached to the cross. They back away, joining the other villagers in bowing to their hands and knees.

The remaining members of the Holy Family walks towards Mary. They all bow to their hands and knees. Their heads facing towards Nathan.

Lighting flashes across the gray sky. We hear the crackle of thunder spread across the horizon. BOOM!

Suddenly, rain begins to pour down, the cult remains steadfast in their bowing position; unaffected by the rain.

The rains splashes against Nathan's body, rinsing the blood stains from his face and body.

NATHAN (V.O.)
How long was I up there?

MARY (V.O.)
Six hours.

EXT. YUSMARG CATHEDRAL/ GRAVEYARD - AROUND 3 PM/ FLASHBACK

About ten villagers walks towards the cross again and slowly descends it on its back, Nathan is still attached to it.

MARY (V.O.)
After the sixth hour, we took your
body from the cross.

MOMENTS LATER...

Three villagers are stationed at Nathan's left hand, right hand, and feet, taking the iron nails out of his body and wrapping his hands and feet with white bandages

MOMENTS LATER...

The cult continues to carry Nathan's crucified body away. Mary follows along. They reach the prayer chamber.

MARY (V.O.)
And then, we placed your body here.

INT. YUSMARG CATHEDRAL/ PRAYER CHAMBER - DAY

PRESENT DAY: Mary beams to Nathan, the sunlight illuminates her face and hair, she looks angelic. Nathan is confused.

NATHAN

How long have I been here?

MARY

Three days.

Mary beams to him again.

MARY

Today is a glorious day. Rejoice.

Nathan takes a deep breath, closing his eyes, he seems elated. A beat.

NATHAN

I feel Him inside of me Mary.

MARY

I knew that you would. I knew you were the one.

She continues to smile.

MARY

You are naturally a man of faith, Nathan. Even with your atheistic views, I saw you still holding on to faith. Holding on to the inconceivable. You kept hope that one day you would see her again. I wanted to help make that come true for you. So that you could see her and accept Him.

A beat.

MARY

You are reborn Nathan.

Nathan smiles to Mary, shedding a tear.

NATHAN

You are full of surprises.

MARY

I love you Nathan.

Mary smiles and kisses Nathan on his lips romantically. Nathan happily accepts. A beat.

(CONTINUED)

Nathan looks around the room, his eyes scans across the eleven heads resting on marble pillars. A twelfth head is on display; John's head.

MARY

Father is proud of you.

Nathan smiles at John.

NATHAN

Thank you John.

A beat.

MARY

They are all waiting for you. They await the king.

Mary motions to the door. Nathan is alarmed.

NATHAN

I don't know if I can -

Mary carefully holds his crucified hand.

MARY

Yes you can. You have Him inside of you. All things are possible.

Mary smiles to him again and Nathan smiles back.

EXT. YUSMARG CATHEDRAL/ PRAYER CHAMBER - DAY

The door to the prayer chamber opens up slowly. The sweltering sun shines brightly, almost blinding Nathan.

We see Mary helping Nathan walk out side of the door. We see the stigmata implanted unto his feet. Nathan struggles, taking very small steps while Mary is by his side, holding him by the waist.

Nathan looks out to the yard, the entire cult is on their hands and knees bowing with their heads pointing towards the prayer chamber.

A cool breeze swings by while Nathan smiles to his new followers.

MARY

He has risen!

(CONTINUED)

The congregation slowly raise their heads to look at Nathan. They absorb his presence delightfully. They rise to their feet cheering and clapping in triumph. They dance, exclaiming "Rejoice!", "Hallelujah!", "Thank you Lord!", and etc.

Nathan smiles to them all, waving to them with his crucified hands.

MARY
Hail The Vessel!

CONGREGATION
HAIL THE VESSEL!

Nathan continues to raise his hands in the air, sunlight beams through his hands.

BLACKOUT

TITLE CARD: 9 MONTHS LATER

INT. YUSMARG CATHEDRAL/ SANCTUARY - DAY

CLOSE UP: Mary screams, INAUDIBLE, sweat drips from her face, she is clearly in excruciating pain.

Nathan holds her hands, wearing all of The Vessel's attire; a white robe, cassock, angelican rochet, traditional chimere, pleated cuffs, tippet, and a decorated mitre. He looks down to Mary, smiling.

The remaining members of the Holy Family are circled around them; except Judith, she is not present.

Mary lies on a raised platform, she continues to scream, in torture.

We hear BABY CRIES on the screen. Nathan's face lights up.

Nathan cuts the umbilical cord with a cutting tool and wipes the bloody baby off with towels, staining them. He then wraps the baby up with clean towels. He shows Mary the baby, she gleams at it still panting and sweating.

Then Nathan turns around, the entire sanctuary is filled with the congregation. In front of him is a golden bowl of holy water. Nathan scoops his hand inside of the bowl and splashes a little bit of water on top of the newborn's forehead, he smiles at his son.

Then Nathan holds the baby in the air horizontally. The congregation all bow to the baby at their pews.

(CONTINUED)

CHARLOTTE (O.S.)
He's beautiful Nathan.

CLOSE-UP: Nathan looks up to the ceiling, we can see his face is faintly scarred. He smiles deliriously; shedding tears.

BLACKOUT

CONGREGATION
HAIL PRINCE SOLOMON!

THE END

FADE OUT.