

ALADDIN

The Curse of the Jinn

a screenplay by
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based on the graphic novel by Radical Publishing

Second Draft
Relativity Media
06.16.2012

A grim voice speaks OVER BLACK:

PUPPETEER (O.S.)
*Beware my tale of wonders untold.
For all what glitters is not gold.*

INT. SHADOW PUPPET TENT - DUSK

A crashing GONG. A burst of smoke and light. Stage curtains part to unveil: a traveling SHADOW PUPPET SHOW in the ancient Orient.

On stage, the scene is a garden, lush as Eden. At its heart, a great TREE; beset by ethereal particles glowing in the air. Spellbinding the crowd of gathered CHILDREN.

PUPPETEER (O.S.)
In the oldest of days and times,
in a world invisible to the eye,
there lived great magical spirits
born of fire, known as Jinn.

The luminous particles conjoin, morphing into various shapes. First a dove. Then a lion. A rose. A dragon. Finally splitting into TWO FIERY SPIRITS: a MALE and a FEMALE JINN, swirling around the great tree.

Behind the stage, we see the Jinn are in fact a host of fireflies on strings, manipulated by the PUPPETEER; unaware that a pair of devilish EYES, are peeping at the show through a rip in the tent. The eyes belong to a little BOY. A grimy street urchin with shaggy hair.

PUPPETEER (O.S.) (CONT'D)
But among these Jinn two were like
no other. For despite their magic,
they longed to be like man. For he
alone knew the magic of love.

As the Jinns playfully chase each other around the tree, a MAN and a WOMAN arrive at the garden. The Jinns quickly hide, spying on the couple now sharing a kiss. Curious, the Jinns mimic the humans, drawing into a kiss of their own. Unaware of the DARK CLOUD gathering above them.

PUPPETEER (O.S.) (CONT'D)
But as they watched and learned to
love from man, the Jinn themselves
were being watched...

Peeping intently, the boy jolts at the THUNDER now striking on stage. From within the dark cloud, a DIABOLICAL FORM now rises to view. Horned and hoofed, the winged DEMON towers above the unwitting Jinn.

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

Was the Devil's eye they'd caught.
For he, who loathes mankind beyond
all things, had forbid all Jinn to
fall in love like man. But the two
defied his will...

Lunging at them, the demon pries the Jinns apart,
shackling them in chains.

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

And so the Devil, whose pride has
no end, cursed and bound them to
earthen things, casting them onto
the world of man...

Trapping the male Jinn in an OIL LAMP and the female in a
RING, the Devil hurls both into a river.

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

"If you so long to be like man,"
he said, "go then and serve him as
slaves. Grant his every wish to
feed his greed, and thus corrupt
his soul". And so, the star
crossed Jinns were torn apart.

As the lamp and ring are carried off by the river, the
peeping boy remains transfixed on the puppet show.

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

Now ages hence, rumors abound of
these ill fated Jinns. Passing
through time and the hands of men.

The ring washes ashore where some WOMEN are washing
clothes. Backdrop changes to the open sea, where a
FISHERMAN finds the lamp in his net full of fish.

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

Breeding envy, wrath, and greed
with every wish they grant...

By the river, the WOMEN bicker over the ring. Back at
home, the fisherman shows the lamp to his WIFE.

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

Now you who know of the cursed
Jinn, beware. For it is your soul
the Devil seeks to snare...

As the fisherman marvels at the lamp, the demonic shadow
of the shackled Jinn looms behind him ominously. Curtains
drop on the stage. The children gasp. Stepping out, the
puppeteer bows proudly. But to his annoyance...

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He hears giggles in the crowd. Turns to see: the magnified silhouette of the peeping boy, cast on the tent by the setting sun. Enraged, the puppeteer grabs at the grimy urchin, pulling him inside by his scruff.

PUPPETEER (CONT'D)

Enjoy the show, little thief? Have
you no mother to teach you better?

As the crowd mocks the boy, he kicks the puppeteer's shin, breaking loose. Chasing him, the puppeteer trips, crashing into his stage. As the crowd laughs louder, the nimble boy slips out of the tent, puppeteer in tow.

EXT. BAZAAR - CONTINUOUS

Rushing out his tent, the puppeteer emerges onto a colorful Silk Road BAZAAR - bustling with caravans, merchants, and mongers. Trading silks, spices and slaves.

But the boy is nowhere to be found. Peeved, the puppeteer suddenly checks his garment frantically.

PUPPETEER

My purse! I've been robbed!

A nearby blacksmith snickers, as he clangs metal.

BLACKSMITH

Welcome to Shambhala...

As the puppeteer fumes, he is unaware of the little shadow of the nimble boy, scaling a drain pipe behind him like a monkey. Quickly darting away from the bazaar, as he dashes and leaps from rooftop to rooftop.

EXT. TEMPLE ROOFTOP - LATER

High above the city, we find the boy, now perched on a Temple rooftop. His piercing gaze counting the coins he's stolen. Over his shoulder, a bird's eye view of the city:

The jewel of the Ancient Orient, SHAMBHALA rests on the snowy foothills of the mighty Himalayas. A GRAND PALACE overlooks the dense sprawl that staggers to the bustling port. Eyeing the palace, the boy pockets his loot.

EXT. STREETS - NIGHT

As darkness falls on Shambhala, the boy prowls her seedy streets, keeping to the shadows. Past raucous taverns and bordellos; hustlers, pickpockets, and brawling drunkards.

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Drawn by the smell of fresh baked bread, he approaches a bread stand, his mouth watering. The VENDOR grabs him.

VENDOR

Not this time.

As the vendor shoves him off, the boy shows him a coin. Miffed, the vendor snatches the coin.

VENDOR (CONT'D)

That should cover the last loaf
you stole. Now get lost.

He sends the boy away with a kick to the rear. The boy does not take kindly and kicks the vendor's wobbly stand, toppling it. As the vendor hastes to keep it from collapsing, the boy snatches a loaf and runs off.

Just then, he spots the puppeteer ahead, stumbling out of a tavern with a courtesan. Turning on a dime, the boy vanishes into a dark alley.

INT. BARN - LATER

Inside a dilapidated barn, we find the boy huddled amid stacks of hay. Taking shelter for the night, he shares a piece of his bread with a mule in a nearby stall. The mule gobbles up the bread, braying for more.

BOY

Settle down. We'll be eating like
kings all week.

Showing off his loot to the mule, the boy quickly digs a hole in the dirt, stashing it.

STREET KID 1 (O.S.)

Well what do we have here...

The boy whips back to see three menacing older STREET KIDS approaching from the dark.

STREET KID 2

Looks like the little mongrel's
made himself a friend.

The boy rises, covering the stash with his foot.

STREET KID 3

So this is where you been hiding.
In a barn... where you belong.

Eyeing the boy's feet, the first bully knocks the bread out of his hand. It falls in a pile of manure.

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STREET KID 1

That's not all he's hiding.

They jump him. The boy tries to fight them. But older and stronger, they take turns beating him. As he reels on the ground bloodied, the first bully digs up his loot.

STREET KID 2

Are you gonna cry now? Should we call for your father?

STREET KID 3

Too bad no one knows who he is.

The bullies laugh, walking off with his loot. As the boy boils with rage and pain, his hands begin to convulse, smoldering with heat and smoke. Wrath turning to dread:

BOY

(under breath)

No. Not again...

In an instant, his hands erupt in a burst of FLAMES. Setting the nearby hay ablaze, the fire quickly spreads.

Looking back, the bullies are shocked to see the barn suddenly consumed in flames. As the structure begins to fall apart, they dash out.

About to escape, the boy sees the horses and mules, bucking about wildly, trapped in their stalls. He turns back, freeing them. But as they stampede out, the boy is knocked down, trapped in the now collapsing inferno.

Darting and dodging the burning debris with uncanny agility, the boy vanishes in the fire.

EXT. BARN - SAME

Consumed in flames, he comes bursting out of the barn. But falling down, he is amazed to discover the flames receding into his flesh without harming him.

With alerted locals now hasting to the scene, the boy vanishes into the night.

EXT. STREETS - LATER IN THE NIGHT

Beneath the moonlit shadow of the palace, the boy wanders the ominous streets aimlessly. Covered in soot and grime. Stomach growling. Just then...

A strange, melancholic SONG emanates from a dark corner.

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Warily approaching the sound, the boy spots: a hooded BLIND DERVISH, humming to himself in solitude.

The beggar's pale face and beard match his eerie white eyes. Unaware of the boy - now quietly nearing him with an eye on his cup of alms.

Easy pickings. Stealing the cup with stealth, the boy turns to leave. But burdened by guilt, the boy turns back, quietly returning the cup.

The Dervish suddenly grabs the boy's hand with unnatural speed and strength. Unnerved, the boy pleads.

BOY

On my soul. I was returning it.

DERVISH

I know.

To the boy's surprise, the Dervish lets go.

DERVISH (CONT'D)

No need to be scared boy. What is your name?

BOY

I... don't know.

DERVISH

But I do. And soon so shall all the world. Give me your palm and I'll read you your stars.

Mesmerized, the boy offers his palm. The Dervish traces its lines with his gnarled ancient hands. Smirking.

DERVISH (CONT'D)

Your name is Aladdin. And you are destined for glory, my son. For you are of Magi blood. The fire worshippers of old. It is said the Magi are favored by the stars.

Skeptical, the boy - ALADDIN - withdraws his hand.

ALADDIN

Come now, Dervish. I'm too old for fairy tales.

DERVISH

I tell no tale boy. You know your gift. You've seen its power.

Young Aladdin falls silent. Eyeing his hands.

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ALADDIN

But... what if I hurt someone?

DERVISH

You musn't fear who you are. A Magi can heal just as he can hurt. Create just as he can destroy. You my boy were born to become a legend. Your name spoken on the lips of men for ages to come. For you can have all that you want, so long as you heed your desires.

ALADDIN

If you say so, Dervish. If you say so...

DERVISH

Boy... I know so.

He gives Aladdin the coins he had tried to steal.

DERVISH (CONT'D)

Go on now. Get something to eat.

Baffled, Aladdin takes them, walking off. But looking back, he is astonished to find: the Dervish has vanished. He eyes the now eerily vacant alley in awe. Darkened by the shadows of the moonlit palace, beneath the stars.

CUT TO:

EXT. MARKET - DAY

TITLE: *"Marrakesh. 15 Years Later."*

Amid a bustling market, we hone on a dignified old man. Dressed in a long robe, he dons an ancient RING inlaid with a SAPPHIRE STONE. Meet SALIM, an alchemist.

Buying fruit and greeting acquaintances, he senses a DARK PRESENCE following him. Looking back, he sees nothing. Perturbed, Salim picks up the pace, making way through the crowd with surprising speed.

Hasting through the web of narrow streets with an eye over his shoulder, the spry old man slips into a run-down building.

INT. BUILDING - SAME

Making sure he's alone, he whisks through a secret passageway hidden behind a false wall.

INT. ALCHEMY LAIR - SAME

Salim bursts into his alchemy lair, cluttered with ancient books and arcane instruments. Removing a tiny CAPSULE from a drawer, he hastes over to a bird cage and takes out a MESSENGER BIRD. Attaching the capsule to its talon, he sends the bird flying out of a small window.

Packing for a quick departure, Salim dumps some potions and phials into a bag. But as he shuts a mirrored cabinet door, he is startled by the reflection of a DARK FIGURE, now looming behind him.

DARK FIGURE (O.S.)

Going somewhere... old man?

Whipping back, Salim greets his ominous visitor with a grim gaze. Shrouded in all black, the robust man wields a mystic STAFF. His scruffy, weathered face, beset by an intense, sunken gaze. Meet QASSIM. The younger alchemist.

SALIM

How did you get in here?

QASSIM

After all this time, is that any way to greet me father?

SALIM

You are no son of mine.

Without warning, Salim's hands cross reach into his long sleeves, riddling Qassim with a host of LEAD PELLETS. Qassim moves with unnatural agility, dodging and flipping through the pellets - now exploding on impact with the furnishings. Ripping apart the lair.

In turn, Qassim uses his staff to assail his father with unseen blasts of energy. Salim ducks and rolls, as they rip gaping holes through the walls and floorboards. Levitating a collection of ancient daggers across the chamber with his hands, Salim hurls them at Qassim.

But to the elder alchemist's amazement, Qassim levitates off the ground, evading the daggers with a gravity defying spin. Qassim then lands before his astonished father, using his staff to levitate Salim and bash him senseless against a bookcase repeatedly.

QASSIM

Is that your best, old man?

Qassim coughs. Wiping the blood that trickles on his lips. Eyeing the rotted flesh on Qassim's arm, Salim whips to the mirror. Gasping at his son's reflection.

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But before we can see what Salim sees, Qassim raises his staff, shattering the mirror with an unseen force.

SALIM

What've you done to yourself, boy?

QASSIM

What you never dared.

He releases his invisible grip. Salim hits the ground.

SALIM

Only a fool would barter with the Devil, Qassim. That is not the way of the alchemist.

QASSIM

You and your way. All these years later, you still fancy me an apprentice you can shame and scold. I worshipped you. Begged you to teach me the art. But you only denied me. Because you feared I would one day surpass you. And surpass you, I have.

SALIM

At what price? The Devil's magic has already rotted your flesh. You are dying, Qassim. And when you do, he will chain your soul and make you his slave for eternity.

QASSIM

You of all should know this by now, father. I am my own master.

SALIM

No one cheats the Devil.

QASSIM

We'll see. Now hand over the ring.

SALIM

You'll have to kill me first.

QASSIM

As you wish.

Drawing a dagger hidden in his staff, Qassim stabs Salim, easing the shocked elder to the ground. Kneeling beside his dying father, Qassim takes his hand. But this is no show of affection. Rather, Qassim takes what he's come for: the SAPPHIRE RING on Salim's hand. Donning the ring on his own rotted hand, Qassim marvels at it.

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QASSIM (CONT'D)
The Ring of Solomon. At long last.

SALIM
(dying)
You won't succeed. I've sent word
to the Dark Queen. She will hunt
you to the end of the world.

QASSIM
Let her try. Sleep now old man.
The affairs of this world no
longer concern you.

As Salim falls dead, Qassim whispers to the ring.

QASSIM (CONT'D)
Rise, AYSA...

At his words, the gem begins to glow to life. From
within, SAPPHIRE FLAMES and smoke begin to emanate,
manifesting an otherworldly presence:

A fiery spirit of immense beauty and grace, the forlorn
figure is that of a FEMALE JINN. Shackled down by hellish
chains that slither like serpents, she burns in faint
sapphire flames; frail to the brink of death. Meet AYSA,
the JINN OF THE RING. Gasping at Salim's lifeless body.

QASSIM (CONT'D)
Rejoice, Jinn. You serve a worthy
master now.

AYSA
Foolish, mortal. You've slain your
father for a powerless Jinn. Ages
of servitude have left me too weak
to grant wishes. I am but a seer.

QASSIM
Not for long. Now tell me... where
is the last of the Magi?

As Aysa eyes him in horror, her eyes turn to fire.

CUT TO:

EXT. CITY SQUARE, SHAMBHALA - NIGHT

KABOOM!

FIREWORKS light up Shambhala's night sky. Outside the
palace, a grand procession of ROYAL VISITORS and SUITORS
from lands near and far, parades towards the gates.

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Throngs of SPECTATORS fill the square behind lines of PALACE GUARDS, cheering the pageant of acrobats, jugglers and fire breathers; bearing exotic animals and treasures.

USHERS shower the crowd with rose petals and coins, as KING ZAMAN greets the crowd from a terrace. At his side his daughter, PRINCESS SORAYA. Bejeweled and veiled.

Not far from the crowd, a smaller PROCESSION heads away from the palace. A mule driven PRISONER WAGON, escorted by GUARDS. Inside, an assortment of grimy, CRIMINAL FACES press against the iron bars to peep at the royal pageant.

Among them we hone on a familiar pair of DEVILISH EYES. They belong to Aladdin, now a striking young man.

While the others gawk at the parade, Aladdin's filthy shackled hands reach out through the bars covertly; trying to nab a rock from the passing road, without luck.

PRISONER 1

If the Princess is such a beaut,
why'd they cover her face then?

PRISONER 2

Don't you know? It's bad luck for
a suitor to eye his future bride.

PRISONER 1

It'd be worse luck to travel this
far and find the beaut's a beast.
I'd raise hell if I were them.

PRISONER 2

If they were you, they'd take what
they could get.

As the others laugh, Aladdin keeps trying to grab a rock. A rotund prisoner, IBRAHIM, nudges him. Under breath:

IBRAHIM

You'll need more than a rock to
get us out of this one. Now quit
foolin' around before you get
yourself whipped like that mule.

Nabbing a stone at last, Aladdin smirks.

ALADDIN

Better to be whipped than caged.
Now watch and learn my fat friend.

Taking aim, Aladdin hurls the rock at the burning oil lantern that hangs by the wagon's driver. SMASH! Shattering, the spilt oil sets the driver's seat on fire.

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As the terrified driver jumps off, the mule goes wild, galloping off road. The wagon crashes in a ditch, busting open the cage. Before the guards can react, Aladdin and the other prisoners make a run for it.

Hands shackled and guards on his tail, Aladdin darts for the procession, getting lost in the boisterous crowd. By the time the guards catch up, he is nowhere to be seen.

As they're left scratching their heads at the vanishing act, TRACK to see Aladdin has latched to the underbelly of one of the royal carriages, now entering the palace.

EXT. PALACE COURTYARD - LATER IN THE NIGHT

We find King Zaman surrounded by courtiers, presiding over a lavish MASQUERADE BALL. Turning to his VIZIER:

KING ZAMAN

Send for my daughter. It's time to greet her suitors.

VIZIER

Majesty, I fear Princess Soraya has locked herself in her chamber.

KING ZAMAN

God help whoever wins her hand.

Away from the festivities, where all the carriages are stationed, we spot Aladdin's shadow; swiftly slithering out from under a carriage and into its cabin.

INT. CARRIAGE - CONTINUOUS

Rummaging the luggage inside, Aladdin finds a BROOCH. Using its pin, he picks the lock of his manacles, freeing his hands.

Pocketing the brooch along with a handful of other shiny trinkets, he peeps out the carriage at the real prize: the cornucopia of royal guests at the ball.

Wheels start turning in his head. Spotting a fancy CLOAK and MASK in the luggage, his devilish eyes light up.

EXT. PALACE COURTYARD - LATER

Amid the mingling guests, we hone in on a nobleman, clad in that same cloak and mask. It's Aladdin. Strolling with a regal air, he blends in with high society. Greeting and charming his way as he picks their pockets clean.

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Warmly embracing two PERSIAN LORDS who don't recognize him, he strips the pearls on their garbs. Walking away, he sees a CHINESE COUNTESS who has dropped her fan. Returning it, he kisses her hand, swiping her ring.

Ahead, he spots a HINDU RAJA and a TAJIK LORD squabbling.

RAJA

Seems in Shambhala, even a goat-herder with gold can vie for the hand of the Princess.

His sycophants laugh. The Tajik is not amused.

TAJIK LORD

Perhaps Her Grace desires more in a man than his father's coffers.

As the Tajiks mock the Hindus, a calm voice cuts in. It's Aladdin. Putting his arms around them.

ALADDIN

My lords. Friends. We are blessed by the stars to feast together this night. Come now. A toast!

As he raises his cup, the dumbfounded rivals reluctantly do the same. Unaware, his fingers are robbing them blind.

ALADDIN (CONT'D)

To the Princess. To her heart's deepest desires.

As they drink, the Raja suddenly notices:

RAJA

My amulet... It's gone!

TAJIK LORD

And my pendant!

Thinking on his feet, Aladdin joins their growing chorus.

ALADDIN

And my ring! We've been robbed... an outrage! Guards!

Pandemonium spreads as others also realize they've been robbed. Taking his cue, Aladdin gets lost in the chaos.

EXT. PALACE GARDENS - MOMENTS LATER

Eye over his shoulders, Aladdin scurries through the garden. Reaching the palace stables, he slips inside.

INT. PALACE STABLES - CONTINUOUS

Prowling the stalls, he spots a regal mare. Saddling her, he dumps his loot into its saddlebag.

Just then, SOMEONE else scurries into the stable. Hiding behind a stall, Aladdin is mesmerized by her sight.

A palace SERVANT of rare beauty. Breathless, she makes sure she's not followed. Taking the same mare from the stall, she's surprised to find her saddled. As she is about to take off with his loot, Aladdin steps to view.

ALADDIN

Lovely night for a ride.

The maiden whips back, frazzled by the masked intruder.

SERVANT

You startled me... my lord.

ALADDIN

It's not safe to wander about alone. There's a bandit loose.

SERVANT

A bandit? In the palace? There may be hope for this night yet. I'll be sure to take care. Now if you excuse me...

Stalling her, he inches his way to his loot.

ALADDIN

Perhaps I should take care. For all I know, you're the bandit.

SERVANT

That's absurd.

ALADDIN

I know a horse thief when I see one. Shouldn't you be tending chores in the palace with the other servants?

SERVANT

Shouldn't you be making merry with the other vultures? Trying to buy the hand of the Princess?

ALADDIN

I'm not the kind. As I see it love is freedom. And freedom, love. Neither should have to be bought.

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CONTINUED:

Taken back, she sizes him up.

SERVANT
You're uncommon for a lord.

ALADDIN
And you for a servant.

Noticing his grimy hands, she grows suspicious.

SERVANT
Still I wonder, what would a great
lord such as yourself be doing
here in the stables?

ALADDIN
I go where my desires take me. And
tonight they've brought me to you.

SERVANT
Are you always this bold?

ALADDIN
Life is too short to be less.

SERVANT
Yet you hide behind a mask. Who
are you?

ALADDIN
One who'd give anything to know
your name.

SERVANT
(taken)
And if I was as bold as you, what
then?

ALADDIN
We would ride out together. Go
where we want. Do as we please.

SERVANT
That's impossible.

ALADDIN
Is it?

They hear approaching footsteps.

SERVANT
I can't be seen with you.

He grabs her hand and the saddlebag. Taking cover
together behind a stall, they huddle in close proximity.

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CONTINUED: (2)

But the satchel tears on a nail. Its shiny loot spilling out. At the sight, she gasps under breath:

SERVANT (CONT'D)
You're the bandit!

Just then GUARDS enter, led by a matronly NURSEMAID.

NURSEMAID
Princess Soraya! Where are you, My
Lady? Your suitors await.

Astonished, Aladdin eyes the "servant", henceforth PRINCESS SORAYA. Her cover blown, she avoids his eyes. Guards search the stable without luck. The Nurse sighs.

NURSEMAID (CONT'D)
That girl will be the death of me.
Search the garden again.

As they leave, Aladdin and Soraya emerge from a haystack.

ALADDIN
Seems I'm not the only one wearing
a mask tonight... your highness.

Drawing a blade, she puts it to his throat. Grabbing a nearby stick, he disarms her with lightning speed. Holding her in his arms. Face to face.

SORAYA
How dare you? I should scream.

ALADDIN
Who's stopping you?

SORAYA
You're lucky I don't wish to be
found at the moment.

ALADDIN
Luck has nothing to do with it.
You're not ready to part just yet.

SORAYA
Hand over what you've stolen this
instant. Or I'll call the guards.

ALADDIN
Promise to see me again.

SORAYA
You must be mad.

They hear the guards returning. Now with barking hounds.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

As he eyes the rafters for an exit, she surprises him.

SORAYA (CONT'D)
I know a better way.

EXT. PALACE GARDENS - MOMENTS LATER

With guards and hounds on their tracks, the princess and thief scurry through the gardens. Reaching an old well.

SORAYA
It's been dry for years. It'll
lead you to the aqueducts.

ALADDIN
Aren't you coming?

SORAYA
Perhaps I'm not as bold as I
thought. My father awaits me.

ALADDIN
Then see me again. If only once.

SORAYA
I don't even know who you are.

Removing his mask, he faces her.

ALADDIN
My name is Aladdin. And I won't
leave unless you see me again.

With the hounds growing louder and closer:

SORAYA
Sunrise after next. Meet me at the
Temple orchards.

ALADDIN
Until then.

Grabbing the well's pulley, Aladdin is about to descend.

SORAYA
Not so fast. The satchel.

With a knowing smile:

ALADDIN
A deal is a deal.

But as he hands it over, he steals a kiss. She is
stunned.

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CONTINUED:

SORAYA

Not yet returned one thing, and
already stealing another.

ALADDIN

Then I better return it.

Stealing an even longer kiss, he descends into the well,
leaving her breathless. Just then, her nursemaid arrives.

NURSEMAID

There you are! Have you any idea
what you have put me through? Your
suitors grow restless.

SORAYA

Let them. I'm not a slave. Yet.

EXT. CITY SQUARE - MOMENTS LATER

As the celebration rages on outside the palace, Aladdin
emerges from a sewer drain. Vanishing into the night.
Unaware that the dark figure of Qassim, donning the
sapphire ring, spies on him from the shadows.

EXT. PORT, SHAMBHALA - LATER IN THE NIGHT

Far away from the palace, a worn battleship - THE DESIREE
- emerges through the fog, docking at the misty port. The
moonlight reveals the menacing faces of her motley CREW.

An eclectic band of grim MERCENARIES: A fierce ARAB. A
towering SWAHILI. A steely RONIN. A rogue SPANIARD. A
stone-faced SHAOLIN MONK. A stoic SLAV. All armed for
battle. All watching the city, lit by fireworks.

The formidable figure of their CAPTAIN emerges from below
deck, a jug in hand. Brooding and imposing, his varied
scars and tattoos attest to his legendary exploits.

Eyeing the city in thought, he takes a swig. His FIRST
MATE, a hulking Mongol named JAH, joins his side.

JAH

A bit of shut-eye might do you
good Captain...

CAPTAIN

My eyes have been shut long
enough.

Tossing the jug overboard, he eyes the moonlit city.

INT. TAVERN, SHAMBHALA - DAY

In a smoke filled arena, a rowdy crowd makes bets on the bare-knuckled PIT FIGHT in progress. As a fallen fighter is carried out the ring, the reigning champ - a roughneck GYPSY - beats his next challenger senseless.

Perched on a high terrace, we find THE TURK, Shambhala's grim crime boss, surrounded by minions. As the Gypsy prevails, The Turk smirks, collecting another wager.

Away from the fight, Aladdin enter the tavern with a pep in his step. Taking a seat, he's approached by a young SERVER. A jug in her hand. Flirtation in her smile.

SERVER

Thought you forgot about me.

ALADDIN

How could I?

SERVER

Sweet talk won't get you a free drink. Not this time.

ALADDIN

Wouldn't dream of it. A cup of your finest rum.

SERVER

What are we celebrating?

ALADDIN

Life.

SERVER

Who's the lucky girl?

ALADDIN

Wouldn't believe me if I told you.

SERVER

Well, when you get tired of her, you know where to find me.

As she pours his drink, a ruffled Ibrahim joins Aladdin's side. Admiring her curves as she walks away coyly.

IBRAHIM

How do you do it?

ALADDIN

For one thing, I don't smell like manure. What's that stench?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

IBRAHIM

Manure. I spent the night hiding
in a pile of it. I see you're
still in one piece.

ALADDIN

Never been better.

IBRAHIM

I'd say. Word is someone picked
the palace clean last night.

ALADDIN

That so? You'd have to be mad.

IBRAHIM

Mad as a fox. Come now. Old
Ibrahim can keep a secret.

ALADDIN

If I'd made off with that kind of
loot, don't you think I'd be
halfway down the Silk Road by now?

IBRAHIM

I suppose. Hell, with that kind of
loot I might even make a bid for
the princess herself.

ALADDIN

Charming as you are, you'll need
more than gold to win her heart.

IBRAHIM

Don't be so sure. Gold makes the
world go round. And if some Raja
could buy her with it, so could I.

ALADDIN

What do you mean?

IBRAHIM

Haven't you heard? The king has
chosen the Raja of Bengal as our
future prince. I'd wager it's not
his charm that won her hand.

A knife through his heart. Aladdin sinks, falling quiet.

IBRAHIM (CONT'D)

Still. The wedding is a gift from
the gods. We could make a killing,
you and I. What do you say?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ALADDIN

You know I work alone.

Sipping his drink, Aladdin vacantly watches the Gypsy crush another contender in the rink. Roaring in victory:

GYPSY

Who's next?

The crowd falls quiet. Receiving a nod from The Turk, the Gypsy walks around trying to pick a fight with the toughest faces in the crowd. Pushing them around.

GYPSY (CONT'D)

How about you? Or you?

No takers. Only evading eyes. At a solitary table, he spots a group of shadowy men. Ignoring the Gypsy, they are making merry in the company of courtesans and rum. We recognize them as the motley crew of The Desiree and their drunken Captain. The Gypsy walks over.

GYPSY (CONT'D)

I asked a question. Is there not a man amongst you?

At the words, Jah, the hulking Mongol rises.

JAH

Walk away fool. While you can.

The Gypsy responds by knocking over their table and lunging at Jah. As they entangle, the crowd erupts, placing bets in a frenzy.

The rabid Gypsy assails Jah with a barrage of hard blows. Unfazed, Jah cracks his own neck before grabbing the Gypsy's. Lifting him with inhuman strength, he beats him to a pulp, hurling him into the crowd like a ragdoll.

As the Gypsy reels, Jah rejoins his mates. Enraged, The Turk motions the Gypsy to go for the kill.

Grabbing two fighting batons, the Gypsy rushes Jah from behind, flailing him. But the Mongol disarms him with alarming speed. Breaking the batons in half, Jah sends the Gypsy flying back with a kick to the chest.

Stumbling to his feet, the Gypsy clutches a fistful of sand from the ground, hurling it at Jah's face. With the Mongol temporarily blinded, the Gypsy picks up a table, hurling it; sending Jah crashing back.

Now enraged, the Mongol rises to destroy him. But a calm hand holds him back. It belongs to the drunken Captain.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

As Jah submits, the Captain downs his bottle, entering the ring with drunken steps. Trying to maintain balance.

CAPTAIN

May I have this dance?

The Gypsy smirks at his easy prey. The crowd starts betting against the Captain, now rolling up his sleeves.

Suddenly the Gypsy charges him like a bull. But as he nears, he is met by the iron fist of the Captain flying at him from nowhere. Shattering his jaw in a single decisive blow, that sends him flying back. Knocked out cold. Just like that, the fight's over before it's begun.

The crowd is stunned silent. None more shocked than The Turk. Taking another swig, the Captain starts collecting his prize money as the inert Gypsy is hauled off. Just then, The Turk and his men surround the Captain.

THE TURK

Not so fast.

The Captain turns his steel gaze to The Turk. Spitting chewing tobacco in silence; unimpressed.

THE TURK (CONT'D)

You're a stranger to our shores,
so I will overlook your blunder.
In Shambhala, I am known as The
Turk. And if you wish to wager in
my streets, you'll pay for the
privilege like everyone else.

CAPTAIN

Or what?

In a blink, his men surround the Turk's. Weapons drawn.

JAH

The Lion of Basra bows to no man.
Say the word Captain, and I'll gut
them clean.

THE TURK

Basra?! You are Sinbad of the
Seven Seas...

The Captain, henceforth Sinbad, says nothing. Death in his eyes. The Turk motions his men to back off.

THE TURK (CONT'D)

I was not aware we were honored by
such esteemed company. Allow me to
treat you to our hospitality.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

SINBAD

I've had my fill.

With that, Sinbad and his men walk off with their gold, rum, and women. As they walk past Aladdin, he eyes Sinbad's purse of gold. A single coin falling out of it. Aladdin picks it up. Sinbad's hard gaze turns to him.

ALADDIN

You dropped this.

SINBAD

(sizing him up)

Keep it.

As the crew leaves, the slighted Turk roars at the crowd.

THE TURK

Hell are you gawking at?

The crowd goes about its business. Aladdin pockets the coin with a smirk. Looks to see The Turk over him.

THE TURK (CONT'D)

So the thief played prince for a night. You have gall showing your face here. You would have been wise to stay in the dungeons.

ALADDIN

We have no quarrel. I paid you what I owed.

THE TURK

You must think me a fool. You think I don't know where you were last night?

ALADDIN

I don't know what you mean.

The Turk's men hold Aladdin down at knife point.

THE TURK

Sundown tomorrow. That's how long you have to bring me my share. On your knees.

Hurling Aladdin aside, they leave. Ibrahim approaches.

IBRAHIM

For your sake, I hope you have that loot stashed somewhere.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

ALADDIN

I don't. But I know just where to find some.

IBRAHIM

Tell me you're not thinking what I know you're thinking. Robbing Sinbad of his prize money would be the last thing you ever did.

ALADDIN

That's Sinbad of the Seven Seas. Why would I rob his paltry prize money when he has a ship chock-full of treasures?

IBRAHIM

The trouble with you is, you don't like your head attached to the rest of your body.

ALADDIN

The trouble with you is, you never risk enough to win.

IBRAHIM

How do you think this story will end for you?

ALADDIN

Only two ways it can. I'll either have everything I want, or I'll die trying.

Paying for his drink with Sinbad's coin, he leaves. Unaware that once again, Qassim has been spying on him.

EXT. PORT, SHAMBHALA - NIGHT

At the seedy port, strewn with drunken sailors and wayfarers, we hone on The Desiree.

EXT. DECK, DESIREE - CONTINUOUS

Here we find revelry in progress. As one of Sinbad's men - a swarthy Spaniard named MATEO - strums a rowdy tune on his lute, the others dance and drink with courtesans. Sinbad and Jah, not among them.

As they carry on, they are unaware that below the ship, a shrouded figure is emerging from the tides. Climbing the anchor with stealth, he scales the hull like a gecko. Slipping into the Captain's cabin through a porthole.

INT. CAPTAIN'S CABIN, DESIREE - CONTINUOUS

As the intruder enters, we recognize him as Aladdin. Now exploring Sinbad's dark, candle-lit quarters, he finds:

A shrine to voyages past. The head of a fierce lion. A royal Viking battle helmet. The large egg of some unknown beast. On a mantle, Sinbad's tried and true SCIMITAR.

Yet among all the trophies and trinkets, Aladdin finds no treasure. Disappointed, his eyes then fall on a cobwebbed portrait of a hauntingly beautiful WOMAN.

Just then VOICES approach. Sinbad and Jah enter the cabin mid conversation. Amazingly enough, Aladdin has vanished.

JAH

But... what if it's only a myth?

SINBAD

If it was, the Alchemist wouldn't have gone to such trouble. Rest his rotted soul.

JAH

The Alchemist was mad.

SINBAD

But not a fool.

Sinbad lays out a worn map atop a straw trunk, obsessing over it. Unaware of Aladdin's devilish eyes spying on them from within, through the cracks.

SINBAD (CONT'D)

Imagine the possibilities, Jah. A Jinn that can grant any wish. Make any woe vanish, any dream come true. What would you give for such a thing? What would you risk?

JAH

Even so. The lamp is Devil cursed.

SINBAD

Five years have we drifted without aim. Chancing far more, for far less. Living from port to port. Like dogs in wait. No purpose. No honor. That's not a life for you and these men. But a Jinn can grant all your desires.

(eyeing the portrait)

Perhaps even mine.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JAH

But Captain... at what price?

SINBAD

I have nothing to lose. With or without you I must find that lamp.

JAH

We'd follow you to hell itself. I only hope we're not chasing smoke.

SINBAD

Only one way to find out...

Just then, Mateo bursts in with three courtesans.

MATEO

Ladies, since the good Captain will not join us on his accord, perhaps you can persuade him.

As they drag Sinbad and Jah to deck, the lid of the trunk opens. Aladdin steps out, his mischievous gaze transfixed on the worn map they left behind. Eyeing the charted course through the Silk Road and into the Himalayas...

ALADDIN (V.O.)

Dearest Soraya...

EXT. PORT - MOMENTS LATER (MONTAGE)

Away from the merriment aboard The Desiree, Aladdin swims to shore, disappearing into the rowdy port. His narration accompanying a montage:

ALADDIN (V.O.)

So long as I have no place in the world, I'll have none in yours.

INT. SEWERS - NIGHT (MONTAGE)

Navigating the sewers like a rat, he reaches a dark alcove, entering his secret lair.

INT. ALADDIN'S LAIR - LATER (MONTAGE)

Studying the map he's stolen inside his spartan lair, he packs a duffle bag with necessities.

ALADDIN (V.O.)

I have set out to make my stars.
How and when, I do not know...

EXT. TRADING POST - DAWN (MONTAGE)

He steals a horse and supplies from a Silk Road caravan.

EXT. TEMPLE ORCHARDS - DAWN (MONTAGE)

A cloaked Soraya arrives at the orchards. All she finds is Aladdin's mask, dangling from a branch with a note.

ALADDIN (V.O.)

But this much I do. I will return
for you. And when I do... I will
have no need of a mask.

EXT. CITY GATES - DAWN (MONTAGE)

Riding out of the city onto the Silk Road, he speeds towards the rugged Himalayas. Unaware of Qassim's shadowy figure, trailing him on horseback.

CUT TO:

EXT. HIMALAYAS - VARIOUS

High in the mountains, a blizzard hammers a perilous trail where Aladdin rides, clad in pelts. Checking his map, he eyes the abyss below, spotting a group of DISTANT FIGURES on his trail. Disturbed, he presses on.

AT NIGHT. As he sets camp, an ominous HOWL in the dark spooks his horse which runs off with the supplies. Unable to catch it, Aladdin sinks in despair.

DAWN. Weary and chapped from the cold, he now treks on foot along an icy passage. Slipping, he nearly plunges into the abyss, before latching on to a cliff.

DAYS LATER. Haggardly pushing on, he is energized to spot the TWIN MOUNTAIN CRESTS on his map along the horizon.

EXT. CLIFFS - DUSK

Amid a violent storm, a frostbitten Aladdin climbs a grapple to a higher ridge. The winds thrash him about, blowing away his map. Trying to grab it, he loses grip.

Plummeting, he latches on a ledge, dangling helplessly over doom. Until a scabbed HAND grabs him with unnatural strength. It's Qassim, coming to view through the storm; pulling Aladdin to safety. Breathless, he eyes the stranger. The sapphire ring faintly glowing on his hand.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALADDIN

I'm in your debt.

QASSIM

You're a hard man to keep up with.
You must be hungry.

He offers food. Aladdin devours it, eyeing the Alchemist's ring. Coughing blood, Qassim wipes his lips.

ALADDIN

Who are you?

QASSIM

The rightful owner of the map you stole. I am Qassim. The Alchemist.

ALADDIN

Is that why you've followed me?

QASSIM

Soon all your questions will be answered. For now, its best we make haste. Sinbad and his men are a day's journey behind. This way.

Staff in hand, Qassim leads his horse; following the glow of his ring. Aladdin tries to keep pace.

EXT. ALCOVE, HIMALAYAS - NIGHT

As they set camp, Aladdin struggles to make a campfire with two wet flint rocks. Succeeding at length.

QASSIM

I should think you'd know a faster way to start a fire.

ALADDIN

Don't know what you mean.

QASSIM

You know precisely what I mean.
Fire runs in your veins. You are of the Magi. No sense denying it.

ALADDIN

I've never told anyone. How would you know that?

QASSIM

Oh I know a great many things. You could make this fire with a mere thought. You've done it before.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALADDIN

Not since I was a child. I thought
I'd only imagined it.

QASSIM

Not imagined. Denied. It is a
great shame that in a world of
mediocre ants, one gifted as you
should have to hide his talent.

ALADDIN

What's it to you?

QASSIM

It's everything to me. I've
travelled halfway across the world
to find you.

ALADDIN

I don't understand.

Pulling up his sleeve, Qassim reveals the black, rotted
LESIONS that scab his arm and beyond. Aladdin winces.

QASSIM

Knowledge does not come cheap. My
pursuit of it has stricken me with
a disease of the flesh that has
neither a name nor a cure. But the
Jinn of the Lamp has untold
powers. It alone can heal me.

ALADDIN

Then the lamp is real.

QASSIM

Indeed. And I've spent years in
search of it. This is why I
employed the *great* Sinbad for safe
passage to Shambhala. But when
that scoundrel learned of my
quest, he stole my map and left
me for dead at sea.

ALADDIN

Misfortune seems to follow you.
Still I don't see what that has to
do with me.

QASSIM

What that drunkard didn't know
when he robbed me, was that only
one of Magi blood can reach the
lamp. For it was they who hid it
to begin with.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

QASSIM (CONT'D)

And you son are the last of their
kind. Which brings me to my point.
I propose a partnership.

ALADDIN

Thanks. But I work alone.

Qassim smiles. Coughing.

QASSIM

You overlook the heart of the
matter. While only one like you
can reach the lamp, only one like
me can show the way.

Aladdin falls silent.

QASSIM (CONT'D)

My offer is this. I will lead you
to the lamp and all it can grant.
In return, you will use it to rid
me of my plague, and allow me
enough wealth to live out my days
in comfort. Do we have a deal?

Mulling the offer, Aladdin sizes up the Alchemist.

QASSIM (CONT'D)

What do you have to lose? No map,
food, nor horse. What you do have
is a band of ruthless killers on
your tracks. So what say you?

He offers his scabbed hand. Reluctant, Aladdin shakes it.

QASSIM (CONT'D)

It's settled then. We ride at
dawn. Get rest. You'll need it.

EXT. PROMONTORY, HIMALAYAS - JUST BEFORE DAWN

Twilight reveals two figures, traversing a high
promontory across the icy cliffs. The first is Qassim.
Staff in hand, he follows the ever growing glow of his
sapphire ring, leading Aladdin through a gulch.

ALADDIN

Your ring seems to know the way.

The words echo through the cliffs, setting off a
snowslide from overhead. Before it can bury them, Qassim
pushes Aladdin out of the way. In a hushed tone:

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

QASSIM

The mountain grows restless. Best
we keep quiet.

Crossing carefully, they arrive at a vast chasm,
discovering a majestic vista: A RAGING WATERFALL
cascading between the crests of the twin mountains.

At the sight, a grin creases Qassim's face.

QASSIM (CONT'D)

This is it.

Skeptical, Aladdin eyes the dark abyss of the chasm that
separates them from the waterfall.

ALADDIN

Looks like a dead end to me.

QASSIM

Things are rarely what they seem.

Feverishly paddling snow off a boulder, Qassim uncovers a
faint inscription on the rock: The INSIGNIA OF A FLAME.

QASSIM (CONT'D)

The mark of the Magi. Write your
name on the rock. In your blood.

Hesitant, Aladdin draws his dagger. Nicking his finger,
he writes his name on the rock in blood. Staring at it in
anticipation. After a beat, the blood sears the rock.

BOOM. A surge of energy rattles the promontory. Before
Aladdin's astonished eyes, the waterfall parts to unveil:

A CAVE OF FIRE. The surrounding rocks now forging a make
shift bridge over the void. Spellbound, Aladdin and
Qassim cross the narrow bridge. Gaping at the growling
flames, as they halt before the infernal cave.

QASSIM (CONT'D)

The lamp lies beyond the flames. I
can go no further. But you can.

Aglow with heat, Aladdin eyes the fiery cave. Its flames
gravitating towards him. Beckoning him. He reaches for
them warily, amazed as they engulf his hand harmlessly
while smoldering his sleeve. Withdrawing his fire wrapped
hand, Aladdin's eyes resolve.

QASSIM (CONT'D)

What lies beyond the fire, no one
knows. But know this young Magi.
The stars favor the fearless.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ALADDIN

And you Alchemist, know this. I
have no fear.

With that, Aladdin leaps into the fiery cave.

INT. CAVE OF FIRE - CONTINUOUS

His pelt bursting in flames, he dashes through the cave. Its molten rocks now taking on the shape of DAMNED SOULS. Latching to him, as they cry for help. Breaking loose, he darts for the end of the cave, leaping through.

EXT. MAGI TEMPLE - CONTINUOUS

Emerging out of the cave on fire, he puts out the flames on his pelt. Looking up, he marvels at:

The colossal RUINS OF A MAGI TEMPLE. Built at the heart of a vast subterranean canyon, its towering pillars are inscribed by the Magi insignia.

Beneath giant stalactites, he warily crosses a decrepit bridge over a sea of molten lava. Entering the temple.

INT. MAGI TEMPLE - CONTINUOUS

Exploring the eerie ruins, he reaches a grand hall, where a SINGLE GREAT TORCH burns eternally. Surrounded by grand STONE STATUES that keep vigil over a radiant shrine.

There, atop a mantle, the unassuming shape of a primitive OIL LAMP now comes to view. Gathering dust for ages.

Next to it, three other OBJECTS: A chest of sparkling TREASURES, a gleaming SWORD, and a luminous QUILL. At the sight, Aladdin smirks, eagerly approaching the shrine.

The statues suddenly rumble to life. Spears in clutch, they assail Aladdin on all sides. Cornering him with spears, they call on him in unison with unearthly voices:

STONE STATUES

Of the wonders before your eyes,
which is the most prized of all?

He looks to the lamp. Reconsidering, he eyes the quill, sword, and chest. Before settling on the great torch.

ALADDIN

The fire. Without it, the others
can't be seen.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

At the words, the statues abruptly stand down; returning to their dormant posts. Sighing relief, Aladdin reaches for the seemingly commonplace lamp, inlaid with an AMBER STONE. Dusting it off, he examines it with wonder. Looks in its spout. Shakes it.

Just then the dusty lamp begins to radiate with light. As it glows bright, its energy rattles the temple, quaking open the ground beneath Aladdin's feet. Lamp in clutch, he leaps over the gapes, darting for the exit as the great pillars and statues collapse all around.

INT. CAVE OF FIRE - CONTINUOUS

Dashing out the temple, Aladdin races across the crumbling bridge, as the entire canyon begins to cave in. Leaping from one collapsing stretch to another.

Eluding death by sheer will, Aladdin dashes, dodges, and claws his way back into the fiery cave.

EXT. PROMONTORY/WATERFALL - MOMENTS LATER (DAWN)

As the mouth of the cave collapses, Aladdin bursts out in flames. With the parted waterfall now rejoining, he leaps off the bridge just as the raging tides obliterate it.

Falling short of the promontory, he clasps a lower ridge. Crawling up to safety, breathless. Only to find...

A sabre pressing his throat. It belongs to one of twenty fearsome MONGOL WARRIORS surrounding him. From their midst, Qassim steps out with a grin, coughing. His ring glowing bright as the lamp in Aladdin's clutch.

ALADDIN

Who are your friends?

QASSIM

Mercenaries come cheap on the Silk Road. One can never be too careful

ALADDIN

We had a deal.

QASSIM

Had. The lamp, or your life.

SINBAD (O.S.)

Is there no honor among thieves?

All eyes turn to: Sinbad and his fierce men, appearing from the cliffs. Drawn arrows trained at their foes.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

QASSIM

We've been expecting you, Captain.

SINBAD

You should be. You crossed me.

QASSIM

No sense dwelling on the past.

Then again, it's what you do best.

Qassim raises his staff. Sinbad's men unleash their arrows. Waving his staff, Qassim hurls their arrows astray with an unseen burst of energy.

Taking advantage of the mayhem, Aladdin tries to make a run for it. But before he gets far...

Mateo fires his crossbow. His precise arrow whizzing through the lamp's handle. Pinning it to the distant cliffs. Rushing for the lamp, Sinbad and his men clash in battle with Qassim's mercenaries.

Qassim and Aladdin both eye the lamp - still dangling in the distance from the arrow. Raising his staff, Qassim levitates the lamp towards himself. Before he gets it...

Aladdin lunges. Snatching it mid air, he rolls to his feet on the other side. Only to face: Sinbad, landing his battle tested scimitar down on two Mongols. Lamp in grip, Aladdin dashes off, only to get caught in between the battle raging among Sinbad's men and the Mongols.

As Jah smashes skulls with a mallet, the Swahili cuts down others with his axe. Mateo rapid fires his crossbow, as the Arab and Ronin wield their deadly blades. All the while the Slav demolishes foes with a double ended spear and the Shaolin wreaks havoc with scythes on chains.

Through the chaos, Aladdin dashes through the gulch, lamp in hand. On his tail, Qassim uses his staff to dislodge the icicles over Aladdin. As they plummet like daggers... Aladdin swiftly dodges all but one. Piercing his leg. Coiling in pain, he falls. Dropping the lamp.

But as Qassim goes for it, Sinbad comes flying down on him with his scimitar. Qassim blocks the blow with his staff, sparks flying from the clash. Surging with an unseen force, the staff hurls Sinbad into nearby rocks.

Qassim turns to find a wounded Aladdin dragging himself to the canyon's edge. Holding the lamp over the abyss.

ALADDIN

Another step and it goes.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

QASSIM

Give it up. You don't even know
how to summon the Jinn.

From within his staff, Qassim draws his hidden dagger.

QASSIM (CONT'D)

Think of it this way. Better you
die here for something, than be a
nobody back in Shambhala...

ALADDIN

(defeated)

I wish I was...

At the words, the lamp bursts with blinding light. To Qassim's dread, a powerful CYCLONE now emanates from the lamp, forming a cocoon around Aladdin. Lifting him into the air, high above the others.

The cyclone triggers a furious avalanche that wipes away Qassim, Sinbad, and the others from sight. Swallowed up by the cyclone, Aladdin is whisked away from view.

INT. ALADDIN'S LAIR, SHAMBHALA - CONTINUOUS

Smashing through a wall, he crash lands back in his Spartan sewer lair. Astonished to be home, he gapes at the lamp in his clutch. Faint smoke spews out its barrel, gathering into a HEAVING MASS in a dark corner.

To his alarm, a pair of fiery eyes emerge from the dark with a growl. Announcing a HULKING DEMON that emanates out the lamp. Towering over Aladdin as he lays sprawled. Meet RHAZ, the Jinn of the Lamp.

But while Aysa - the Jinn of the Ring - was frail and composed of faint sapphire flames, Rhaz burns in raging amber flames. His muscular frame barely restrained by the infernal chains shackling him; slithering like serpents.

Scowling at Aladdin, the Jinn lifts him off the ground with unearthly strength. Roaring in wrath:

RHAZ

WHERE IS SHE? Where is my beloved?

Aghast at the demon, Aladdin is speechless. Enraged, the Jinn smashes the surrounding walls and pillars to rubble.

RHAZ (CONT'D)

I sensed her. What have you done
with my Aysa? Answer me!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALADDIN

I don't know what you mean.

RHAZ

You know well, maggot. The Jinn of the ring. Aysa. She was near.

ALADDIN

(realizing)

Qassim's ring...

Rhaz squeezes Aladdin, slowly crushing him.

RHAZ

Then you *do* know where she is.

ALADDIN

(strained)

Not anymore. Lost in the mountains with the others I suppose. You're crushing me. Let go.

Lashed by his chains, Rhaz's eyes suddenly flash with fire. Compelling him to drop Aladdin.

RHAZ

Your will be done... master.

Aladdin reels in awe. Fire now leaving the Jinn's gaze.

ALADDIN

You're a slave. You must do as I ask. Isn't that so?

Rhaz snarls in hate.

ALADDIN (CONT'D)

I heard tales of you as a boy. Do you have a name?

RHAZ

My name is slave. And rest assured, mortal. This will be no fairy tale for you.

ALADDIN

Save your breath, Jinn. I'm not afraid of you. You must grant any wish I ask.

RHAZ

Within the natural world.

ALADDIN

And as many as I desire?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

RHAZ

As many as your soul can bear.

ALADDIN

Good. Then tell me your name.

Compelled by his chains, he mutters begrudgingly.

RHAZ

Rhaz...

ALADDIN

Now then, Rhaz... all this excitement has me famished. Make me a feast, fit for a king. And a chamber to match.

Lashed by his chains, Rhaz roars, eyes ablaze. His breath transforms the battered lair into a kingly chamber. A cornucopia of food spreading before Aladdin's amazed eyes. Going for it, he winces in pain at his wounded leg.

ALADDIN (CONT'D)

While you're at it, mend this leg.

Reluctantly obeying, Rhaz touches Aladdin's gaping wound. His fire, healing the flesh gradually. Aladdin is in awe.

ALADDIN (CONT'D)

Is there anything you can't do?

RHAZ

No Jinn can give or take life. Nor meddle with time or the free will of man. Those are the dominion of the Almighty.

ALADDIN

Alright. We'll just make do then.

Hungrily grubbing on a leg of lamb, he notes Rhaz's hateful gaze. With a full mouth:

ALADDIN (CONT'D)

You hungry, Rhaz?

But the Jinn only eyes him with scorn.

RHAZ

Humans. Time will cease before man foregoes his greed. A thousand ages have I spent in chains. And in that time all the world has changed, save for man. Still a slave to his greed.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

ALADDIN

You've seen nothing yet. Now grant me an endless pile of gold.

RHAZ

Your wish is my command.

Smirking, Rhaz's eyes flash with fire. Raising his claw, he sets gold coins raining down. A trickle at first. But as Aladdin gathers them in wonder, more and more coins pelt him. Muffling his cries as they bury him alive.

ALADDIN

Stop it Jinn. No more!

As Rhaz reluctantly halts the onslaught, Aladdin claws himself to the surface; breathless and shaken.

ALADDIN (CONT'D)

You tried to kill me! Damn you.

RHAZ

I'm already damned. If your wishes happen to take your life, then it is by your will and not my hand.

ALADDIN

So we're playing games, are we?

RHAZ

This is no game, mortal. You think fortune smiles on you. You think your dreams are at hand. But heed my vow. On the soul of my beloved, before we're through, I'll turn your every dream to a nightmare.

Undaunted, Aladdin stares him down.

ALADDIN

And you heed this. I'm like no mortal you've ever met.

RHAZ

I've filled graveyards with bones of men like you. Just as I will bury the next fool who takes the lamp from your cold, rotted hands.

ALADDIN

Wouldn't bet on it. Now that I have you, neither man nor death can do us part. I command you to let no one take this lamp from me unless I wish it.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

ALADDIN (CONT'D)

You see, you and I will be
together a long time. And whatever
fate befalls me, will befall you.
So quit your groaning. For you and
I have much to do.

As Rhaz snarls in hate...

CUT TO:

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Deep in the woods outside Shambhala, a doe is grazing. Unaware of a ROYAL HUNTING PARTY stalking it through trees, led by the Raja from the ball. Drawing his bow, he aims for the doe. Behind him King Zaman and Soraya.

SORAYA

If you aim to impress me Prince
Ramesh, you're sorely misguided.

KING ZAMAN

Hush girl! You'll scare the prey.

SORAYA

That was the idea...

Miffed, the Raja fires. But in a blink, Soraya draws her own arrow, shooting the Raja's astray. Alerted, the doe takes off. The Raja eyes Soraya in disbelief. She smirks.

SORAYA (CONT'D)

You didn't think I sit around and
thread needles all day, did you?

Irked, he quickly draws another arrow, tracking the fleeing doe in his sight. But before he can fire...

KABOOM! Thunder and lightning strike down. Jolted, the Raja misses. To everyone's awe, the skies abruptly darken, unleashing a ferocious storm.

As the lightning sends trees crashing about, the guards scramble to escort the party out. Only to be blocked by the fallen trees. As they look around in desperation...

A CLOAKED RIDER suddenly appears from the woods. Under the hood of his fine garb, we recognize the brooding face of Rhaz - guised as a MANSERVANT. As guards surround him:

RHAZ

Greetings from my master. He'd be
most honored if his majesty passes
the storm at his humble abode.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

As the storm lashes them harder, the King submits.

KING ZAMAN

Lead the way.

Riding through the stormy woods, Rhaz leads the party.

EXT. GROUNDS, PALATIAL MANOR - SAME

They arrive at a PALATIAL MANOR, improbably nestled in the woods. Dismounting, the party gapes at its opulence. Led by Rhaz, they marvel at the exquisite grounds where peacocks roam free, swans swim in a lush Koi pond, and a fierce Siberian tiger slumbers lazily in his enclosure.

INT. ENTRY, PALATIAL MANOR - MOMENTS LATER

Following Rhaz, they gape at the opulent mansion.

ZAMAN SHAH

Who did you say your master was?

ALADDIN (O.S.)

Your servant... Aladdin.

All eyes turn to the dark figure in fine garb, emerging from a grand stairway. His devilish gaze, the only trace of the thief we once knew. At his sight, Soraya gasps.

ALADDIN (CONT'D)

Welcome your majesty. My lady.

Stunned, Soraya is speechless. King Zaman frowns at her.

KING ZAMAN

You are most gracious, Lord Aladdin. You must excuse my daughter. She forgets her manners.

SORAYA

Forgive me. Your generosity is beyond good fortune.

ALADDIN

The fortune is mine to be in the presence of such beauty.

As they lock eyes, the Raja cuts in.

RAJA

I am Prince Ramesh of Bengal. It is strange. I can't help but feel we've met before.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALADDIN

Perhaps in another life. And if
so, the pleasure was all mine.
You must all be cold and weary.
Make at home and honor me by
dining here tonight.

INT. DINING HALL, MANOR - NIGHT

MINSTRELS play while SERVANTS pour wine, as Aladdin
dazzles his guests over a lavish feast.

KING ZAMAN

In all my years I never ventured
this deep into the woods. In fact
I'm surprised they're inhabited.

ALADDIN

My uncle preferred the serenity of
these woods. This was his home.

SORAYA

I can see why. Would seem you have
everything here one could want.

ALADDIN

Almost.

Annoyed to find them captivated, the Raja chimes in.

RAJA

Then, this is your uncle's estate?

ALADDIN

Was. Having no family of his own,
he left it to me upon his passing.

KING ZAMAN

His coffers must have run deep.

ALADDIN

They are bottomless.

The Raja looks at Rhaz, standing in wait in the shadows.
Still guised as a manservant, he watches in disdain.

RAJA

Your manservant has the most
peculiar way about him.

ALADDIN

Pay him no mind. He once lived a
terrible life as a slave.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALADDIN (CONT'D)

Til I freed him during my travels.
Now we are... inseparable.

RAJA

Your voice. I'm certain I have
heard it before.

Alarmed, Soraya tries to change the subject.

SORAYA

Tell us more of your travels. I'm
curious to know where you found
that magnificent tiger.

Pleased with himself Aladdin leans back, sipping his
wine; weaving a tall tale with bravado.

ALADDIN

A true wonder of the world. It was
a gift from the Prince of Kashmir.

SORAYA

Seems a pity to cage such a rare
creature.

ALADDIN

I assure you he lives like a king.
Free from hunger and hunters.

SORAYA

Do you think you can treat me to a
closer look?

ALADDIN

I wish for nothing more.

Brooding in the shadows, Rhaz smirks demonically. Eyes
flashing fire. SUDDENLY: The pale tiger comes leaping
through a window, landing on the table. Roaring wildly.

As the guests scramble in terror, a shocked Aladdin leaps
to action, instinctively shielding Soraya from the beast
as the Raja hides under the table. As the king's guards
surround the raging tiger with spears, Soraya calls out.

SORAYA

Don't hurt him!

Seeing Rhaz watch with glee, Aladdin barks in wrath.

ALADDIN

Rhaz! Walk him to his enclosure.

Begrudgingly, Rhaz claps his hands. To everyone's awe,
the tiger's wrath subsides.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Yawning lazily, the beast obediently follows Rhaz out the chamber. Humiliated, Aladdin faces his horrified guests.

ALADDIN (CONT'D)

My sincere apologies. You can cage
a beast, but not his nature.

KING ZAMAN

This has been the most remarkable
of nights. But I admit all this
excitement has me worn. I should
like to retire for the evening.

Emerging from beneath the table, the Raja concurs.

RAJA

Oddly enough, I too feel a sudden
urge to rest.

ALADDIN

Must be the wine. Perhaps it's
best we all retire. The storm
should pass by daybreak.

INT. GUEST CHAMBER, MANOR - LATER IN THE NIGHT

With the others fast asleep, we find Soraya restlessly
perched on a terrace, watching the rain in thought. But
to her surprise, the storm ends abruptly. A FIREFLY now
glows to view, hovering before her like a sprite.

As she tries to touch it, the sprite playfully evades,
beckoning her to follow. Intrigued, she does.

EXT. GARDEN, MANOR - CONTINUOUS

Chasing the firefly playfully, she marvels at the
heavenly garden. Bewitched by the stars in the sky.

ALADDIN (O.S.)

A view like no other.

Surprised by Aladdin's presence, she lights up.

ALADDIN (CONT'D)

When I was a boy, I would spend
hours gazing at the stars.

SORAYA

So did I. The bright one there is
the North Star. My mother used to
tell me the ancient Magi always
relied on it when they were lost.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALADDIN

Is that so?

SORAYA

I don't know if it's true. But whenever I get lost, it never fails to show me the way.

ALADDIN

You're here now. So it must be.

They find themselves drawing close.

SORAYA

And yet, I've never felt more lost. For as long as I can remember, every detail of my life has been planned for me. My clothes. My meals. You are the first real surprise I've ever known. It's a feeling I've longed for. And one I cannot resist.

ALADDIN

That makes two of us. So why do you feel lost?

SORAYA

Because it frightens me. I see a fire in you. And I wonder, will I be the moth that burns?

ALADDIN

I'd never let any harm come to you. And I always keep my word. I told you I'd return for you when I made my stars. And I have.

SORAYA

And without a mask. You are a man of your word. Yet you now wear a different mask. Tall tales and riches may sway my father but I know better. Something tells me an inheritance has little to do with your sudden good fortune.

ALADDIN

What does it matter how I made my fortune? What has passed, is past. What matters is now. And the hereafter.

She pulls back.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SORAYA

Without truth, there is neither.

ALADDIN

I wonder, did you ask your brave prince where his fortune came from before you agreed to marry him?

SORAYA

I've agreed to nothing. But as the future queen, I have certain obligations. To my father and my kingdom. And in that, I have no choice.

ALADDIN

There's always a choice. You either follow what you desire, or settle for what you don't.

SORAYA

But what if what I desire cannot be trusted?

ALADDIN

Then you don't wish to see me again?

SORAYA

Not until you tell me the truth about what's happened.

With that she walks off to her chamber. Aladdin sinks. Lost in thought, his eyes fall on a nearby torch. Its fire gravitating to him as he draws near. Reaching out, the flame engulfs his fingers harmlessly.

As he beholds his fiery hand in wonder, a menacing chuckle disrupts his thoughts. The fire on his hand recedes. A scoffing Rhaz now emerges out of the dark. Morphing from flesh back into a chained fiery spirit.

RHAZ

The webs we weave...

ALADDIN

I should cast you at sea. Let you linger there for eternity.

RHAZ

But you won't. You need me. In your pitiful schemes you still fancy you can make her love a worm like you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

ALADDIN

That's a laugh. What would a demon
like you know about love anyhow?

RHAZ

More than you could ever dream.
Love is a wound that cannot heal.
A scent that never fades. Love is
dying a thousand deaths without
regret. It is patience. And
sacrifice. Things you know nothing
of.

ALADDIN

I've had it with you, Jinn. As
masters go, I've been fair to you.
I let you roam free. I treat you
as an equal. But no more. Now
leave my sight and fetch me a
drink of water like the good
servant you are.

RHAZ

Careful what you wish for, master.

As Rhaz's eyes blaze, the earth begins to grumble beneath
Aladdin's feet. Something monstrous growling behind him.
He whips back to see: a massive TIDAL WAVE rising
overhead. It crashes down on him, wiping him from view.

BELOW THE SURFACE

The deluge carries Aladdin through the surrounding woods.
Battering him against trees, branches and debris. Tangled
up in some vines, he starts drowning in the water.

Scrambling in frenzy, he draws his dagger, cutting
himself loose. Latching to a branch, he pulls himself
above surface, gasping for air. Battered and bloodied.

ALADDIN

Enough!

As the flood recedes, he sees Rhaz gloat in the distance.
Eyeing each other with scorn...

RHAZ

Is your thirst quenched yet?

EXT. MANOR GATES - MORNING

The following day finds the royal party departing the
manor. Soraya rides ahead of the others to Aladdin. Pale
and weary, he does not look well.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SORAYA

I won't soon forget you. Whoever
you may be.

As the others approach, she rides off with a heavy heart.

RAJA

Wait for me, my lady!

He gallops after Soraya who doesn't slow down for him.

KING ZAMAN

I should like to host you at
court. I know it would please
Soraya to see you again.

ALADDIN

It would be my honor, majesty.

As the King's party rides off, Aladdin watches, re-
energized. From behind, Rhaz comes to view.

RHAZ

A ray of hope. But to what end?
You will only bring ruin to her.
And more shame onto yourself.

ALADDIN

I'll do whatever it takes to prove
myself to her. Even if it means
telling her the truth.

Rhaz scoffs. Just then Aladdin starts to cough.

RHAZ

You don't look too well, master.

Coughing more, Aladdin is horrified to see a SPECK OF
BLOOD on his hand. But that's not the worst of it. On
his arm, he spots a small FESTERING SCAB. Just like the
ones consuming Qassim's flesh. Filled with dread, he
turns to Rhaz who looms with a grin.

ALADDIN

What've you done to me now?

RHAZ

What ever do you mean? I but grant
what you wish.

Aladdin pulls up his sleeve, showing the festering scab.

ALADDIN

Qassim bore marks like this and
coughed blood. What did you do?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

RHAZ

Nothing is free. The lamp is Devil
cursed. For every wish I grant, a
bit of your soul he reaps.

ALADDIN

My soul? You never mentioned that.

RHAZ

You never asked. What you see on
your flesh, mortal, is but the rot
of your soul.

ALADDIN

Undo this curse, demon. Now!

RHAZ

It is not I who curse you. But
your own greed. Give up the lamp
and in time it will be undone.

Falling silent, Aladdin is conflicted. Barking at Rhaz:

ALADDIN

Back into the lamp. And stay there
till you're called.

Whipped by his hellish chains, Rhaz roars in wrath,
disintegrating into smoke and funneling back into the
lamp. Its glow fading, Aladdin looks at the lamp. Eyeing
his reflection on it somberly.

EXT. CITY GATES, SHAMBHALA - DUSK

A disheveled TRAVELER reaches Shambhala on foot. Dragging
himself to a well. It's Qassim. Thirstily drinking, he
scowls at his demonic reflection in the water.

Distorted by the ripples, his diabolical reflection
appears to have a life of its own. It's THE DEVIL,
appearing to Qassim as his own reflection.

THE DEVIL

Your hour grows late, Alchemist.

QASSIM

Be gone, Devil.

THE DEVIL

You know that cannot be. A deal is
a deal. Soon, when you die, you
will serve me until every last
star in the cosmos has burnt out.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

QASSIM

Yet again pride will be your fall.
You should know by now I'm not one
to live in chains. Alas, like my
late father, you underestimate me.

THE DEVIL

On the contrary, I believe in you.
Nurture your every whim. After
all, was it not I who answered
your call in the hour of despair?
Was it not I who taught you the
craft? Led you to the ring?

QASSIM

And I've paid for it in both flesh
and soul. But not for long.

THE DEVIL

Your ingratitude is all too human.
Biting the hand that feeds you,
after you've enjoyed the meal
that's been served.

QASSIM

You only serve your own schemes.
You thrive on chaos. Chaos you
hope I will unleash.

THE DEVIL

I don't hope. I know. And here is
something you should know. The
Dark Queen has received your
father's message. She scours the
earth for you as we speak.

QASSIM

That witch is no match for me. And
neither are you.

THE DEVIL

Craftier men than you have tried
to best me. But I tell you. No
one, but no one cheats the Devil.

QASSIM

We shall see.

THE DEVIL

Bold claim for one nearly sent to
the grave by a common thief.

Outraged, Qassim hits the water, dispersing The Devil and
his reflection. Coughing violently, he calls on his ring.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

QASSIM
Show yourself, Jinn.

At the words, Aysa's faint form burns to view.

AYSA
I pray the Magi does send you to
your grave. So you may taste what
it is to be the Devil's slave.

QASSIM
Keep praying. Where is he now?

As Aysa eyes flash with fire, she produces a FIERY
VISION. Within its flames, Qassim sees:

EXT. GROUNDS, MANOR - DUSK

Aladdin. Saddling up his horse for a journey.

RHAZ
Going somewhere, master?

ALADDIN
That is none of your concern.

RHAZ
Even if you do confess to Soraya,
do you really think she'd ever
choose a thief over a prince?

ALADDIN
I don't know. But I know I won't
let another day go by.

RHAZ
The woods are wrought with peril
for a man of your wealth. I'd be
happy to take you there for a fee.

ALADDIN
I'm sure you would. But I'll take
my chances. Back in the lamp.

With Rhaz dissipating into the lamp, Aladdin tucks it in
his cloak. Galloping off into the setting sun.

EXT. WOODS - DUSK

As Aladdin dashes through the woods, the trees take on
demonic forms in the falling darkness. Sensing a presence
stalking him in the shadows, he gallops faster. But as he
races through, he doesn't see...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The line of rope fastened between two trees up ahead. BOOM. Slamming into it, he is hurled off his horse and into the ground. Reeling, he sees the lamp flung nearby. But as he tries to go for it, he is surrounded by a group of BANDITS emerging from the woods. Led by The Turk.

THE TURK

I see you've been holding out on me again... Lord Aladdin.

Drawing a sword, Aladdin fights off the bandits, trying to reach the lamp. But before he can, The Turk nabs it.

THE TURK (CONT'D)

This what you're looking for?

JUST THEN

Great coils of chains sprout out of the earth like hydras, assailing The Turk and his men. As they try to fight in vain, the chains wrap and shackle them helpless.

Picking up the lamp from the ground, Aladdin smirks, tucking it in his cloak; the towering figure of Rhaz now looming behind him from the shadows. As The Turk and his men look on in disbelief:

ALADDIN

The days of you or anyone taking what belongs to me are long gone. Now if it's my gold you want to taste, then you shall. Rhaz, have them spit up their weight in gold.

At the command, Rhaz's eyes blaze as he sets them writhing in agony, clutching their bellies. Coughing and choking, they spit up gold coin after gold coin.

ALADDIN (CONT'D)

Don't let me see any of you ever again. Because the next time I do, I won't be as kind.

Mounting his horse again, Aladdin rides off. Leaving his foes reeling in the torment of their curse.

EXT. CITY GATES, SHAMBHALA - LATER

Now reaching the city, Aladdin lights up at the sight of the palace, coming to view in the distance. Just then:

WHOOSH. A small dart lands on his neck. Grimacing, he plucks it out. Examining it in confusion, he spots Sinbad's Shaolin warrior on a roof. A blowdart in hand.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

POV: The world goes bleary in Aladdin's eyes. Woozy, he falls off his horse, hitting the dirt. All goes black.

After a beat, a whirling sound akin to helicopter blades grows audible over the pitch black. As the darkness gives way to a blur of images, the whirling grows louder. With the world coming back to focus, Aladdin finds himself...

EXT. DECK, THE DESIREE - LATER THAT NIGHT

Tied up on the deck of Sinbad's ship. The whirling sound is the sound of Rhaz's chains, lassoing over his head as he battles Sinbad and his men. Hurling one after another across the ship, as they try to go for Aladdin's lamp.

Though relentless, they are no match for Rhaz, whose furious defense tears their ship apart. Realizing what's happening, Aladdin calls on Rhaz.

ALADDIN

That's enough, Rhaz. Untie me.

Obliging, Rhaz halts fighting, setting the ropes that tie Aladdin ripping apart. Reeling all about the battered deck, Sinbad and his men look on in awe.

ALADDIN (CONT'D)

Having trouble taking my lamp?

SINBAD

What've you done to it?

ALADDIN

Just a precaution. As you well know, Shambhala teems with thieves. Wouldn't want to be robbed of what's mine.

SINBAD

Which is more foolish, you wager?
Robbing me or boasting of it?

ALADDIN

How could I rob you of something that wasn't yours to begin with? After all, did you not steal the map from the Alchemist?

SINBAD

I may be many things. But a thief is not one. The Alchemist got as he deserved. He paid for passage, and passage he received.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SINBAD (CONT'D)

But when we learned his quest, he
tried to sink my ship. So he got
the plank. And we got the map. Far
as I see, you and he are the only
thieves.

ALADDIN

What's done is done. I can't
change that. But I can make
amends. So what do you say we
settle this like men?

SINBAD

Far too late for that.

ALADDIN

Try me. Ask for whatever you wish.
And it's yours.

Taken back, the men look to each other. Jah suspicious.

JAH

Can't trust this snake, Captain.

Tempted, OMAR - the fierce Arab - calls out:

OMAR

100 chests of gold. For each man.

KATSU, the steely Ronin, chimes in.

KATSU

And 100 casks of the oldest wine.

ALADDIN

I can do better.

Lamp in clutch, Aladdin looks to Rhaz, now emerging out
the shadows behind him like a demon.

ALADDIN (CONT'D)

Grant each man a chest that never
runs empty of gold. And a jug that
pours whatever drink they desire.

Eyes blazing, Rhaz manifests eight enchanted CHESTS and
JUGS for the men. As they gawk at their gifts, Omar takes
a fist full of gold. Astonished to see more coins sprout
in their place. Katsu relishes the wine.

KATSU

Must be a thousand years old!

As the others marvel, SHEN, the Shaolin warrior, remains
stoic.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ALADDIN

How about you friend? If gold and
drink don't suit your taste, just
ask and it will be yours.

As Shen remains silent, Mateo - the Spaniard - calls out.

MATEO

He's taken a vow of silence. Won't
speak til he finds what he seeks.

ALADDIN

Well now's his chance.

BARASA, the towering Swahili, cuts in.

BARASA

What he seeks none can grant.
Honor.

Drink in hand, DRAGO, the Slav warrior, interjects.

DRAGO

Good luck finding it on this ship.

As the others chuckle, Aladdin turns to Sinbad.

ALADDIN

How about you, Captain? What is it
you seek?

The men fall silent. Eyes on their somber Captain.

SINBAD

One who perished long ago. Her
name was Desiree. Bring her back
to life.

Silent, Aladdin feels Sinbad's stare. Looking to Rhaz:

ALADDIN

You heard him.

RHAZ

There are wishes not even a Jinn
can grant. To give life is the
dominion of the Almighty.

Sinbad sinks. His crew silent.

ALADDIN

I may not be able to mend your
heart. But accept this as a token
of my respect. Rhaz... restore
this ship. Mend her sails.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

ALADDIN (CONT'D)

Bolster her hull. Arm her sides.
Make *The Desiree* the fastest and
mightiest vessel the world has
known. One worthy of her name.

Eyes ablaze, Rhaz roars. His breath blowing like a
tempest. Before the astonished crew, the ship transforms.

Her battered wooden hull, mending and armoring in iron.
Her tattered sails morph into mighty Chinese jugsails.
Her bow and stern reshaping for maximum speed. A row of
CATAPULTS manifest along her iron hull. Lastly, a bronze
bust of Desiree - the woman in Sinbad's portrait -
appears as the figurehead on the ship's bow.

As the crew admires their new infallible vessel, Sinbad
takes hold of the ship's revamped wheel. Even he is in
awe. In the aftermath, Aladdin coughs. Pale and worn.

ALADDIN (CONT'D)

Are we settled then?

Sinbad nods stoically. Turning to Jah:

SINBAD

We have no business here anymore.
Prepare to set sail at dawn.

As the crew gets to work, Aladdin looks to Rhaz.

ALADDIN

I've lost enough time. Take me to
Soraya now.

Sinbad looks back to find Aladdin vanished amid smoke.

INT. PALACE HALL - NIGHT

At court, we find Soraya along with Prince Ramesh and
King Zaman being entertained by colorful DANCERS. Bored,
the Raja turns to Soraya, who's lost in her own thoughts.

RAJA

Truly, you have a poor sense of
entertainment in Shambhala. I can
hardly wait til we are back home.

SORAYA

We?

RAJA

Surely you don't expect us to live
under such meager conditions.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SORAYA

Of course not. In fact, I hardly expect us to live together at all.

RAJA

Well that's not really your choice, now is it?

Fuming, Soraya storms off as her father sighs.

INT. SORAYA'S CHAMBER, PALACE - MOMENTS LATER

Entering her chamber, she shuts herself in. Sinking on her bed in despair, she reaches under her pillow, taking out Aladdin's mask from the ball. Eyeing it in thought.

Just then a DARK FIGURE appears behind her in the mirror. She is startled at the sight of her pale visitor.

SORAYA

Aladdin?! What are you doing here?

ALADDIN

You asked for the truth. Well here it is.

He holds out the lamp. Baffled, she gapes at it.

ALADDIN (CONT'D)

This lamp is the source of my good fortune.

SORAYA

You speak in riddles. How did you get here?

ALADDIN

Within this lamp, is a Jinn that can grant any wish.

SORAYA

Do you take me for a child?

ALADDIN

If you don't believe me, maybe you'll believe your own eyes. Show yourself, Rhaz.

A cold chill blows through. Bringing Rhaz to view; shackled and infernal. Soraya gasps at his demonic sight.

SORAYA

I know you. It was you who came for us in the storm...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RHAZ

It was I who caused it.

As she turns to Aladdin in disbelief...

INT. TAVERN, SHAMBHALA - SAME

Back in the seedy tavern, rowdy patrons cheer another brutal pit fight in progress.

Up in his terrace, we find The Turk and his henchmen. Ruffled up by their ordeal, they drink to calm their nerves. Just then, a shadow donning the sapphire ring darkens their table. It's Qassim.

THE TURK

Is there a problem, friend?

QASSIM

There is. And his name is Aladdin.

Qassim tosses a purse of gold before The Turk.

QASSIM (CONT'D)

I have a proposition. The risk is high. But so is the reward. I'll need Shambhala's best mercenaries.

Curiosity peaked, The Turk pulls Qassim a seat.

INT. SORAYA'S CHAMBER, PALACE - LATER IN THE NIGHT

Back in her chamber, Soraya is shocked by Aladdin's tale.

ALADDIN

On my soul. Every word is true.

SORAYA

This Alchemist... where is he now?

ALADDIN

Lost in the mountains I suppose.

She looks to Rhaz. Unsettled by his infernal chains.

SORAYA

Who has done this to you, great Jinn? Who has cursed you and your beloved?

Rhaz snarls in disdain. Aladdin coughs.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALADDIN

Answer her. Tell her what you've told me.

The Jinn's chains tighten, compelling him to answer.

RHAZ

It was The Devil. To spite the Almighty, he forbid all Jinn to love as humans do. But we defied him. Me and my Aysa. For this, he cursed us to serve man as slaves. Doomed to spend eternity in chains. And apart.

Soraya looks to Aladdin.

SORAYA

This is monstrous. You must free this Jinn at once.

Aladdin and Rhaz are both taken back.

ALADDIN

Free him?! How?

SORAYA

You can wish it.

Hesitant, Aladdin falls silent. Rhaz scoffs.

RHAZ

Time will cease before man forgoes his greed. Fear not, mortal. You could not wish me free even if your nature allowed it. Do you truly think your feeble whims can break the bonds of hell? Aysa and I were cursed together. We can only be freed together.

SORAYA

Where is she now?

ALADDIN

Gone. Along with the Alchemist.

As Rhaz sinks, dissipating into the lamp...

EXT. PALACE GATES - SAME

A band of SHROUDED MERCENARIES approach the palace walls.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Moving through the night with stealth, they are led by Qassim and The Turk. As PALACE GUARDS keep watch on towers, Qassim motions the shrouded fighters.

Grappling the walls, they scale to the top, silently taking out the guards with crossbows.

With the watchtower clear, Qassim moves to the gate. Raising his staff, he bends the massive gates open. Swarming the grounds with The Turk and more mercenaries. As they take out more guards, Qassim hastes into the palace. His ring glowing brighter with each step.

INT. SORAYA'S CHAMBER, PALACE - SAME

Now in midst of an argument, Soraya and Aladdin are unaware the lamp is glowing like the ring atop a mantle.

SORAYA

That lamp is The Devil's tool.
Look what it's done to your flesh.
Your soul. You must be rid of it.

ALADDIN

It's not that simple. You've lived
your whole life never knowing
hunger or fear. But I know what it
is to live like a dog. And I'm
never going back.

SORAYA

You have everything you need now.
What more do you want?

ALADDIN

You. All I want is you. All I've
done has been for you. And nothing
I have means a damn without you.
But if I give up this lamp, I have
no chance.

SORAYA

If you can't free the Jinn, then
free yourself. While you can.

ALADDIN

What do you care what I do or
don't? The truth is you're afraid
to fight for what you want. That's
why you're going to marry that
coward. Isn't that so?

SORAYA

Not everyone is as free as you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALADDIN

Maybe you're not who I thought you were. Maybe you're better off with him after all.

The wound cuts deep. As Soraya sinks, the Raja bursts in.

RAJA

What treachery is this?

SORAYA

How dare you enter my chamber?

The Raja draws his sword, approaching Aladdin.

RAJA

I remember you now. You're the thief from the ball. Draw your sword if you have any honor.

ALADDIN

Gladly.

SORAYA

I will have no blood shed here.

As the Raja charges, Aladdin draws his blade. Clashing with him in battle. Just then the lamp, now glowing blindingly, begins to rattle violently on the mantle.

RAJA

What devilry is this?

Eyeing the lamp, the Raja does not see the dark figure now emerging from the shadows behind him. Just then:

A dagger pierces the Raja's chest from the back. As he falls dying, the menacing figure of Qassim comes to view. Shocked by his sight, Aladdin lunges at him.

Raising his staff, Qassim hurls Aladdin with an unseen force. Grabbing Soraya, he puts his dagger on her throat.

QASSIM

Young love. Is there a greater force in all the world?

ALADDIN

Let her go. If it's the lamp you want, take it. It's on the mantle.

QASSIM

You must take me for a fool, if you think I'd fall for that. Call your Jinn before I cut her throat.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ALADDIN
(reluctant)
Rhaz.

As Rhaz emanates from the lamp, Qassim calls on his ring.
Both objects now intensely radiating with light.

QASSIM
Rise, Aysa. Greet your beloved.

The faint figure of Aysa now appears. At each other's
sight, the star-crossed Jinn instinctively rush for one
another. Only to be pulled back by their hellish chains.

QASSIM (CONT'D)
Don't be shy. Kiss him. And devour
all his strength.

Whipped by her chains, Aysa draws Rhaz into a kiss they
have been denied for eons. Consuming his amber flames
into her sapphire, she now burns in both. Reviving her
strength while diminishing him to the brink of death.

QASSIM (CONT'D)
That will do.

As Aysa pulls away in horror, Rhaz falls to the ground,
listless. Aladdin and Soraya watching helplessly.

QASSIM (CONT'D)
Now turn him to flesh and chain
him to his master so they are
truly inseparable. Till death do
them part.

Forced to action, Aysa transforms Rhaz into flesh.
Chaining Aladdin's hand to both the lamp and Rhaz.

Alerted, guards try to enter the chamber, but Qassim
shuts and locks the door on them with his staff. As they
try to break down the door, Qassim - still holding Soraya
at knife point - smirks at Aladdin who eyes him in hate.

ALADDIN
You have what you came for. Let
her go.

Qassim lowers his dagger. Guards still trying to enter.

QASSIM
No, Magi. You took what was mine.
Only fair I take what is yours.

As Soraya gasps, Aladdin calls on her.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

ALADDIN

I will come for you. To the ends
of the earth if I have to.

QASSIM

You won't live to see sunrise.
Much less her. Aysa... to Axis
Mundi.

Lashed by her chains, Aysa sets a torrent of wind blowing through the chamber with eyes of fire. Hollering in rage, Aladdin grabs his sword lunging at Qassim, only to be pulled back by his chains to Rhaz. With that, The Alchemist vanishes in a cyclone of smoke with Soraya.

Falling to the ground in rage, Aladdin experiences something he hasn't since childhood. His hands begin to convulse, radiating with heat. In an instant...

They erupt in ferocious flames, setting the entire chamber on fire. As the guards are about to break through the door, Aladdin shakes Rhaz. Trying to revive him.

ALADDIN

Get up. You have to get up. You
have to get us out of here.

But the Jinn is despondent. Aladdin's fire receding.

ALADDIN (CONT'D)

Do it for Aysa. We have to get
them back. You hear me? Get up.

Mustering the last of his energy, Rhaz opens his eyes. Helped to his feet by Aladdin. Barely able to stand. Just then, the guards break in to the burning chamber, led by King Zaman. At the sight of the scene:

KING ZAMAN

Seize them!

As they rush for him, Aladdin and Rhaz, chained together, bolt for the fiery terrace. Leaping out.

EXT. PALACE GROUNDS - CONTINUOUS

Crash landing in the shrubbery below, they dash across the grounds. Dodging arrows from ARCHERS in the towers. Dragged down by the weight of Rhaz, Aladdin leads them through the gardens.

With palace guards, horsemen, and hounds on their tail, Aladdin leads Rhaz to a familiar spot: the dried well. Latching on to the pulley, they descend into the well.

INT. AQUEDUCTS, PALACE - CONTINUOUS

They wade the sewers in frenzy. Hounds and guards in tow.

RHAZ

Give it up. There's no hope.

ALADDIN

There's always hope. And I know
just where to find it.

Eyeing a raging canal, Aladdin pulls Rhaz into it. Its
currents flushing them out of sight.

EXT. PORT, SHAMBHALA - DAWN

The canal purges Aladdin and Rhaz out into the sea. As
they struggle to stay afloat, Aladdin's eyes fall on The
Desiree, now preparing to disembark.

Dragging Rhaz, he desperately swims for the ship.
Reaching her anchor, he latches on just as it is hoisted.

EXT. DECK, DESIREE - CONTINUOUS

As the palace burns in the distance, The Desiree leaves
Shambhala. Aladdin pulls himself and Rhaz onto her deck,
stowing away amid the ship's cargo. Breathless.

On the stern, Jah and Sinbad notice the burning palace.

JAH

What do you suppose happened?

Ill tempered, Sinbad spits tobacco, swigging a bottle.

SINBAD

Not our concern, now is it? I'll
be in my quarters. I don't wish to
be disturbed.

Jah nods, somberly watching Sinbad retire to his cabin.
Omar steps beside Jah.

JAH

Hope can be a dangerous thing. To
come this close only to lose her
all over again.

OMAR

If the broken heart don't kill
him, the bottle will. Must be
something we can do.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JAH

Some wounds never mend.

OVER BY THE CARGO

Aladdin is trying to pick the lock of their chain to no avail. Frail, Rhaz eyes him with disdain.

RHAZ

This is what you call hope? You should have let us drown.

ALADDIN

Why don't you make yourself useful and help me break these chains.

RHAZ

I don't have the strength.

ALADDIN

Then let's get it back. Help me find Aysa.

RHAZ

We stand no chance against Qassim.

ALADDIN

That's a risk I'll gladly take for Soraya. Question is, what will you chance for Aysa?

Rhaz falls silent. Just then Barasa grabs Aladdin from behind. As Aladdin wrestles against the Swahili in vain, the rest of the crew arrive, alerted by their struggle.

MATEO

Well if it isn't the prince of generosity himself. To what do we owe this pleasure?

BARASA

Caught him stowing aboard.

DRAGO

Come to steal some more?

The large figure of Jah now towers to view.

JAH

Once a thief. Always a thief.

ALADDIN

I didn't come to steal. I'm here to see the Captain.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JAH

The Captain is not to be
disturbed. Throw them overboard.

ALADDIN

One more step and I'll set the
Jinn on you. I must speak to the
Captain. Now.

The men hesitate. But seeing Rhaz diminished and chained
to Aladdin, Jah smirks.

JAH

Your Jinn looks more helpless than
you. Get rid of them.

Aladdin tussles in vain as Barasa and Drago drag them to
the edge of the ship. But before they can toss them...

SINBAD (O.S.)

Let them go.

The crew turns to see Sinbad now emerging to view. Bottle
in hand and foul tempered.

SINBAD (CONT'D)

Well, thief? What do you want?

ALADDIN

A word with you. In private.

SINBAD

I keep no secrets from these men.
Speak... while you can.

ALADDIN

I need your help.

SINBAD

My help?! That's rich.

As the men scoff...

SINBAD (CONT'D)

Whatever it is, you're better off
asking your Jinn.

ALADDIN

The Alchemist has drained his
power and taken Princess Soraya.

SINBAD

So?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

ALADDIN

I'm sure the king would reward you
handsomely for her safe return.

SINBAD

What's she to you?

ALADDIN

She's everything to me.

SINBAD

You aim high, I'll give you that.
Is that why the palace is in ruin?
Sure leave your mark where you go.

Aladdin falls silent.

SINBAD (CONT'D)

Kind of you to think of us. But
thanks to you, my men have no use
for the King's gold. You made your
bed, now go rot in it.

ALADDIN

Are you not Sinbad? Lion of Basra?
The Legend of the Seven Seas? Here
I was thinking you a hero. Guess
that's just talk.

SINBAD

Here's a free tip, son. The only
one you can ever save in this
world is yourself. Toss them.

The men set to do just that. Until a faint voice cuts in:

RHAZ

There's one you *can* save. Desiree.

All eyes turn to the weary Jinn, sprawled on deck.
Aladdin, surprised like the rest. Somberly stepping
forth, Sinbad raises his scimitar in wrath, landing its
blade within an inch of Rhaz's face on the deck.

SINBAD

You lie, Jinn.

Drained, Rhaz struggles to speak.

RHAZ

It's no lie. But if I am to help
you, you will help me.

SINBAD

You said no Jinn has that power.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

RHAZ

No one Jinn. But he who wields
both can harness Absolute Magic,
the power of the Almighty. This is
Qassim's quest.

SINBAD

Both Jinn? There is another?

ALADDIN

Aysa. The Jinn of the Ring. And
she serves Qassim.

Skeptical, Sinbad eyes Rhaz.

SINBAD

If what you say is true, then why
did he not take you?

RHAZ

He bid Aysa to consume my power.
She now has the fire of both Jinn.

SINBAD

(beat)
Where is Qassim now?

ALADDIN

He called it Axis Mundi.

SINBAD

Axis Mundi?

RHAZ

The northern most point of the
world. Directly beneath the North
Star. Where heaven meets the
earth.

Sinbad's gaze hardens.

SINBAD

I know where Axis Mundi is. It's
where fools go to die.

RHAZ

It is also where Absolute Magic
can be harnessed. Retrieve Aysa
from Qassim and I'll tell you how.

SINBAD

Those tides are riddled with
storms, glaciers, and devil knows
what else. All you'll find there
is death.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

ALADDIN

Small price for your beloved,
wouldn't you say? If anyone can
cross those tides it's you.

SINBAD

I won't lead my men to doom. I've
asked too much of them as it is.

As his men look to one another, Jah breaks his silence.

JAH

Hell Captain, we don't follow you
because you ask but because we owe
you our lives. Barasa and I would
still be in chains on a slave ship
if not for you. Drago and Omar
would be dangling by their necks
from the gallows. Katsu and Shen,
dead in some battlefield. Mateo,
wasting away in some brothel. Now
you brought us the gold you
promised. And we will bring you to
Desiree. And neither the tides of
Axis Mundi nor the Devil himself
can stand in our way. Isn't that
so men?

Without flinching, the men call out in unison.

THE CREW

AYE!

Moved, Sinbad falls silent.

ALADDIN

What do you say Captain? Take me
to Soraya and the Jinns are yours.

SINBAD

You have a deal. Betray it and
I'll feed you to the sharks. One
limb at a time.

ALADDIN

Understood.

Resolving, Sinbad turns to Jah.

SINBAD

Unchain them.

Grabbing a battle axe, Jah swings down on the chain. To
his awe, the axe shatters. The chain left intact. Sinbad
turns to Aladdin.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

SINBAD (CONT'D)
Another precaution?

ALADDIN
Qassim's doing. The Jinn's too
weak to undo it. He needs rest.

Sinbad eyes Rhaz. Fast fading.

SINBAD
Take them to my quarters. Set
course for Axis Mundi. We follow
the North Star.

As the men get to work, Sinbad eyes the heavens with new
resolve. The North Star, gleaming in morning light.

EXT. ARCTIC SEA - DAY

Countless leagues away, beneath that same star, a fierce
blizzard hammers the hardened CREW of a menacing WARSHIP.
Racing through vast patches of glaciers.

INT. QUARTERS, QASSIM'S SHIP - SAME

Inside a cabin, we find Qassim. Poring over a volume of
ancient maps and charts amid turbulence, he tinkers with
an armillary sphere, aligning various planets with the
Earth's North Pole. The now vigorous figure of Aysa looms
behind. Blazing in both sapphire and amber flames.

AYSA
On my beloved's soul. I will turn
your dreams to ash.

QASSIM
Then best you hurry. Because soon
you'll be as useless as your
beloved.

AYSA
Not if the Dark Queen has her say.

QASSIM
Still resting your hopes on your
old master? If she dared to face
me, she would have done it by now.
Can you see the old hag yet?

AYSA
She remains hidden from my eyes.
But sure as night follows day, she
will come for you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

QASSIM

I can hardly wait.

As Aysa glares at him in scorn, the door of the cabin bursts open. Qassim looks up to see The Turk holding Soraya by her arm as she struggles against him in vain.

THE TURK

Caught her trying to escape.

Qassim rises, smiling.

QASSIM

Leave us.

As The Turk leaves, Qassim nears Soraya.

QASSIM (CONT'D)

I wonder, even if you could escape, where would you go?

SORAYA

The bottom of the sea if I had to.
Where are you taking me?

QASSIM

To a brighter future. Where you can have anything you want. For as long as you want.

SORAYA

What I want is to return home.

QASSIM

You do now. But in time you will thank me. In three nights, I will do what no man has ever done. I will be free of all the chains of this world and live at the mercy of no man, demon, or god. And you will have the privilege of being my queen.

SORAYA

I would rather die.

QASSIM

On the contrary. You are going to live. Forever.

He traces her horrified face with his scabbed hands.

QASSIM (CONT'D)

Beauty such as this should be preserved for all eternity.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

She slaps him. Suppressing his anger:

QASSIM (CONT'D)
I'd reconsider if I were you. For
any harm you bring yourself, I'll
bring to your kingdom tenfold. And
to that thieving roach you love.
That is if he's not yet dead.

She falls silent. Just then, the compass on his table
starts to spin in a frenzy. At the sight, he lights up.

QASSIM (CONT'D)
Come. Let me show you the world's
greatest unknown wonder.

EXT. DECK, QASSIM'S SHIP - MOMENTS LATER

Clad in furs, they emerge on deck. Scanning the vast
Arctic tundra ahead, Qassim calls out.

QASSIM
Behold... Axis Mundi.

THE TURK
I don't see a damn thing.

QASSIM
What a curse to have sight but no
vision. Raise the Magi altar.

At the command, Aysa burns to view. Levitating above the
ship with fiery eyes, she raises her hands. Unleashing a
violent quake that begins to crack the tundra apart.

From beneath the ice shelf, the massive remnants of an
ancient ZIGGURAT - a terraced step pyramid - begins to
rise to the surface, tearing apart the nearby glaciers as
it rises to the heavens beneath the North star. As
everyone aboard gapes at the structure...

CUT TO:

EXT. BRIDGE, DESIREE - DUSK

Sinbad. Steering The Desiree through rough, misty tides.
Manning the sails, the crew glares at what appears
through the fog: a graveyard of LOST SHIPS, wrecked on
the forest of icebergs that surround them.

As Sinbad sails through undeterred, the weather vane on
the bridge suddenly goes berserk, spinning wildly. Sinbad
eyes it, perturbed. Mateo calls out from the crow's nest:

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MATEO

Have a look, Captain. Something's
on our tail.

Tosses his spyglass to Sinbad who scopes to see:

POV: A DARK OMINOUS MASS. Chasing them like a typhoon.

Lowering the spyglass, Sinbad grimaces.

JAH

What is it, Captain?

SINBAD

Nothing good. Brace yourselves.

The men do just that as Sinbad steers the ship on a sharp
turn, racing straight through the maze of icebergs.
Sailing through the ice daggers with unparalleled skill.

As he safely brings The Desiree through, the crew cheers.
Scoping the spyglass, Sinbad sees the DARK MASS halting
before the icebergs. He smirks, swigging his bottle.

SINBAD (CONT'D)

Follow that.

INT. CABIN, DESIREE - SAME

Meanwhile, inside Sinbad's cabin, Aladdin regains his
balance from the turbulence. Still chained to Rhaz who
lies on a bed at death's door. Fading away by the moment.

ALADDIN

Can't give up. We've come too far.

RHAZ

What is it about you humans? Can't
you ever just accept your fate?

ALADDIN

Fate is what we make it to be. And
if a part of you didn't believe
that, you wouldn't have helped me
with Sinbad. I owe you for that.

RHAZ

I didn't do it for you.

ALADDIN

That much I know. But I also know
you don't make barter with any
man. At least none you keep.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

No reply.

ALADDIN (CONT'D)

You have every right to despise me. But for better or worse, our fates are one. Now I could command you to tell me the truth. But I'm not going to. Because if we don't work together, the ones we love are good as gone. So I'm asking you not as a master but as your ally. What are you not telling me?

RHAZ

Axis Mundi is where the world was born. Long ago, the Magi learned the power of creation could be harnessed there. They called this Absolute Magic. For it had no limits. But they soon realized its power was far too great for man. So they buried their altar. Along with their secret.

ALADDIN

And Qassim has unearthed it. But why does he need it?

RHAZ

To break his barter with The Devil. But to gain Absolute Magic requires a sacrifice of pure love. And no love is as pure as ours.

ALADDIN

Then if he succeeds, you will both die.

RHAZ

It may well be too late for me. But Aysa can still be saved. I told Sinbad enough to get us to Axis Mundi. But my hope is you will steal Aysa first and wish her free. It's a fool's hope, perhaps. But it's all I have.

ALADDIN

But if I free Aysa, how can I face Qassim? Without you, I'll need her help to defeat him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

RHAZ

You know mortal, for all your bluster, you still don't believe in yourself. Well you better start. For far more than this chain binds you and I.

ALADDIN

How's that?

RHAZ

What do you think it is to be a Magi? Do you not see it yet? A Magi is half man... half Jinn.

ALADDIN

A half Jinn? Me?!

RHAZ

Why do you think only a Magi could reach the lamp? Jinn fire rages in your blood. Your wit. Your speed. Your will. You've sensed it all your life. Qassim has traded his soul for magic like yours. But all you need is the fire within. And when you master it, you can do anything a Jinn can.

ALADDIN

But I don't even know how to summon it. Much less master it. What is the secret? Is it anger?

RHAZ

The secret of the fire is love. Love is the creator. Love is the destroyer. Love is the power of the Almighty. And its flame already burns deep in you. I was wrong to mistake it for greed. Just as you are wrong to mistake it for anger. The key lies in your desire. Not just for the good of yourself, but for the good of all. Set your heart on this, and the fire will answer your call.

Aladdin eyes his hands in thought.

RHAZ (CONT'D)

You have no need of me nor Aysa. And if ever you do reach her, you must free her.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

RHAZ (CONT'D)

For if Qassim gains Absolute Magic, he will bring ruin to all the world. And you will lose Soraya for good.

ALADDIN

I'll be damned if I let him.

RHAZ

Make no mistake. He's not all you must contend with. For there is another who draws ever near. Beware the Dark Queen.

ALADDIN

Dark Queen?

RHAZ

The Queen of Sheba. Witch of the Nile. She hunts us as we speak. She is not to be trusted. For she is no better than Qassim. Promise you'll do as I ask.

ALADDIN

You have my word. To my dying breath.

Exasperated, Rhaz now withers away.

RHAZ

I've given you my last. The rest is in your hands.

Gasping, Rhaz begins to disintegrate.

ALADDIN

Rhaz, no. Stay with me. Rhaz!

Too late. The weary Jinn now turns to smoldering ash, dissipating into the lamp which remains chained to Aladdin. Now mourning his fallen slave. Until...

BOOM. Something rocks the ship, sending Aladdin tumbling across the cabin. Grabbing the lamp, he rushes out.

EXT. DECK, DESIREE - NIGHT

Hasting on deck, he finds the crew scanning the tides on edge. Omar calls on Mateo, in the crow's nest.

OMAR

See anything?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MATEO

Not a thing.

JAH

Keep your eyes peeled. If it was a whale it'll be back.

SINBAD

That was no whale.

Drago calls out from the stern.

DRAGO

Captain... you'll wanna see this.

Motioning Jah to take the wheel, Sinbad joins Drago on the stern. On the outer hull, he spots a massive frozen dent. Its ice fast enveloping the stern.

SINBAD

What in the...

BOOM! Something rocks the ship again, crystallizing its side in ice. Knocking Aladdin and the others about.

ON SINBAD. Looking up to see:

That DARK MASS again. Colossal as it emerges from the mist like an unholy sea monster; racing at The Desiree with speed. From its mouth, arcs of energy torpedo into the tides. Streaking straight at The Desiree like tentacles of ice. Freezing the surf in their path.

Racing back to the wheel, Sinbad deploys a lever. Emptying the ballast tanks, he tilts Desiree on her side. The icy tentacles missing her hull by a hair. But as he brings the ship to balance, the demonic mass roars with renewed speed. The crew gapes. Sinbad glares.

SINBAD (CONT'D)

If its hell you want, you're in luck. Load up men.

The crew loads up the catapults, setting their payloads on fire. In an incredible display of nautical prowess, Sinbad uses the ballasts to send Desiree into a half donut, spinning her on axis. Racing straight at the dark mass that is coming at them like the Leviathan.

SINBAD (CONT'D)

FIRE!

The crew unleashes a furious barrage at the ominous mass. The catapults decimating the obscured target in a thunderous hail of fire. Illuminating it to reveal...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

A Dragon shaped WARSHIP. Its mouth spewing more icy tentacles. As several hit Desiree with impact, more of her is engulfed in ice, along with the surrounding tides. Trapping and bringing her to a grinding halt.

Relentless, the crew releases another volley. Riddling The Dragon Ship with more fiery ordinance as it closes in. Destroying its hull and masts. Setting them ablaze.

Engulfed in flames and smoke, The Dragon Ship begins to take water and sink.

Now lodged entirely in ice, Desiree is overtaken by the Dragon Ship's plumes of smoke. As Aladdin and Sinbad's crew are left coughing and blinded...

A host of SHROUDED BEDOUINS appear on the deck of the sinking Dragon Ship. Grappling aboard The Desiree.

At their sight, Sinbad and crew charge the invaders with drawn weapons. Thrown a sword by Katsu, Aladdin joins the fray alongside Sinbad and his men, unleashing fury on the Bedouins; thrashing and slicing their way through them.

But as Sinbad punishes two Bedouins with his scimitar, a third tries to flank him. Before he can, Aladdin leaps to Sinbad's defense, taking on the skilled Bedouin.

Disarming Aladdin's sword, the Bedouin sends him to the deck with a kick, closing in. Aladdin swings the chained lamp at his shrouded skull, toppling him overboard. Discarding his own foes, Sinbad eyes Aladdin in approval.

With the Dragon Ship fast sinking, our heroes seem to have the upper hand on the Bedouins. Until...

A BURST OF SMOKE suddenly flies out of the sinking Dragon Ship, cracking the deck of The Desiree as it lands.

From within the smoke, a cloaked figure appears; scepter in hand. As Sinbad and crew charge it, the dark figure levitates. Defying gravity as it flips and lands behind them. Hurling them back by an unseen force of energy.

But standing victorious, the figure is unaware of Aladdin. Leaping down on it with his blade, impaling its torso.

Unfazed by the blow, the figure turns to face Aladdin. Raising the scepter, it levitates Aladdin off the deck, sending him crashing through the bridge.

Before everyone's amazed eyes, the dark figure pulls Aladdin's lodged blade out of its torso. The gaping wound erupts in a small burst of fire, healing miraculously.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Undeterred, Sinbad and his men make another push. But before they can even get close, the dark figure sets the mast ropes of The Desiree to come alive like a host of anacondas, lashing and entangling them helpless.

With the Bedouins joining its side, the dark figure removes its cloak to reveal:

A majestic woman of incomparable beauty. Skin, pale. Long raven hair flailing in the wind. At long last, meet the Dark Queen herself. The legendary QUEEN OF SHEBA.

As Aladdin and the rest marvel at her, she nears Sinbad - struggling against his ropes - with an admiring glance.

QUEEN OF SHEBA

Sinbad. The Master of the Seven seas. Yet not his own heart. Long have I admired you and your men from afar.

SINBAD

You have a funny way of showing it. Who are you?

QUEEN OF SHEBA

I am the Queen of Sheba.

SINBAD

That can't be. The Queen of Sheba lived ages ago. In the time of Solomon the wise.

QUEEN OF SHEBA

And alas... she lives still.

Leaving Sinbad, she nears Aladdin. Trapped in debris.

QUEEN OF SHEBA (CONT'D)

Aladdin. The spark who set the world ablaze. Your name fast spreads in the world, young Magi.

Eyeing Aladdin curiously, Sinbad calls on Sheba.

SINBAD

Enough with the riddles. State your business.

QUEEN OF SHEBA

My dear Captain, need I remind you if you and your mates still breathe it is by my grace and my grace alone. I mean you no harm. I only come to take what's mine.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

QUEEN OF SHEBA (CONT'D)

But now that you have sunk my ship
I've no choice but to take yours.
Now if you forgive my urgency...

Raising her scepter, she unleashes a deafening scream
that shatters all the ice that lodges Desiree. Turning to
her shrouded Bedouins:

QUEEN OF SHEBA (CONT'D)

Lock the good captain and his men
in the brig.

Bowing to their queen, the Bedouins start hauling off
Aladdin and the others.

QUEEN OF SHEBA (CONT'D)

Not the Magi. I wish to see him
alone.

As Sinbad eyes Aladdin, Sheba raises her scepter to the
heavens. Pointing at the shining North Star.

QUEEN OF SHEBA (CONT'D)

I call on the Northern Winds.
Carry me to Axis Mundi.

Whispering an arcane chant, she summons a ferocious wind
from the heavens. Filling the Desiree's sails, as the
Bedouins set her racing into the night once again.

INT. SINBAD QUARTERS, DESIREE - LATER

Making herself at home in Sinbad's cabin, Sheba admires
the haunting portrait of Desiree on the wall. Just then,
her Bedouins bring Aladdin to her. As they leave, Aladdin
eyes Sheba. Mystified.

QUEEN OF SHEBA

No need to be afraid. I wouldn't
harm another Magi. After all, you
and I are the last of our kind.

ALADDIN

(taken back)
You are a Magi?

QUEEN OF SHEBA

A fallen Magi. But one
nonetheless. Come closer.

As he approaches warily, she takes him by his chained
hand. Eyes on the lamp in his clutch.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALADDIN

If it's the lamp you're after,
you're too late. The Jinn is dead.

QUEEN OF SHEBA

Jinns are resilient creatures. He
may be diminished. But not yet
perished. I can restore him.

He perks at the words. Wheels turning in his head.

ALADDIN

Then prove it.

QUEEN OF SHEBA

Clever boy. I know the spell
you've placed on it. If you want
me to restore the Jinn, relinquish
the lamp to me first.

ALADDIN

Why should I trust you?

QUEEN OF SHEBA

What good is the lamp to you now?

She runs her fingers on his arm, eyeing his rotted scabs.

QUEEN OF SHEBA (CONT'D)

Nothing more than a toll on your
flesh and soul far as I see.
Surrender the lamp to me. It would
relieve you of its burden and
bring an end to my curse.

ALADDIN

What curse?

Drawing an ORNATE DAGGER with a faint smile, she slits
her palm. Blood trickling out.

QUEEN OF SHEBA

Can you imagine the horror of
living forever? To go on, year
after year. Watching seasons come
and seasons go. Along with friends
and lovers. An unending day
without the promise of sleep...

He gapes as her cut burst in a flame, mending itself.

QUEEN OF SHEBA (CONT'D)

This is the curse The Magi placed
on me ages ago.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ALADDIN

Why would they curse one of their own?

QUEEN OF SHEBA

Ages ago, when the great King Solomon came to possess the Jinn of the Ring, he charged the Magi with the quest of finding the lamp to free the Jinns and rid mankind of the Devil's curse. But while the other Magi obeyed, my eyes coveted the power of Absolute Magic. And so, in the folly of youth, I stole his ring and tried to take the lamp. But in my attempt, the ring was lost at sea. And with it man's best hope to free the Jinns. For this, the Magi hid the lamp in a cave, and cursed me for my betrayal.

ALADDIN

A hefty price for no reward.

QUEEN OF SHEBA

And yet that was not the worst of it. I was banished to exile. An outcast. And Solomon, whom I loved above all else, loved me no more.

Saddened, she eyes the regal seal of King Solomon engraved on the handle of her dagger.

QUEEN OF SHEBA (CONT'D)

My curse can only be broken when the Jinns are free. Since that time I have scoured the earth to find and free them. In hopes that I may end this torment and reunite with my Solomon in the hereafter. This is why I need the lamp.

ALADDIN

I don't doubt your torment. But nothing you've said tells me I should trust you.

QUEEN OF SHEBA

I've told you this not for your pity. Nor as a Magi. But simply as one who has loved and lost like you. If you give me the lamp, I will heal the Jinn and use him to take the ring from Qassim.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

QUEEN OF SHEBA (CONT'D)

In return I vow to help you find
your Soraya.

Aladdin falls in thought. After a beat:

ALADDIN

How do I know you'll keep your
word?

QUEEN OF SHEBA

You don't. But I'm not prepared to
let Qassim prevail. Are you?

Falling silent, Aladdin relents, offering her the lamp.

QUEEN OF SHEBA (CONT'D)

Don't play games with me boy. Say
the words and lift your silly
spell. That kind of child's play
is beneath a Magi. Even a novice.

ALADDIN

(reluctant)

The lamp is yours.

Pleased, she takes it. But it remains chained to him.

ALADDIN (CONT'D)

The chain. Can you free me of it?

QUEEN OF SHEBA

Patience.

Lamp in grasp, Sheba closes her eyes. Soon her hands
radiate with heat, erupting in flames that consume the
lamp. As it starts to glow faintly, she calls on it.

QUEEN OF SHEBA (CONT'D)

Rise great Jinn. For your time in
this world is not yet done.

At the words, the ashes of Rhaz spew from the lamp's
spout. Reconstituting his dormant form bit by bit.

As the Jinn hovers over them listlessly in a cocoon of
Sheba's fire, her blazing hands gradually start reviving
him. Watching intently, Aladdin is in awe of her power.

QUEEN OF SHEBA (CONT'D)

Don't look so surprised. Magi fire
can heal just as it can destroy.

Consumed in fire, Rhaz now slowly opens his eyes.
Wielding the lamp, Sheba calls on him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

QUEEN OF SHEBA (CONT'D)

Muster what strength you have and
break these chains. For now you
serve the Queen of Sheba.

Taken back at the sight of Sheba, Rhaz raises his weary
claw, eyes on fire. Sending the chains that bind him to
Aladdin, shattering like glass.

Relieved to be freed, Aladdin rubs his wrist.
Disheartened, Rhaz turns his betrayed gaze on Aladdin.

RHAZ

What have you done, mortal?

ALADDIN

I had no choice.

RHAZ

Fool. I told you to not trust her.

ALADDIN

Once she has Aysa, she will set
you both free. Tell him.

But by now, Sheba's gaze is fixated on the glowing lamp
in greed. Consumed by its dormant potential.

QUEEN OF SHEBA

There is that possibility...

ALADDIN

Possibility? You gave your word.

QUEEN OF SHEBA

Did I?

ALADDIN

What about your curse? Was that
all a lie too?

Her eyes remain locked on the glowing lamp. Mesmerized.

QUEEN OF SHEBA

No. But living forever may not be
such a curse if one has Absolute
Magic.

ALADDIN

But that would kill the Jinns.

QUEEN OF SHEBA

If they can't be together in this
life perhaps they can in the next.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

Enraged, Aladdin lunges for the lamp. But she evaporates with it in a burst of smoke. Reappearing behind him, she hurls him across the cabin with an unseen force.

QUEEN OF SHEBA (CONT'D)

Guards.

At her command, the Bedouins enter, grabbing Aladdin.

QUEEN OF SHEBA (CONT'D)

Lock him with the others.

As he's hauled off kicking and screaming, she faces Rhaz.

QUEEN OF SHEBA (CONT'D)

Rest now, weary Jinn, and
replenish your strength. You will
need it for what is to come.

EXT. AXIS MUNDI - NIGHT

Meanwhile, back in the Arctic, Qassim's ship is docked by the great Magi ziggurat. Having set camp at its base, Qassim's mercenaries guard every corner.

We hone in on one of the many tents, guarded by The Turk's men. Inside we find...

INT. TENT - CONTINUOUS

Soraya. Pacing about impatiently. Surveying the interior of her opulent tent for any way out. Her gaze falls on a lavish spread of uneaten food. Spotting a leg of lamb with a LARGE BONE.

Just then, she hears approaching voices. She peeps out the tent to see:

EXT. AXIS MUNDI - CONTINUOUS

Qassim and The Turk. Surveying the camp.

QASSIM

The witch is not to be
underestimated.

THE TURK

My men have set perimeter all
around. No soul can come near
without being seen.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

QASSIM
Human eyes will not suffice.
Aysa...

At his call, Aysa burns to view. Eyeing him with disdain.

QASSIM (CONT'D)
Conjure a great wall all around.
And chained wolves to keep vigil.
Not even she can elude their
senses.

Eyes ablaze, Aysa gets to work. Building a colossal protective wall around the ziggurat, she manifests packs of chained rabid WOLVES to guard the premises. Pleased, Qassim looks to the dark heavens. Eyeing the North Star.

QASSIM (CONT'D)
I will be in my tent. See to it
I'm not disturbed.

Walking off, he eyes Soraya's tent.

QASSIM (CONT'D)
And keep an eye on her majesty.
She is a feisty one.

INT. TENT - CONTINUOUS

Back to Soraya. Still spying on them from inside her tent. As Qassim walks off, The Turk motions one of his hooded men to check on Soraya.

Seeing him approach, she quickly snuffs out a candle, darkening the tent.

As the hooded guard enters, he finds her bundled up in her bed, beneath covers. Something's not right. He moves closer, pulling back the covers. Disturbed to find... a bunch of pillows in her place.

SUDDENLY, she appears behind him. Swinging the large leg bone at his skull. Knocking him out cold.

Quickly donning his cloak and hood, she grabs his bow and quiver of arrows. Rolling him into the bed, she hides him under the covers. Leaving the tent in his disguise.

INT. QASSIM'S TENT - LATER IN THE NIGHT

Qassim. Seated between two mirrors by candlelight, he huddles over an array of alchemy tools and potions. Crushing and mixing herbs into a thick ointment.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Stripped to the waste, he applies it to his diseased flesh, revealing the full horror of the diabolic plague consuming him. Lesions of black rot festering all across his lean, muscular torso.

Wincing in disgust, he uses the two mirrors to apply the ointment to his putrefied back and shoulders.

Just then, his reflection in one of the mirrors comes to life, sneering at him. It's The Devil, visiting again.

THE DEVIL

What a cruel joke the Almighty
plays on man. To give him such
grand dreams, only to make his
flesh so weak.

QASSIM

Heaven and hell may laugh now. But
the last laugh is mine.

THE DEVIL

We'll see how much you'll be
laughing when I collect my due.

QASSIM

Boast while you can. The break of
dawn will be our judge.

THE DEVIL

Absolute Magic might heal your
flesh, alchemist. But it won't rid
you of me.

QASSIM

Yet it can put you in chains and
make you my slave.

The Devil scoffs.

THE DEVIL

And they say my pride knows no
bounds. You humans have no shame.

QASSIM

Say what you will of mankind. But
his curiosity will be his
salvation. For he who asks shall
surely uncover secrets. Secrets
like yours.

THE DEVIL

What secret? I am an open book.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

QASSIM

Aye, but which book? So many lores
told of you. So many names given.
Men call you Satan, the favored
angel fallen from grace. But you
and I both know better. For you
are no angel at all. Isn't that
so... Jinn?

At the words, The Devil snarls in hate.

QASSIM (CONT'D)

In truth, you are the first Jinn.
The greatest Jinn of all. With all
the powers. And all the limits...

Qassim calls on his ring.

QASSIM (CONT'D)

Show The Devil his home to be.

Burning to view in a burst of sapphire and amber flames,
Aysa manifests a glistening SILVER BOTTLE, inlaid with a
great ONYX STONE.

The Devil growls at its sight.

QASSIM (CONT'D)

Long have you enslaved the souls
of others. But soon it will be you
who plays the servant. And I, the
master.

THE DEVIL

You'll need more than a bottle to
contain me, alchemist.

With that The Devil vanishes in the mirror.

But in his wake, another figure comes to view in the
mirror. It's Soraya, looming behind Qassim. Bow drawn,
she releases the arrow she's trained on him. WHOOSH!

As it comes flying straight at his neck, Qassim turns
just in time to catch it in the air with his hand.

But in a blink, Soraya fires two more arrows in rapid
succession. Qassim evades the first, which whizzes past
his head, shattering one of the mirrors. But he can't
escape the second, coming straight at his chest.

All he can do is raise his arm in its path like a shield.
As the arrow pierces his arm, Qassim hollers in rage.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Grabbing his staff, he levitates Soraya off the ground. Squeezing the breath out of her with his invisible grasp. Writhing in agony, she drops the bow. He now levitates her towards him until they are face to face.

QASSIM

You will regret that.

SORAYA

Go on, kill me. I'm not afraid.

QASSIM

And set you free? I won't give you the satisfaction. No I have a better idea.

He turns to Aysa, watching in distress.

QASSIM (CONT'D)

Since her highness insists on behaving like an animal, perhaps she'll enjoy being treated as one. Cage her.

Obeying reluctantly:

AYSA

Forgive me...

Her eyes turning to fire, Aysa manifests a steel cage around Soraya. Pulling out the arrow from his arm in pain, Qassim turns to her.

QASSIM

Only thing I enjoy more than a wild spirit, is to tame one.

As he walks off, leaving her weeping in her cage...

EXT. ARCTIC OCEAN - NIGHT

Through hail and sleet, The Desiree races the angry tides at unholy speeds. Powered by the winds Sheba summoned.

Tracking towards the hull of the ship, we enter her brig through a small barred side-scuttle.

INT. BRIG, DESIREE - CONTINUOUS

Inside the brig we find Sinbad and his men. Pressing down on a makeshift fulcrum with all their might. Trying to lift the prison door off its hinge with little luck.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SINBAD

Come on, you soft-livered daisies.
Push harder.

As they keep struggling in vain:

JAH

You have yourself to thank,
Captain. You said to build it so
as it couldn't be broken.

SINBAD

Well now I'm telling you to break
it. Because I'll be goddamned if I
let some two bit witch take my
ship. One way or another, we're
getting outta here. And getting
those Jinns.

MATEO

How do you suppose we take down
the witch? She can't die.

SINBAD

Let's see how she fares without a
head.

Pressing with all their might, they only manage to break
their fulcrum in half. Exhausted and frustrated, the men
slump down to catch their breaths.

Sinbad's gaze falls on Aladdin. Hunched down in a shadowy
corner, staring at his palms in defeat.

SINBAD (CONT'D)

And you. What's the matter with
you? Where's that quick mind and
tongue of yours now? Pull yourself
together and make yourself useful.

But Aladdin remains despondent. Eyes locked on his hands.

SINBAD (CONT'D)

A Magi with no tricks. What a sad
sight.

OMAR

He's been staring at his hands
like a half wit for hours.

KATSU

Must be something the witch did.

SINBAD

Get up men. Let's try again.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Struggling to stay on their feet amid the turbulence, they make another go at the fulcrum.

OMAR

At the speed she's been pushing
the ship, it's a wonder the masts
haven't cracked yet.

DRAGO

No telling where we are by now.

SINBAD

Let's find a way outta here first.
The North Star will show the way.

At the words, Aladdin suddenly perks. Rising, he moves to the small barred side scuttle. Looking up at the night sky. Despite the storm, he can see the sheen of the North Star. Beaming at him ever so faintly. Captivated by its sight, he enters a trance like state.

TIME SLOWS DOWN. Soon the sight and clamor of Sinbad's men begin to get drowned out by the complete silence that overtakes his mind. He closes his eyes. When he opens them again, he finds...

His hands engulfed in FIRE. Mesmerized by its glow, he plays with the dancing flames that obey his thoughts, as he shifts them from hand to hand. Shaping them into a blazing orb, growing in size and intensity. His hands convulsing as they try to contain its force.

He takes a deep breath. But as he inhales, the flames suddenly recede into his hands. Until...

He exhales. Suddenly the orb of fire bursts out of his hands with a force that snaps us back into REAL TIME.

KABOOM. The fireball explodes out of his palms like canon fire, blasting a gaping hole where the side scuttle was.

Startled by the blast, Sinbad and his men turn, gaping at Aladdin in awe. Smoke rising from his fingers like guns.

ALADDIN

You wanted a trick? You got one.

Stunned, they look through the gaping hole. Watching the stormy tides race past. Aladdin looks to Sinbad.

ALADDIN (CONT'D)

You should know, Captain. Using
the Jinns to bring back Desiree
will kill them. Which is why I'm
going to set them free.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

ALADDIN (CONT'D)

I doubt that changes your mind. So
from here on out, let the best man
win.

With that Aladdin, climbs out the hole.

EXT. THE DESIREE - SAME

As the ship darts through the storm and icebergs, Aladdin scales her side. Struggling to latch on as he tries to inch his way towards the Captain's cabin.

ON SINBAD, OMAR, AND SHEN

Following suit, they climb out the opening, scaling up to the deck. Slipping on the frosted hull, Omar is nearly swallowed by the tides, before Shen grabs him.

Now reaching the top in stealth, the trio take out some Bedouin watchmen silently. Throwing down ropes, they pull the others onto deck.

As Barasa snaps two more Bedouin necks, Drago and Katsu break into the armory. Reuniting with their most favorite toys alongside the others. Scimitar in hand, Sinbad leads his men to reclaim their ship.

With Shen's deadly blowdarts clearing his path of guards, Mateo quickly climbs to the crows nest, where he snipes foes with his trusted crossbow.

BACK ON ALADDIN

Having now reached the outer windows of the cabin, he peeks inside to see:

Sheba. Continuing to restore Rhaz with her fire.

JUST THEN

A Bedouin guard spots Sinbad and his men. Sounding an alarm bell. In an instant more Bedouins pour onto deck. Entangling with Sinbad, Jah and Barasa who melee and crush the hordes without mercy. Drago and Katsu flanking them with surgical slices of their blades.

ON ALADDIN. Still spying on Sheba.

HIS POV: Alerted by the commotion, she grabs the lamp and rushes out on deck.

Tracking her like a spider, he scales his way to the stern. Only to face two Bedouins coming at him with swords. Unarmed, Aladdin raises his hands to spew fire.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

But only a few pathetic sparks and spurts of flames spew out. He's gonna need more practice. No matter. His speed is still second to none.

Seeing the frozen deck between him and the Bedouins, he slides down between, knocking them overboard.

Climbing to the bridge, he leaps off, grabbing and swinging on a mast rope like a chimp; latching on the web of mast shrouds. Getting a bird's eye view of the battle now unfolding on deck between Sheba and Sinbad's men.

One after another, Sinbad's men charge at Sheba. But she's too tricky. Disappearing into smoke each time one of their weapons swats at her. Only to reappear behind them, sending them levitating and crashing about.

But anticipating her next reappearance, Sinbad whips back in time to knock the scepter out of her hand with his scimitar. Enraged, she sends him a raging gust of fire out of her hands like a flame thrower.

As he ducks for cover, she is pissed.

QUEEN OF SHEBA

Enough. Rhaz...

At her command Rhaz burns to view over her. Not back to his full strength. But good enough.

QUEEN OF SHEBA (CONT'D)

Chain these-

But before she can finish the sentence, Aladdin - dangling upside down from the shrouds by his feet - swings at her from behind snatching the lamp. Leaping off, he latches onto the mainmast. As Sheba glares...

ALADDIN

Who's the novice now? You should've put a spell on it.

Snatching her scepter from the deck, she levitates towards him. Screaming in rage. But it's too late. Aladdin whispers something to the lamp.

At the command, Rhaz's eyes light up in flames, obeying eagerly. As Sheba comes flying at them, a cyclone forms around Aladdin and Rhaz. Whisking them from view. And hurling her back.

Crashing back down on the deck, Sheba gapes at Sinbad's scimitar, now swinging down to behead her. Grabbing her scepter, she vanishes in a burst of smoke before he can. Carried off into the night by the winds.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Dispensing the last of her Bedouins, Sinbad's men cheer as they reclaim their ship.

Stepping onto the bridge, Sinbad grips the wheel with renewed swagger. Eyeing the North Star. Now nearly overhead, it shines bright in its proximity.

SINBAD

We're close.

Jubilant, Katsu offers Sinbad his jug of rum.

KATSU

Care for a swig, Captain?

Sinbad takes the jug. But reconsidering, hands it back.

SINBAD

Later.

CUT TO:

EXT. GLACIER, AXIS MUNDI - NIGHT

The raging cyclone lands Aladdin and Rhaz on a glacier. Eyeing the horizon they see....

The Magi ziggurat, towering beneath the North Star. All around, the ominous heavens swirl in the ethereal light of the aurora borealis, now streaking the night sky.

Rhaz looks at Aladdin in disbelief.

ALADDIN

Still doubt me, Jinn?

RHAZ

Never again. Let us finish this.

Aladdin eyes the towering ziggurat. Surrounded by the great wall and heavily guarded, its staggered pyramid ascends like a stairway to heaven.

ALADDIN

What is that thing?

RHAZ

The Magi ziggurat. Qassim will seek to harness Absolute Magic at the altar in its peak.

ALADDIN

When?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RHAZ

At the precise moment the earth
was born. When dawn brings the
equinox.

Aladdin scans the aurora filled night sky.

ALADDIN

Then we best move. How is your
strength?

RHAZ

Less than my will. But stronger
than your fire. Better practice if
you plan to face Qassim with it.

ALADDIN

No time for that. Think you can
take us inside?

RHAZ

It took more than I had to bring
us here. You'll have to get in on
your own. But I can show the way.

ALADDIN

Alright. But first I'll need
weapons. And armor.

RHAZ

I think I can muster a few things.

Eyes flashing fire, Rhaz starts manifesting. It drains
him to the core but through flames a chest comes to view.
As the Jinn falls back worn, Aladdin sifts through the
chest. White leather armor - vambraces, greaves and
boots; along with a white hooded cloak and face mask.

RHAZ (CONT'D)

Light armor that will blend you in
the snow.

Next, Aladdin finds a steel bow and a quiver of strange
cone shaped arrows. Along with a roped grapple hook.

RHAZ (CONT'D)

An unerring bow, with arrows of
fire. A grapple to climb any wall.

Lastly, Aladdin raises a gleaming iron cutlass.

RHAZ (CONT'D)

And a blade that will cut any
surface.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Clutching the blade, Aladdin twirls it skillfully, practicing a few swift moves.

ALADDIN

Not bad, Rhaz. Not bad at all. Now show me the lay of the land.

RHAZ

Your wish is my command. Master.

ALADDIN

No need to call me anymore. We're brothers in arms now.

Moved, Rhaz's eyes turn to fire, digging deep to expend what energy he doesn't have. Summoning a gust of flames, he shows Aladdin a burning vision of the ziggurat. Peering into the flames, Aladdin can see...

EXT. ALTAR, ZIGGURAT - SAME

Qassim. On the altar at the very peak of the ziggurat, he calls on Aysa. Looming behind him in raging amber and sapphire flames. Eyeing him in scorn.

QASSIM

Raise the pillars.

Eyes ablaze, she sets seven pillars to rise in the corners of the altar. Each pillar enshrined with a great mirror. All facing the center.

At the sight, Qassim's hard face creases with a smirk.

QASSIM (CONT'D)

Good. The pieces are all at hand.

AYSA

You are an abomination. Knowledge was never meant for this.

QASSIM

Knowledge is the purpose of man.
And I have given all to gain mine.
Surely even you can admire that.

Just then, they hear the chained wolves start to HOWL one after another. Aysa smirks. Qassim's face turns grim.

QASSIM (CONT'D)

She's here. And I wager so is the lamp. Can you see them yet?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AYSA

Thankfully, they both know to keep
from my eyes.

QASSIM

Don't thank your stars yet.
They'll have to get through me to
reach you. Seems the thief had the
right idea. You will not let
anyone take this ring from my
hand. Do you understand?

AYSA

Alas. It will be done.

Approaching The Turk, Qassim calls on him.

QASSIM

We have visitors. Have your men
search every corner and rock.
Bring me Sheba's head.

Nodding, The Turk takes off, barking orders at his
cutthroat mercenaries.

EXT. GREAT WALL, AXIS MUNDI - SAME

As guards keep vigil on watchtowers, we track along the
colossal snowy wall. It could be a trick of the eyes, but
if you look closely, you might spot a small moving patch.

Honing in, we see it's Aladdin. Nearly invisible in his
camouflage and mask, he stealthily grapples up the wall.
Slipping past the watchful guards.

Climbing the beams like a gecko, he reaches the top.
Waiting in shadows to let some guards pass, he quickly
rappels down the other side. Taking cover in a terrace,
he scans the encampment below.

ALADDIN

Which tent is she in?

Rhaz appears faintly at his side.

RHAZ

The rearmost.

ALADDIN

Let's see what these can do.

Drawing one of his cone tipped arrows into his bow, he
aims for the supply crates at the other end of the camp.
WHOOSH! The arrow rips through the night.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KABOOM. Nailing the crates, it explodes on impact in a blaze of fire. As all eyes turn to the blast, The Turk and his men haste towards it. Qassim in tow.

Using the distraction, Aladdin rappels down to the camp. Careful to not alert the chained wolves.

INT. QASSIM'S TENT - MOMENTS LATER

Slipping in, he scans frantically. In a dark corner, he spots Soraya, huddled up in her cage. As he rushes over, she jolts back; startled by her masked visitor.

ALADDIN

Told you I'd come.

As he removes his mask, she is stunned.

SORAYA

Aladdin?

Swinging his blade at the cage in a flurry of sparks, he sears through the iron bars, cutting them down. As she emerges through, they collide in a kiss.

ALADDIN

You'll be safe here. I have to free the Jinns.

SORAYA

Hand me that bow. I'm coming with you. This is my fight too.

Eyeing her, he relents, giving her the bow and arrows.

EXT. ENCAMPMENT, AXIS MUNDI - SAME

As Qassim and men investigate the fire, the ring begins to glow on his hand.

QASSIM

The lamp. It's near.

CUT TO

Aladdin and Soraya now slipping out of the tent. Rushing through the encampment in stealth. But as they make their way up the ziggurat, Aladdin's lamp begins to glow as a great shadow overtakes them. Whipping back they see:

Qassim. His ring glowing like Aladdin's lamp. The titanic form of Aysa looming overhead in amber and sapphire flames; darkening them in her shadow.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

QASSIM (CONT'D)
Not the Magi I expected.

ALADDIN
No. I'm the one you fear.

Qassim snarls at Aysa.

QASSIM
Crush their every bone.

Lashed, Aysa screams in hate, her eyes turning to fire as she sends her hellish chains at them. Aladdin draws the lamp from his cloak.

ALADDIN
Rhaz... now.

Qassim gapes at the lamp as Rhaz barrels out of it in a roar of fire. Towering to match Aysa's titanic size.

Eyes ablaze, he grabs her hellish chains mid-air, pulling her into a kiss. Reclaiming his strength as he devours her amber flames; leaving her blazing only in sapphire.

QASSIM
(to Aysa)
Destroy them.

ALADDIN
(to Rhaz)
Protect us.

ON THE JINNS

Now matched in power, they glance at each other with sorrowful eyes before their chains lash them to war. Turning their eyes to fire again.

Aysa lunges at Aladdin and Soraya, roaring fire at them. Aladdin shields Soraya from the flames with his body, covering her in his cloak.

Leaping to their defense, Rhaz tackles Aysa. Entangling in a clash of fire, they exchange blows, lashing each other with their hell chains. Tearing up the ziggurat.

ON QASSIM

Staff in hand, he levitates at Aladdin - who drawing his blade - leaps to meet him head on. As they collide in a death match of their own amid the falling rubble...

THE TURK

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Glares at seeing Aladdin. Leading his men in a charge.

SORAYA

Spotting them, she swiftly fires one of the arrows into their midst. Exploding on impact, its blast tosses them about.

ON ALADDIN

Swinging his blade at Qassim relentlessly, who evades the blows with Shaolin like agility. Now levitating, he flips behind Aladdin, blasting energy at him from his staff.

Aladdin dodges the blast. It smashes a column behind him, sending rubble crashing all around. Knocking the lamp out of his hand. As Qassim tries to go for it...

SUDDENLY

KABOOOM! Several blasts come ripping through the great wall. Like a barrage of fiery meteors, sending massive chunks of it crumbling down along with the tower guards.

Through the smoke and debris, a familiar shape comes to view on the horizon. The mighty sails of The Desiree. Now racing towards Axis Mundi. Her catapults spewing fire.

ON SINBAD

At the helm of his ship, he calls on his men - armed and ready for the apocalypse.

SINBAD

Again!

They unleash another volley of hellfire from their catapults. Bombarding the encampment on all sides.

QASSIM

Scrambling for the lamp, when one of the explosions hurls him aside.

ALADDIN

Cutting his way through the rubble with his blade.

SORAYA

Holding off the Turk and his men, with her exploding arrows.

THE JINNS

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Eyes ablaze, they battle in the heavens amid swirls of the aurora. Clobbering each other with their hell chains.

ON THE DESIREE

Dropping anchor, Sinbad and his men leap off onto the snowy ice shelf.

SINBAD (CONT'D)

Get me the Jinns.

With that, they charge Qassim's mercenaries, now barricading the burning wreckage of the great wall.

Mateo and Drago provide cover with crossbows, taking out tower guards, as Sinbad and the others charge into the encampment through the gaps in the demolished wall.

ALADDIN

Regains the lamp. But looks to see Qassim holding Soraya over a ledge. A pack of chained wolves waiting below.

QASSIM

One false move and she'll be their dinner. Give me the lamp.

Up above, Aladdin can see Rhaz and Aysa destroying each other with blazing eyes. Ahead, Qassim keeps Soraya teetering on the ledge. Aladdin caves.

ALADDIN

It's yours. Let her go.

Aladdin tosses the lamp aside. As he does, fire vanishes from Rhaz's eyes now glancing helplessly before vanishing back into the lamp. Aysa looming with hellish eyes.

QASSIM

As you wish.

Qassim drops Soraya anyway, hasting for the lamp. Aladdin leaps after her.

Landing in the snow below, Soraya is surrounded by growling chained wolves. But as they come for her, so does Aladdin. Clutching his blade in one hand, he grabs a nearby torch with the other. Swatting both at the wolves to keep their biting jaws at bay.

QASSIM

About to reach the lamp, when...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

A BURST OF SMOKE brings Sheba to view. Snatching the lamp, she vanishes with it as fast as she appeared. Only to reappear behind Qassim in another burst.

QUEEN OF SHEBA

You're out of your league,
alchemist.

QASSIM

Glad you could finally catch up.
Now I can make all your kind
extinct at once.

QUEEN OF SHEBA

You're a street magician. And
nothing more.

Enraged, Qassim eyes the aurora filled heavens where twilight is breaking. He calls on Aysa. Sheba on Rhaz.

QASSIM

Get me that lamp.

QUEEN OF SHEBA

Bring me the ring.

With that, Aysa and Rhaz roar to battle again, eyes ablaze. Conjuring lightning bolts from the heavens, Aysa hurls them at Rhaz, taxing his energy. He reciprocates by sending a cyclone at her. Both wreaking havoc on the landscape, as the mortals battle each other below.

QASSIM AND SHEBA

Duel in a sorcerer's battle, using their staff and scepter to blast each other with energy and hurl debris at one another. Levitating to evade.

ON ALADDIN

Down below in the wolf den, he is trying to stave off the beasts with his torch and blade.

Just then, one of Aysa's errant lightning bolts crashes down beside them, scorching the earth in a roar of fire.

As the wolves scatter, Aladdin covers Soraya from the flames with his body. Leading her out of the burning pit.

Only to face...

The Turk and his men. Aladdin twirls his blade.

THE TURK

Remember me?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

ALADDIN

Not for long.

As Aladdin takes them on one by one, Soraya reaches for her quiver. But she is out of arrows. No matter. She uses her steel bow as a quarterstaff. Bravely fighting alongside Aladdin.

Aladdin makes quick work of the first few. Throwing Soraya one of their swords to fight the others.

The Turk lunges at Aladdin. But as they cross sabres, Aladdin's blade cuts The Turk's in half. Followed by a swing of his fist that sends The Turk tumbling back.

But as more enemies flock to battle, Aladdin and Soraya are badly outnumbered. They wouldn't survive if not for:

SINBAD AND HIS MEN

Now storming to view. Flanking The Turk and his henchmen - among whom is the massive Gypsy from the pitfight. Seeing Jah, he lunges at the Mongol. Picking up their feud from where they left it, they go at it.

Converging with Sinbad and his men, Aladdin and Soraya fight by their side. Impressed by Soraya's skills, Sinbad calls on Aladdin while hacking away with his scimitar.

SINBAD

Now there's a woman.

ALADDIN

She's spoken for.

SORAYA

I can hear you, you know.

Working together, they make mince meat of their foes.

JAH

Destroying the Gypsy with his mallet.

SHEN

Using swift nunchuks and kung-fu to drop foes.

KATSU

Dealing death with both a short and long katana.

DRAGO AND MATEO

Rapid firing their crossbows.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

OMAR AND BARASA

Prefer fighting up close and personal. Punishing their opponents with the dual daggers in their clutch.

THE TURK

Seeing his mercenaries wiped out, glares at Sinbad, fighting with his back to him. He grabs a fallen spear.

JAH

Seeing this, smashes the Gypsy to the ground. Running towards Sinbad. Too late. The Turk launches the spear.

Sensing something coming at him from behind, Sinbad whips back just in time to see...

Jah shielding him with his massive body. Taking the spear in his torso. As his mate falls to his knees, Sinbad, fills with rage, hurling his scimitar at The Turk. Now running away like the coward he is.

But spinning straight and true, the scimitar lodges into the Turk's back, bringing him tumbling down. Dead.

With the remaining mercenaries running for their lives, Sinbad kneels beside Jah. Removing the spear, he scowls at the gentle giant's deep wound.

SINBAD

Hang on, Jah.

Aladdin and the others sink at their sight.

In the distance, Qassim and Sheba now battle atop the altar. The Jinns going at it with lightning and chains. Their destruction quaking the ice shelf.

Seeing the ice starting to crack under their feet, Sinbad calls on his men.

SINBAD (CONT'D)

I won't have more of your blood on
my hands. Fall back to the ship.
We're going home.

Aladdin eyes Sheba and Qassim. Dueling to the bitter end.

ALADDIN

By the time they're through, there
will be no home to go to. All the
world will burn.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (7)

SINBAD

The world is always burning. You
have your girl. Quit while you're
ahead.

As the others help Sinbad lift Jah, Aladdin looks to the
auroral heavens where twilight is at hand. Rhaz and Aysa,
weakened by their fight, are on the verge of annihilating
each other. Aladdin turns to Sinbad:

ALADDIN

I gave my word to the Jinn. Take
Soraya with you. See to it she
returns home safe.

SORAYA

I won't go anywhere without you.

ALADDIN

This is all my doing. And I'll
gladly give my life to undo it.
But I won't give yours. Take her,
Captain. I beg you.

Somber, Sinbad nods, motioning Barasa.

SORAYA

No!

Aladdin pulls Soraya into a kiss, before letting the
great Swahili carry her off kicking and screaming.

With a burdened mind, Sinbad yanks his scimitar out of
The Turk. Nodding to Aladdin in respect.

SINBAD

May the stars watch over you Magi.

ALADDIN

And you, Captain.

With that, they part ways. Aladdin rushes back to battle,
as Sinbad and the others haste back towards The Desiree.

EXT. ALTAR, ZIGGURAT - TWILIGHT

Wounded and worn, Rhaz and Aysa tussle in the auroral
twilight, high above the altar. She coils around him like
a python, squeezing the life out of him.

Below them, the battle between Qassim and Sheba rages on
at the peak of the ziggurat. Sheba sends roaring fire at
him from her hands. Qassim, levitating to dodge them.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

QASSIM

Is that your best? I can see why
you failed at this the last time.

Using his staff, he bombards her with rubble. She
vanishes, reappearing right behind him. Cracking him in
the head with her scepter.

He falls to the ground. She bends down, trying to take
the ring from his hand. Big mistake.

Eyes blazing, Aysa hurls Rhaz away, swooping down on
Sheba. Swatting her. Flung back, Sheba reels.

QASSIM (CONT'D)

Did you think you could just take
it from my hand?

QUEEN OF SHEBA

Then I'll take your hand. Rhaz!

Lashed to action, Rhaz's arms morph into giant blades.
Swinging down on Qassim. Aysa blocking him with chains.

QUEEN OF SHEBA (CONT'D)

End this now.

At the command, Rhaz suddenly stops fighting. Letting
Aysa have her way with him. Clobbering him with her
chains. Bringing him to the ground.

QUEEN OF SHEBA (CONT'D)

Cursed Jinn. What are you doing?

RHAZ

Ending this. Better I die than
she.

As Sheba is incensed, Qassim blasts her with energy from
his staff, sending her flying back. Impaling and lodging
her on a large steel shard in the rubble. The lamp
knocked loose from her clutch.

Writhing in agony, Sheba is unable to break free. Her
magical powers fast fading as her body repeatedly heals
around the jagged shard, only to bleed out again.
Endlessly suspended at death's door.

QASSIM

I could leave you here. Forever on
the brink of death. But I won't.

Spotting the fallen lamp amid rubble, Qassim brings it to
his clutch with his staff. Drawing his sword, he swings
it down to decapitate Sheba...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Just then, Aladdin comes barreling through the smoke and destruction, halting Qassim's blade with his own. Crushing him with an elbow swing to the jaw, that sends Qassim falling back. Dropping the lamp.

As Sheba eyes Aladdin in gratitude, he picks up the lamp. Aladdin faces Qassim, now wiping the blood from his mouth as he rises back to his feet.

ALADDIN

Help me get her back, Rhaz.
Whatever it takes.

Eyes flashing with renewed fire, Rhaz explodes in flames, transforming himself into a massive three headed dragon. Roaring fire.

Enraged, Qassim calls on Aysa.

QASSIM

Damn Jinn. You're holding out on
me. Become destruction and get me
that lamp.

At the command, Aysa erupts in a fiery transformation of her own. Growing in size she sprouts a stinger tale like a giant scorpion. Growing six hands with swords of fire like Kali, the goddess of destruction.

Her blades and tail flailing to meet each of Rhaz's three dragon heads. Now chomping at her from all sides.

Amid their destruction, Aladdin and Qassim charge each other. Aladdin swipes his blade at his head. Qassim, levitates in a backward flip, landing a kick on Aladdin's chest. Blasting him with a barrage of energy from his staff as he lands.

Stumbling back to his feet, Aladdin deflects the blasts with his blade. Volleying one back at Qassim, sending him crashing into the rubble.

On the horizon, the first ray of the dawn now appears, beaming into one of the seven mirrors on the pillars of the altar. Bouncing from one mirror to another, the light beams start to forge a SEPTAGRAM OF LIGHT between them.

Seeing this, Qassim grins. Slamming his staff on the ground, he sets it quaking and cracking apart under Aladdin's feet. Falling in the gape, he drops the lamp. Sending Rhaz vanishing back into it.

Latching to the edge of the rubble, Aladdin struggles to pull himself up. Qassim and Aysa now coming at him. He eyes them in despair, resolving to defeat.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

But as Qassim nears the lamp, arrows come flying at him out of the chaos from all sides. He barks at Aysa:

QASSIM (CONT'D)

Protect me.

As Aysa deflects the arrows, the figures of Sinbad and his men along with Soraya come to view on the altar. Aladdin lighting up at their sight.

Scimitar in hand, Sinbad leads his men - all except Jah - in a charge on Qassim. Eyes ablaze, Aysa roars fire at them. Taking all of them on with her hands and stinger.

Rushing to Aladdin, Soraya helps him up from the ledge. Grabbing his blade, Aladdin rushes into battle alongside Sinbad and his men.

As they battle Aysa, pummeling her on all sides, she roars fire. Knocking them back with a swing of her stinger, she forms a great circle of fire around Qassim.

The alchemist eyes the horizon. The sun now rising on Axis Mundi. Its rays completing the last leg of the septagram of light between the mirrors.

The converging beams now shoot a column of light straight up to the North Star. Forming an axis of light between the sun, the altar, and the North Star.

QASSIM (CONT'D)

It's time.

He now spots the fallen lamp amid the rubble. Before he can take it...

Aladdin leaps through the fire, nabbing it. Filling with hate, Qassim levitates at him, drawing the hidden blade in his staff. About to plunge it into Aladdin's back when...

Soraya steps in between them, taking the hit. Aladdin turns to see her falling to the ground, stained in blood.

Eyes filling with wrath, he swipes his blade at Qassim in an upward swing, cutting his staff in half. Chopping off his ringed hand with the downward swing that follows. Sending it flying through the air.

Holding his severed arm in disbelief, Qassim falls back in agony.

As his chopped hand hits the ground, landing in the rubble, the fire disappears from Aysa's eyes. Sending her vanishing back into the ring.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

Aladdin looks to Soraya. Fast fading.

SORAYA

Set them free.

Somber, Aladdin looks back to the ring on Qassim's severed hand. But as he moves for it, someone picks it up. It's Sheba. Still impaled on the shard.

Blade in hand Aladdin approaches her, lamp in clutch. Wondering what she might do next.

Sheba looks around. Feeling the stare of Sinbad and his battle weary men. Of Soraya's dying eyes.

QUEEN OF SHEBA

You're a better Magi than me. Do
what I can't. And set us all free.

Surprising all, Sheba throws the hand at Aladdin. Snatching it, Aladdin now has both the lamp and the ring.

Rhaz and Aysa, worn to the bone, now emanate over him breathlessly. But Aladdin's eyes are on Soraya. Fading before his disheartened eyes.

Reeling on the ground, Qassim calls out.

QASSIM

She doesn't have to die you know.
Absolute Magic can bring her back.

Aladdin waivers.

QASSIM (CONT'D)

All you have to do is ask and I
will tell you how. In return, you
will free me of The Devil's
chains. What do you say?

All eyes lock on Aladdin in baited breath. His face hardening as he eyes the ring and the lamp. Feeling the weight of the dormant power in his hands. Drenched in the light beams of the septagram, he looks to Rhaz and Aysa. Watching him in dread. Qassim grins.

ALADDIN

Be free great Jinns. You are
cursed no more.

At the words, the grin on Qassim's face withers. The dread on the Jinn's giving way to disbelief and joy. Along with all the other witnesses to the act. Including Soraya, who now rests her head back in peace.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

With that, the lamp and ring begin to glow blindingly, shattering to bits. Along with the infernal shackles that have bound the Jinns for an eternity.

RHAZ

Truly. You are like no mortal I've known... Magi.

Free at last, the fiery spirits meld into one another, forming a singular luminous sphere of energy. Exploding into billions of luminous particles. The seven mirrors shatter one by one, dissipating the septagram's beams as the Jinns vanish into the now fading aurora borealis.

Still impaled on the shard, Sheba is amazed to see her wound cease healing itself. She eyes the regal seal of King Solomon on her dagger. Finally at peace, as she dies. Relishing her last breath.

With the altar still engulfed in flames, Aladdin's somber gaze falls on Qassim.

ALADDIN

As for you... your curse has only just begun.

Filling with rage, Qassim lunges at Aladdin. Strangling him with his rotting, iron grip.

QASSIM

You stupid fool. Die.

Rushing to Aladdin's aid, Sinbad is blocked by the roar of the surrounding flames.

As Qassim is choking the life out of him, Aladdin grabs him by his rotten flesh, pulling them both into the raging flames. As Qassim burns in horror...

ALADDIN

When The Devil chains you,
remember who sent you to him.

The roaring flames devour them. But unlike Aladdin, Qassim is scorched by the fire. As the Alchemist screams in agony, Aladdin's gaze falls on one of the shattered mirrors.

From within, INFERNAL CHAINS slither out, latching on to Qassim. Binding and pulling his BLACK SOUL out of his burning flesh, and into the mirror. Vanishing.

Dropping Qassim's scorched remains in the fire, Aladdin somberly emerges from the flames.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

Approaching and falling to his knees before Soraya's listless body. Burying his head in his hands as he grieves.

By now the burning pillars and beams of the ziggurat start to give way. Sending the whole structure crumbling.

Lifting his head, Aladdin sees his hands are still engulfed in fire. Gazing at them, he has an epiphany.

With Sinbad and crew scrambling to escape the collapsing altar, Aladdin looks up to the North Star. Shining directly overhead. Entering a trance that drowns out all the surrounding chaos. Slowing down time.

Honing his focus, he begins to mold the flames into a luminous orb as he had on Sinbad's ship. Directing and channeling its glowing energy back into Soraya's wound.

As it courses across her body, he awaits breathlessly. Watching her wound intently. But to no avail. She remains lifeless. He sinks.

With the temple crumbling all around. Sinbad finally reaches him. Grabbing and shaking him out of his trance. Picking her up, Aladdin follows the others out of the crumbling ziggurat.

EXT. AXIS MUNDI - MOMENTS LATER

With the ice shelf cracking beneath their feet, Aladdin - still carrying Soraya - dashes through the destruction along with Sinbad and his men. Boarding The Desiree as the Magi ziggurat is swallowed up by the icy tides.

With The Desiree racing away from Axis Mundi, Sinbad's men - including Jah, who is being bandaged up by Katsu - all watch Aladdin in sorrow. Still clasping Soraya's listless body. His tear stained eyes refusing to accept fate as they remain locked on the tides. Until...

Her hand suddenly twitches with life. His eyes still on the ocean, he does not see her eyes, now awakening.

As the others marvel at the miracle, she reaches for his defeated face. At her touch, he looks to her in disbelief. Gaping at her wound that has gradually begun to heal from his fire.

Disbelief turning to joy, they meld in a kiss before the amazed eyes of Sinbad and his men. As The Desiree sails into the morning light...

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. PORT, SHAMBHALA - NIGHT

Some time later. We find Desiree, now docked at port back in Shambhala. On deck, Aladdin and Soraya are about to disembark. Surrounded by Sinbad and his men.

ALADDIN

Will you be sailing for home now?

SINBAD

The sea is my home. It's where I feel closest to Desiree. And where she takes me, I never know.

ALADDIN

Something tells me the stars are not through with us yet.

SINBAD

Then, till we meet again.

As Aladdin and Soraya disembark, the crew raises their blades in a show of respect.

Jah unfurls the sails, Sinbad takes helm. The Desiree now drifting off, Mateo lays back with his lute, strumming a tune. Katsu steps to view with the jug Aladdin had granted him, filling his mates' cups with rum.

MATEO

I'd leave you all for a woman like her. In a blink.

OMAR

You'd leave us for a peg-legged harlot.

MATEO

She was not peg-legged.

DRAGO

I saw it with my own eyes.

As they bicker...

SHEN

You fools talk too much.

Everyone whips back, stunned to see: It's Shen. Breaking his vow of silence at long last. As their jaws drop...

KATSU

Seems we have reason for another round.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JAH

Since when do you need a reason?

As they laugh, drink and sing, their chatter grows faint.
The Desiree now sailing off into the sea.

EXT. PALACE, SHAMBHALA - DAY

Time has passed. A grand celebration is underway in the city. Throngs of jubilant citizens are gathered outside the palace, now under repair from Qassim's destruction. Atop a terrace, King Zaman addresses the crowd

KING ZAMAN

A new dawn awaits us, Shambhala.
Out of the ashes of the past, has
risen the promise of tomorrow. For
in place of losing a daughter, we
have gained a son.

The crowd erupts in cheer as Soraya now steps to view in a wedding dress beside her father. A breathtaking vision as she greets her people. As the King prattles on...

INT. CHAMBER, PALACE - SAME

We find Aladdin in a side chamber, waiting to be presented by the King. Finely dressed, he stands before a mirror. Adjusting his collar, he sees the rotted lesions have begun to fade from his arm.

As he admires his princely appearance in the mirror, his REFLECTION suddenly begins to take on a life of its own. Like Qassim's reflection had done before.

ALADDIN'S REFLECTION

Not bad. Not bad at all.

Startled, Aladdin steps back from the mirror.

ALADDIN'S REFLECTION (CONT'D)

From the sewers to the palace.
I've kept my eyes on you, all
these years...

ALADDIN

What are you?

ALADDIN'S REFLECTION

Don't tell me you don't remember.
After all, I am one of your
earliest admirers.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Aladdin gapes at his reflection as it morphs into the BLIND DERVISH he met as a boy, all those years ago.

ALADDIN

You...

ALADDIN'S REFLECTION

Did I not foretell that you were destined to become legend? Your name spoken on the lips of men for ages to come? That you could have all you want, if only you heed your desires?

ALADDIN

That may be. But you still haven't told me your name.

The Dervish smirks, his face morphing back into Aladdin's reflection.

ALADDIN'S REFLECTION

What's in a name, anyhow? I am you. I am everyone. I am man's best friend. The voice that calls in the night, in the hour of despair. The one who answered Qassim in his...

ALADDIN

You're The Devil.

Aladdin's reflection, henceforth The Devil, grins.

THE DEVIL

And I come to offer you my help.

ALADDIN

I bested your old apprentice. Now you seek another. Is that it? Well I have no need of you.

THE DEVIL

You may not need me, but your friends certainly need you.

ALADDIN

What do you mean?

THE DEVIL

Would seem en route to his next great voyage, Captain Sinbad discovered his beloved Desiree was not only still alive, but a captive in the realm of the Jinn.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

THE DEVIL (CONT'D)

Naturally he and his men ventured
in search of her. Only to find
themselves trapped there too.

ALADDIN

You lie.

THE DEVIL

Perhaps this will convince you.

Staring at his reflection, Aladdin sees SOMETHING flying
at him from within the mirror. Small at first, the
twirling object grows larger as it nears, emerging out of
the mirror, and impaling the ground by Aladdin's foot.

He turns pale at the sight of it. It's Sinbad's scimitar.
Pulling it out, Aladdin fills with rage, gazing up.

ALADDIN

No more games. What do you want?

THE DEVIL

A simple wager. I can show you how
to reach your friends. Save them,
and you are free to return to all
your hard won desires. Fail, and
your soul is mine to keep.

Aladdin falls silent.

THE DEVIL (CONT'D)

It's easy to wager when you have
nothing to lose. Much harder, when
you stand to lose everything. Then
again, no one would blame you for
not wanting to risk it all, merely
to save a few men you hardly knew.

Quietly mulling the offer, Aladdin's gaze hardens.

ALADDIN

How would one reach this Jinn
realm?

ALADDIN'S REFLECTION

Mirrors are wondrous things. They
show us for who we are. Yet seldom
do we see them for what they are.
So what will it be, Magi?

As Aladdin stares down his reflection...

EXT. PALACE, SHAMBHALA - SAME

Back at the ceremony, the King is wrapping up. As Soraya waits anxiously...

KING ZAMAN

And now Shambhala, may I present
your future prince. Aladdin, of
the Magi.

As the crowd cheers wildly, all eyes await Aladdin to emerge on the terrace. But he never does.

INT. CHAMBER, PALACE - MOMENTS LATER

Perturbed, Soraya enters the side chamber where Aladdin had just been waiting. But all she finds there is the mirror he was standing before. Now shattered to bits.

She eyes her troubled reflection in its jagged shards. Aladdin has vanished.

BLACK.