



THE FALSE MESSIAH S01E07

"Sacrifice"

Written by

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EXT. PLANTING FIELDS - DAY (4 B.C.)

Rain falling heavy on the bare field.

Mud.

Flashes of lightning intermittently interrupt the dark gray on the surface of the earth.

AYA (V.O.)  
(smiling)

. Ibrahim, my life  
is yours now. So live little one,  
live for you and for all of us.

A Roman sword pierces a farmer's chest.

The farmer's body falls to the ground, next to the pool of blood where the rest of the dead await.

ROMAN SOLDIER  
*Haeretici! Omne primogenitum  
nostrum Augusto iussu victima  
detur.* Heretics! By command of our  
emperor Augustus all firstborn are  
to be given in sacrifice.

SECOND FARMER  
! Devils!

The Second farmer lunges forward, holding a wooden staff, a quick and effective slash with a soldier's sword is enough to send him to the ground.

Blood is spilled once again.

IBRAHIM (9) a small boy with dark complexion and short, curly hair, dressed in shepherd's clothes, watches the approaching Roman soldiers in terror, riding on the back of a horse.

There's a woman beside him, AYA (17) with features similar to his.

She holds his face with both hands, averts his gaze from the soldiers.

Her face is surprisingly calm.

IBRAHIM  
Aya...

AYA  
. Goodbye Ibrahim.

Aya's smiling gaze and the Roman soldiers approaching behind her back.

HARD CUT TO:

EXT. SAMSARA INC. ENTRANCE - NIGHT (PRESENT)

Robert's face has the same smile as Aya's, intermittently illuminated by the multicolored light of fireworks.

The face of the Earth.

He is looking at Annie, who looks back at him with a look of terror, of despair.

Annie calls out Robert's name (inaudible).

Robert approaches Annie, hugs her tenderly.

Time passes fast as a hurricane, turning nights into days, cities into forests and into deserts.

Until all around is gone, all but the sands.

CUT TO:

OVER BLACK: DEEP SIGH SOUND.

OPENING: DANCING WITH TEARS IN MY EYES BY AVANTASIA.

"Dancing with tears in my eyes, weeping for the memory of a life gone by. Dancing with tears in my eyes, living out a memory of a love that died".

EXT. DESERT - DAY (20 A.D.)

Ibrahim walks through the heavy sands, covered by a cloth hood. As he crosses a dune he can see a small adobe house on the clearing.

He removes his hood, breathing heavily.

Near the house he can see three children playing among the goats in the corral.

He decides to get a little closer.

However, he stops when he sees two men on horseback moving quickly towards the house.

These men carry long swords in their hands.

The children leave the corral and run towards the house, but the men on horseback get in the way before they can get there.

Ibrahim throws himself to the ground so as not to be seen.

From his position, he can see an Adult at the back of the house.

The Adult walks carefully along the wall to look to where the children are.

IBRAHIM  
(whisper)  
Run.

The Adult stands still along the wall.

The men get off their horses, point their swords at the children.

They talk to the children.

Suddenly.

They attack with the swords.

IBRAHIM  
. No.

The adult comes out of hiding and rushes at the men, the last of the children falls dead before the adult can reach them.

The men easily kill the adult. They give him the coup de grace on the ground.

Three children and the adult dead on the ground.

The men enter the house.

Ibrahim seizes the moment to get up.

IBRAHIM (V.O.)  
How can one live, being with  
others...

To run and get away from the place.

EXT. RAILWAY PARKING - DAY (PRESENT)

Robert, Annie and Simone are all paralyzed.

Fear gripping their bodies.

Annie looks up at the top of one of the abandoned train cars.

There, with the reddish line of the sunset horizon at his back, is TED!

In a supreme effort, Simone stands up. She stands between Ted and Annie.

SIMONE  
(desperated)  
Robert!!

Annie is scared, but the anger is stronger, she prepares to fight.

However.

Robert grabs her hand tightly.

He pushes her into the tunnel, forces her to run. To escape.

ANNIE  
No! Robert, stop! We can't!

ROBERT  
Just run Annie!

ANNIE  
No!

Robert and Annie enter the---

TUNNEL

Robert grabs Annie tightly and tries to push her inside.

But Annie lets go and runs back to Simone.

ANNIE  
(desperate)  
Simone!

From the threshold of the tunnel entrance, Robert sees Simone leaping into the air to meet Ted.

As the two collide in midair there's a shockwave.

The tunnel entrance collapses.

Robert grabs Annie forcefully and pulls her in.

They both jump to avoid the debris, falling to the ground.

Safe.

Darkness and silence.

Robert is the first to get up, dusts off his clothes and approaches Annie, still on the ground.

He offers his hand.

ROBERT

You okay?

Annie slaps the hand away. She gets up on her own.

ROBERT

What's your problem? I just save you.

ANNIE

Save me? Is that what you think you did?

ROBERT

Yeah, well...

ANNIE

You just leave Simone behind you coward!

Robert sighs deeply.

He pulls out his phone and turns on the screen, searches for information while trying to catch his breath.

Annie comes and slaps the phone away from his hands.

ROBERT

Hey!

ANNIE

She's in danger Robert! And we just abandoned her!

ROBERT

Okay genius, tell me exactly how were we supposed to help her, uh?

Annie doesn't respond.

Robert picks up the phone from the floor. He then walks into the darkness, passing by Annie's side.

ROBERT

I thought so. You act tough but you can't even understand what just happened.

Robert disappears into the darkness.

Annie looks once more at the debris in the doorway, then walks following Robert.

EXT. SMALL TOWN IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DESERT - DAY (20 A.D.)

Ibrahim walks down the main street.

Adobe houses on both sides, rustic constructions.

People pass by with their animals, donkeys and goats. Other people carry straw, vegetables.

Some trade stalls, shiny objects.

Ibrahim approaches one of the trade stalls. He nods to the Trader, greeting him.

From his clothes, Ibrahim removes a silver bracelet inlaid with diamonds.

He offers it to the trader.

The bracelet has small blood marks on it.

Ibrahim wipes the bracelet with his clothes.

TRADER

Where did you get this?

IBRAHIM

. I found it in the desert.

TRADER

. In the desert, uh? Many things are lost in the desert.

IBRAHIM

. Yeah, so. How much?

TRADER

. Let me see.

The trader takes the bracelete for inspection.

While the Trader is inspecting the bracelet, Ibrahim looks to the side.

FARMER #1  
Hey, be careful old man!

Old man bumps into farmer #1, knocking the vegetable basket to the ground. Old man also falls to the ground in the incident.

Vegetables scattered on the dirt floor.

FARMER #1  
See what you did?

Farmer #1 kicks old man on the ground.

FARMER #1  
How are you going to pay for my food?

Farmer #2 approaches the incident.

FARMER #2  
This drunk bastard pulled the same thing with me last time.

He also kicks the old man.

OLD MAN  
. I'm sorry, it wasn't my intention. My eyes...

FARMER #1  
The old blind trick, uh?  
You old bastard.

Farmer #1 kicks the Old man once again, and again.

Farmer #2 follows.

A group of 12 people are walking down the street. They are all following a woman dressed in light blue cloth.

Ibrahim looks at the group, looks back at the men kicking the old man.

Out of the blue.

The woman in light blue clothes throws herself on top of the old man's body, covering him and receiving the kicks.

The men stop in disbelief.

Ibrahim looks puzzled.

FARMER #1  
What the hell ar you doing,  
woman?

WOMAN  
Forgive him, please.

FARMER #2  
Forgive him? Don't you see what he  
did?

Farmer #2 points to the vegetables on the ground.

OLD MAN  
.No, it was an  
accident. My eyes, I can't see as  
before.

WOMAN  
.Please, we all know  
how serious the situation is, but  
plants don't grow in spilled  
blood.

FARMER #1  
.So what, what you are  
gonna do to pay for what's been  
lost.

FARMER #2  
(looking at her body)

.  
Yeah.

The woman stands up and confronts the men.

WOMAN

.If my body can pay your  
debt and save this man's life, so  
be it.

She smiles tenderly at the farmers.

A shot of Aya smiling at Ibrahim.

Ibrahim shakes his head. He tries to look away at the  
unfolding events.

Fails.

DISCIPLE  
(interrupting)

But lady!

Farmer #1 gives a punch to disciple, knocking him to the  
ground.

FARMER #1  
Don't interrupt her.

The Trader looks up after thoroughly analyzing the bracelet.

Ibrahim is no longer by the trading stall.

Farmer #2 approaches the woman.

He grabs her clothes and tears them with force, leaving her  
naked in the middle of the busy street.

She doesn't stops smiling.

FARMER #2  
.This shall be fun.

Farmer #2 approaches to take the woman's body.

However.

At the last moment, a sword pierces through his belly.

Blood spills on the woman's naked body. Surprised.

It's Ibrahim who holds the sword in his hands.

The lifeless body of farmer #2 falls lifeless to the ground.

Farmer #1 runs away in panic.

Ibrahim puts away his sword.

Unexpectedly, he receives a slap from the woman. Furious.

WOMAN  
(pissed)  
.I was trying to save a life.

She helps the old man to get up.

IBRAHIM  
.Yeah, well. Some lifes  
are worth more than others.

Another disciple comes and covers the woman's body with a robe.

WOMAN  
.And who are you to decide this.

The woman covers herself with the robes and walks away, eleven disciples follow her.

The twelfth stays with Ibrahim.

DISCIPLE  
.Thank you very much stranger, many  
times we fear for her life.

IBRAHIM  
Who is she?

DISCIPLE  
We call her, Nahara.

Disciple walks towards the rest of the group. Turns around a couple of steps after moving.

DISCIPLE  
.We would love your  
company during dinner tonight, to  
thank you.

Disciple nods respectfully and keeps walking.

CUT TO:

INT. INSIDE THE TUNNELS - NIGHT (PRESENT)

Robert walks looking at the phone screen, where a schematic of the subway tunnels is visible.

Ahead, a crossroad.

Annie comes behind.

ANNIE

We've been walking for hours now.

ROBERT

No much further.

ANNIE

No much further to what?

ROBERT

Remember Simone, she said we have to get to Samsara Inc.

(beat)

We're heading there.

???

So that's we're you guys are going.

Robert and Annie stop walking.

ROBERT

Behind me, Annie.

ANNIE

I'm not gonna run.

ROBERT

Please.

???

What a cute couple, you need time to sort things out?

ROBERT

Who are you!?

???

Robert, right? Don't worry about me, just deliver the girl and we call it quits, deal?

ROBERT

How about you show yourself and I  
beat your ass to a pulp.

???

You know, words can get you killed.

Suddenly.

Robert's phone start ringing. On the screen "Jonathan".

Out of the blue.

A golden arrow pierces the phone and shatters it.

Robert is paralyzed. He tries to scan the darkness with his  
eyes.

ROBERT (V.O.)

(thinking)

Damn it! No phone, also Jonathan  
may be on his way. We need him!

Looking at the golden arrow in the floor.

ROBERT (V.O.)

(thinking)

A golden arrow, that must mean...

ANNIE

You're a moderator, right? Also a  
villain? You must be a charm.

MODERATOR

Let's not label ourselves.

ANNIE

Show yourself you coward!

A slight blow.

Robert grabs Annie's hand, they both run towards the  
intersection, yet a number of arrows bury themselves in the  
ground, cutting them off.

Robert looks to the side wall, takes Annie's hand and moves  
fast to the---

EMERGENCY EXIT.

The arrows are buried in the wall perpendicular to the one  
they're covering on.

MODERATOR

That was just a taste guys, I  
really need Annie to come alive, no  
use for a dead chick.

Robert looks up the stairs leading to the street.

ROBERT (V.O.)

(thinking)

I think we can get to the stairs  
before he reaches us, My guess is  
he must be at a distance of 20  
meters.

(beat)

As long as we are in this position  
he has no angle to reach us.

A slight tremor.

Dust from the sky falls on Robert.

Unconsciously, he coughs and covers his mouth with his hand.

Unexpectedly.

A golden arrow buries itself in his hand.

Robert and Annie are shocked.

Robert manages to move his hands forward to evade the  
arrowhead in his face.

ANNIE

Robert!

ROBERT (V.O.)

No way! from this position it's  
impossible for him to aim at us...  
unless... the sound!

Suddenly, a subway train speeds through the intersection.

ROBERT

Now Annie!

Robert and Annie run to the stairs, up the stairs quickly.

Arrows pierce the air and bury themselves in the walls of  
the emergency exit.

Bad aim.

Robert and Annie reach the---

## STREETS

It's a passage between buildings.

ROBERT

Here!

In pain, Robert tries to move a trash can, Annie helps him.

Between the two of them they put the dumpster over the subway exit.

They run towards the main street.

CUT TO:

INT. SYNAGOGUE - DAY (32 A.D.)

Ibrahim, carrying little Eliza (5) walk towards the central courtyard of the building.

IBRAHIM

I bet mommy will be happy to see us.

ELIZA

She keeps talking all the time.

IBRAHIM

(laughing)  
Yes she does, she's tryin to convince people.

ELIZA

Convince them of what?

IBRAHIM

The truth.

ELIZA

I don't understand.

IBRAHIM

(smiling)  
Neither do I, beautiful.

They get to the courtyard, where Nahara is in the center, discussing with many people.

NAHARA

But life is ours to give and to end, it's our birth right.

RABBI #1  
Are you implying that we must  
disobey the emperor?

NAHARA  
I'm saying we must obey the law.

RABBI #1  
Who's law.

NAHARA  
Who's? The law of your heart rabbi.  
I know you know, I know you can  
feel it, it's always been there.

RABBI #1  
You don't know what you're talking  
about, woman.

NAHARA  
We are free from birth and we die  
free, we give our lives to the  
living and they carry us when we're  
no longer here.

RABBI #2  
This is nonsense.

NAHARA  
This is a bond, this is an  
unbreakable chain.

RABBI #2  
All I hear is you going against the  
emperor's witches. This is  
blasphemy of the lowest level.

NAHARA  
So be it, but life can't be taken,  
only given. That's the law.

People begin to disperse. Most of the rabbis leave in  
disgust.

IBRAHIM  
(worried)  
Everything okay?

NAHARA  
Yes, just some people have an act  
for cruelty in this world.

IBRAHIM  
You have to learn to let them be.

NAHARA  
 Perhaps.  
 (to Eliza)  
 And how are you, pretty girl?

Eliza smiles.

But then.

Rabbi #1 enters with a group of Roman soldiers.

RABBI #1  
 There she is! The heretic!

In a hurry, Ibrahim puts Eliza in his arms against his chest and runs with Nahara, getting lost in the crowd inside the synagogue.

CUT TO:

EXT. PHARMACY - NIGHT (PRESENT)

Robert, with a bloody hand, and Annie stop outside the drugstore.

Annie enters.

ROBERT  
 Annie, wait.

Robert follows Annie to the---

INSIDE PHARMACY

Where Annie immediately goes to the counter and the salesperson.

ANNIE  
 We need gauze, now!

The Vendor looks at Robert's bloody hand.

VENDOR  
 Oh my...

ANNIE  
 C'mon!

VENDOR  
 You're gonna pay for it, right?

ANNIE  
 Now dumbass!

Scared, the Vendor goes inside.

Robert leans on one of the shelves with products.

ANNIE  
You okay?

ROBERT  
Yeah, I'm fine.

Robert looks at the TV on the side of the counter.

It shows a group of people gathered in a square for a celebration.

The graphics in the newscast indicate the Easter celebration.

TV REPORTER  
FIREWORKS are expected to start at  
0 hours...

Vendor returns with gauze and disinfectant.

Annie receives both.

ANNIE  
Thanks.  
(to Robert)  
Let me heal you.

Annie cleans the wound on Robert's hand and covers it with the gauze.

VENDOR  
You paying now?

ANNIE  
(angry)  
Dude, I swear...

ROBERT  
Take it easy Annie, I think we're  
okay now...

Robert's last sentence is interrupted by the loud sound of skidding wheels and the roar of an engine.

It's a car heading straight for the pharmacy!

Robert and Annie manage to jump to the other side of the counter before the collision.

CRASH!

The car driven by MIRRIKH drives into the pharmacy at full speed.

EXT. PHARMACY REAR EXIT PASSAGE - NIGHT (CONTINUOUS)

The exit door opens hard.

Robert and Annie out into the street.

ANNIE  
Wait, the other guy...

Robert continues to move forward, away from the pharmacy.

ROBERT  
Keep walking Annie!

Annie follows Robert.

CUT TO:

INT. IBRAHIM'S HOUSE IN THE DESERT - NIGHT (33 A.D.)

Ibrahim enters in a hurry, sweaty, nervous.

When he enters he finds Nahara, seated at a long table with 12 disciples.

They are having dinner.

IBRAHIM  
We have to go, NOW!

DISCIPLE  
Brother, come join /us...

IBRAHIM  
/They found us.

Nahara notices the worried look on Ibrahim's face, she is the first to get up from the table.

NAHARA  
(trying to stay calm)  
Brothers, let us follow Ibrahim's advice.

Nahara walks to Ibrahim.

IBRAHIM  
Where's Eliza.

NAHARA  
Come.

Ibrahim follows Nahara into the house.

One of the disciples opens the main door to go out, as he does so, he notices a group of Roman soldiers getting off their horses, drawing their swords.

CUT TO:

EXT. SAMSARA INC. ENTRANCE - NIGHT (PRESENT)

Robert and Annie stop about 20 meters from the entrance of Samsara Inc.

There are a few cars parked on both sides of the street surrounded by industry buildings.

Many blind spots.

Robert stops Annie with a wave of his hand.

He bends down and picks up a stone from the floor. He grasps it and throws it forcefully forward.

The stone hits the ground and is immediately split in two by a golden arrow.

ROBERT

Fuck!

Robert and Annie run to the side, taking cover behind one of the cars.

ANNIE

What are we gonna do now?

Suddenly.

From across the street Mirrikh appears.

He walks slowly, flexing his muscles.

Faster and faster.

Now he runs towards them!

ANNIE

Robert!

ROBERT

Wait!

Robert looks at Mirrikh, then forward. Time seems to stop.

INTERCUT IBRAHIM'S HOUSE AND SAMSARA INC. ENTRANCE.

Ibrahim and Nahara reach Eliza in the interior room. They all hold hands as they walk further into the---

HALLWAY

On the background, roman soldiers attack and kill the disciples, others escape through windows.

Robert holds Annie's hand.

ROBERT  
C'mon... please!

Mirrikh runs closer and closer to them!

Ibrahim, Nahara and Eliza reach the---

KITCHEN

They continue to the back door. Ibrahim opens it, Nahara and Eliza are the first to go out.

Ibrahim is at the doorway.

ROMAN SOLDIER  
Hey, you! Stop there!

Ibrahim looks at Nahara, who's outside, standing in the threshold.

Between light and dark.

Robert looks up.

The first firework explodes in the dark sky, illuminating the place.

The sound makes the floor rumble.

ROBERT  
Now!

Robert runs forward toward the entrance of Samsara Inc. holding Annie by the hand.

She follows him.

A second firework reveals the position of MODERATOR climbed on the wall of the building on the left side of Samsara Inc.

Robert and Annie almost reach the gates of Samsara Inc.

The arrows are buried in the ground, aimlessly amidst the roar of the fireworks.

Robert pulls out his pistol and, in the middle of the run, aims at Moderator.

Shoots!

Moderator falls down.

Guards at the entrance of Samsara Inc. open the gates in a hurry.

Others shoot at Mirrikh, managing to slow him down, but not stop him.

Robert's face has the same smile as Aya's, intermittently illuminated by the multicolored light of fireworks.

Ibrahim immobilized in the doorway, looking at Nahara and Eliza outside, in the darkness.

IBRAHIM

Nahara, go. Save the world, okay?

NAHARA

No... no, no.

Tears coming out of Ibrahim's eyes.

IBRAHIM

I'm sorry...

Ibrahim returns inside the house and slams the door shut.

Nahara and Eliza, alone in the dark.

The face of the Earth.

Robert is looking at Annie, who looks back at him with a look of terror, of despair.

Annie calls out Robert's name (inaudible).

Robert approaches Annie, hugs her tenderly.

Time passes fast as a hurricane, turning nights into days, Cities into forests and into deserts.

Until all around is gone, all but the sands.

Robert says something into Annie's ear. (inaudible).

Robert's body slips into Annie's arms.

Leaving a trail of blood on her clothes.

He falls to the ground with an arrow buried in his back, in his heart.

Dead.

FADE TO BLACK.

EPILOGUE.

EXT. HARBOR - DAY (33 A.D.)

The seagulls fly skimming the surface of the calm water.

Midday sun.

Nahara walks among the people in the middle of the harbor.

The fishermen collect the fishing nets, the fish. Other people help to disembark.

Her footsteps echo on the swollen wood of the structure.

She continues walking until she reaches the edge of the harbor.

She closes her eyes, takes a deep breath.

She continues walking, beyond the boards.

Across the surface of the water.

One of the fishermen is the first to notice.

She continues walking towards the horizon.

Across the surface of the calm water.

The fishermen gather at the edge of the harbor to look at this---

MIRACLE.

EXT. SAMSARA INC. ENTRANCE - NIGHT (PRESENT)

Annie, with Robert dead in her arms.

She does not hear the scream of the guards calling out to her.

Mirrikh continues to run towards her, stretches out his arms to take her by force.

Annie opens her eyes.

She opens them and intense flashes escape her eyes.

The flashes of light cover everything in white.

The body of Mirrikh, of Moderator, of the guards.

Everything turns to ashes in an instant.

(TO BE CONTINUED...)