

THEE UNKNOWN GOD

FADE IN:

INT. - MARS' TEMPLE - NIGHT

Ahead, candles dimly light the statue of Mars, the Roman God of War, as someone kneels before it. It is the troubled EMPEROR NERO who ponders suicide as he slowly strokes the dagger in his hand. Agony then fills his face as he closes his eyes and grasps the dagger with both hands. But he stops when a cold black hand touches his shoulder. He looks up, terrified to see who has touched him. The black hand then passes above a candle and extinguishes the flame.

CUT TO:

INT. - LANAY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Lying in bed, LANAY abruptly sits up, awakened by a dream.

CUT TO:

EXT. - FROM THE FULL MOON - NIGHT

We SEE the stars and a ring of light in the night sky, and HEAR a flute playing an Irish folk song. As we CIRCLE around the ring, the sun and the dark and light side of Mother Earth appear. As we stop in front of the sun the music FADES AWAY. We HEAR the wind approaching from behind and SEE seven white mystic spirits floating towards Earth as they pass over us. We HEAR American Indian flute music and the soft beat of a drum as we CONTINUE our circle back to the full moon. As the SPIRITS approach the Earth, they and the music FADE AWAY.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. - A BEAUTIFUL FIELD OF PRAIRIE - DAY

Eyes closed and relaxed, a BREEZE passes LANAY'S face.

MORNING STAR (O.C.)

We are one with all there is. As a leaf floats on the breeze, feel yourself being carried by the wind.

As we pull back, Lanay sits in meditation facing an American Indian woman, MORNING STAR on the prairie grass. They wear Indian clothing. Lanay's is brown, Morning Star's is white.

MORNING STAR (cont.)

Become one with the wind.

Lanay BEGINS to levitate and floats to chest height of Morning Star.

TYYAN (O.C.)

Lanay! Lanay!

Lanay's eyes open as she hears Tyyan's voice in the distance. She loses focus and FALLS BACK to the ground. She sees TYYAN and starts to get up but Morning Star puts her hand on Lanay's leg.

MORNING STAR

Let your companion come to you. Patience has rewards. That was very good.

LANAY

Up until the falling on my butt part.

MORNING STAR

Suu Ki said you would be a quick learner and an excellent student.

LANAY

How do I find her?

MORNING STAR

You will see her again, when it is time.

When Tyyan gets close he starts running, Lanay gets up, rushes into his arms and a great joy fills them as they embrace.

LANAY

Tyyan.

TYYAN

Hey gorgeous. I knew we would meet again.

They kiss.

MORNING STAR

We were in the middle of a lesson.

Tyyan ends the kiss.

TYYAN

Pardon me Morning Star but Lanay's presence has been requested at the Temple on Round Mound.

LANAY

By whom?

TYYAN

Don't know. I was just sent to find you.

MORNING STAR

If your presence is requested then we will end our lesson.

CUT TO:

EXT. - ROMAN ARMY CAMPSITE - DAY

In the early morning, a unit of twenty-one ROMAN SOLDIERS begin their day. As we approach an officers' tent and the two guards with spears, the flap opens.

CUT TO:

INT. - OFFICER'S TENT - DAY

In the lighted tent three Roman officers, MYKELLAN, DONITUS and GREGON stand by a table looking over a map. Donitus looks up to see a soldier, GARRET, entering the tent.

DONITUS

Yes Garret.

GARRET

Donitus. There are two men outside who say they know the location of an Amazon camp and they want to make a deal.

The officers glance at each other. Donitus is curious.

GREGON

No one was to know.

DONITUS

Send them in.

Donitus sits in his chair as Garret opens the flap and the two informants, CALEB and TAYLOR, enter. They are followed by the two guards.

CALEB

My name is Caleb, this is Taylor. We hear you are looking for the Amazons.

DONITUS

We are just a patrol unit passing through. Why do you think this?

CALEB

Word is Emperor Nero is having... problems. If you brought in some Amazons it could help his popularity and word is he wants them for the gladiator matches to turn the people's attention away from his politics.

TAYLOR

We know the location of a small band of twelve but if you're not looking for them, excuse us for wasting your time.

Donitus ponders the situation as the informants start to leave then he signals to the two soldiers at the tent opening and they cross their spears to stop them.

DONITUS

What do you want?

The informants turn around.

CALEB

We help you capture the Amazons and in return we only ask for two hundred denars each once the job is done. A small price to pay considering the value of having Amazons to turn into slaves and gladiators and the favor you could win with Nero.

GREGON

(sarcastic)

And why would we need your assistance?

TAYLOR

Because they are camped in a fortress and without our help they will defeat you. How would it look to Nero and others in the Roman army if you had to get reinforcements for twelve Amazons?

MYKELLAN

Our unit can handle a few Amazons.

TAYLOR

Ten men went to raid them... They never returned.

DONITUS

(beat)

I gather you know the layout of this fortress.

CALEB

We lived in the area for a while but our recent good fortune has allowed us to live a more comfortable lifestyle.

DONITUS

And why should we trust a thief?

Caleb hangs his head as he walks up and puts his hands on the table. He lifts his head smiling.

CALEB

Thieves? You're correct, but you will never succeed without us.

Donitus stands to confront Caleb.

DONITUS

Fine. I am Donitus, Mykellan, Gregon.
You will follow our orders and answer to
us. Provide them with a place to stay.

As Garret and the soldiers escort the informants out, the officers turn their attention back down to the map. In the shadows of the tent two RED GLOWING EYES APPEAR. The eyes FADE and OUT OF THE SHADOWS walks a handsome, muscular, black-eyed man dressed in red with an arm tattoo. It is MARS, the Roman God of War.

GREGON

A band of twelve would be a good test of
our plans, but are you going to have them
help us?

The officers HEAR Mars draw his sword from his sheath and instinctively reach for their weapons but as they look up they put a hand to their chest and bow to Mars.

DONITUS

Mars. God of War.

MARS

It would be wise to listen to the
informants I sent you. You will need
them if you want to capture these
Amazons.

DONITUS

But we have orders from Nero and his
counsel. Have the local people hating
the Amazons before we capture them so the
people will turn to us.

MARS

Then Rome can gain more control over the
people, tax them more and have them
exchange their freedoms for your
protection.

MYKELLAN

You are his counsel.

MARS

The few will rule, the elite will
prosper and the masses will suffer.

DONITUS

We will not let you down.

Mars points his sword at Donitus.

MARS

It... would not be wise to disappoint me.
Just make sure the next time I see you,
you - - -

Mars turns his head back and looks up as if he senses something. His eyes FLASH RED and he returns his sword.

MARS (cont.)

I must go.

Mars walks to the shadows of the tent and DISAPPEARS.

CUT TO:

EXT. - PALMYRA'S AGORA MARKETPLACE - DAY

A dusty ANA is in Palmyra (Tudmur), Syria's marketplace. She sees an elderly couple, CARRIE and MARTIN, selling fruit from a covered chariot. At the adjacent food stand lingers a priest's aide, POEPUS. Ana looks into her worn out leather shoulder bag, waits her turn, then steps up to the chariot.

MARTIN

What can I help you with today my dear?

ANA

I was told there are hot springs in the area. I would like to buy some of your fruit but my last two days of travel have been hot and dry and I would like to bathe first. Can you tell me where I may find the springs?

MARTIN

A drought and hardship has come to our oasis city. Parts of the city no longer have water. As for the hot springs, the public can no longer use them. The Roman government and the elite control them. May I ask what brings a pretty lady like yourself to the desert city of Tudmur? Or, as the Romans call our city, Palmyra.

ANA

I don't feel pretty but thank you. I have traveled from the East.

CARRIE

Are you traveling alone?

ANA

Yes. Most people don't have the time or patience to travel with me. I'm one of those crazy people who follows my intuition instead of a map or a timetable.

MARTIN

Oh good, another crazy person like us.

CARRIE

For most people that's not logical. Most would rather have a safe and steady job and follow the crowd instead of following their spirit.

ANA

Many will listen to someone else but
ignore the voices from within.

Carrie and Martin smile. Martin extends a handshake.

MARTIN

This is Carrie and I am Martin.

Ana takes Martin's hand.

ANA

My name is Ana.

Carrie and Martin's faces light up. Martin kisses Ana's
hand, looks to the sky and releases Ana's hand.

MARTIN

Thank you.

CARRIE

Ana... We've been waiting for you.

ANA

(confused)

Waiting for me?

CARRIE

It's quite a job for us to bring our
fruit into town but we come because the
GOD told me in a dream that I would meet
a dark-haired woman named Ana. And I was
to take her to a well for she would
restore the water to Tudmur.

ANA

I think you have the wrong Ana.

CARRIE

I don't. Will you come with me? Just
stand next to the well and listen to
what your intuition has to say... please.

A breeze blows Ana's hair, she looks around then back to
Carrie.

ANA

I can't promise you anything.

Carrie comes around the chariot, takes Ana's hand and leads
her up the street. Martin stays with the cart. Poepus waits
and watches them walk by. Then Martin watches Poepus as he
runs off in another direction.

MARTIN

Run Poepus, run. An excellent day.
People are coming together. Thank you.

CUT TO:

INT. - MAKESHIFT CHURCH - DAY

Poepus enters the small temporary church and runs up to the Christian PRIEST who is sitting and reading.

POEPUS
She is here! She is here!

The priest doesn't look up and doesn't seem interested.

PRIEST
Who is here Poepus?

Poepus catches his breath and grabs his horn.

POEPUS
Ana. The woman Carrie said God would
send to restore the water to the land.

The priest marks and closes his book.

CUT TO:

EXT. - A STREET IN PALMYRA - DAY

A gathering crowd starts following Carrie and Ana. As the crowd approaches a date stand, on a higher level than the street, Ana sees the back side of a man, ATIRA. He has long hair and is buying some dates from a boy, RUMI. Through the crowd Ana and Atira sense each other's presence. TIME SLOWS DOWN and the noise of the crowd FADES as they look at each other. A BLIND GRANDFATHER is being led by his young grandson, CURJUS, who looks up to Rumi, and yells in silence, "It's Ana!" As Ana passes TIME RETURNS TO NORMAL and Atira turns back to Rumi.

ATIRA
Who was that woman?

RUMI
That's Carrie. She's an old lady who
lives up in the hills.

ATIRA
No, the other one.

RUMI
My friend said it was Ana.
(snickering)
Carrie said a god told her a woman named
Ana would come and restore the water to
Tudmur.

ATIRA
Really. Are you going to watch?

RUMI
I'll believe it when I see it.

ATIRA

The logical person has to see to believe,
the spiritual person does not. Things
can happen because you believe.

Atira pays for the dates.

ATIRA (cont.)

This will do for now. Have a great day.

As Atira puts the dates in his backpack Rumi is thinking.

RUMI

Hey, I can't leave my stand. Can you
come back and tell me what happens?

Atira smiles.

ATIRA

You can leave. Fear not Rumi.

CUT TO:

EXT. - WELL IN PALMYRA - DAY

Two Roman officers, MARCUS and TITUS, stand back and watch three ROMAN SOLDIERS trying to get water from a well, with a palm tree thatched roof. One soldier turns the crank to lower the bucket as the other two lean on the well and watch. There are stones in the street from a building being constructed.

MARCUS

The longer rope should reach some water.

Titus turns as he senses Carrie's crowd coming up behind him.

TITUS

Marcus. Turn around.

Marcus sees the crowd and turns back to his soldiers.

MARCUS

Let the bucket go, line formation, stand
attention, swords.

The three soldiers and Titus draw their swords and form a line with Marcus in the middle. The crowd of locals and silk road travelers stop when they get close to the soldiers.

TITUS

I am Titus. What is the meaning of this
gathering?

CARRIE

I believe the God has sent this woman to
restore the water to the land. Please,
let us proceed to the well.

Marcus steps forward.

MARCUS

Look who is here. Do you know who this woman is? Her name is Claura. The priests of Rome banished her because she said she could communicate with the dead.

CARRIE

No, her name is Ana.

The crowd begins to talk of what is going on. The priest looks on with interest. Ana addresses the crowd.

ANA

The priests of Rome labeled me as a demon for communicating with the dead. I started to wonder if they were correct but then an angel appeared in a vision. She said death is a part of life, and that I was not a demon, just someone with a gift. Someone who can speak with those who have moved on to the spiritual worlds. When I was banished I changed my name to Ana. I don't know if I am the Ana this woman is looking for and don't know if I can restore your water. It may just be a coincidence, but I am intrigued. And know with the GoD things are possible when people believe.

MARCUS

(sarcastic)

You think you are going to restore the water to Palmyra?

TUDMURIAN WARRIOR

Let her pass or do you want to fight?

ANA

Violence and war are the ways of evil people... and dark souls. Please let the Romans make a choice.

MARCUS

This should be good. Let her pass.

Ana removes her shoulder bag as she kneels at the well. She picks up some of the soil in one hand, closes her eyes and places her other hand on her heart... She opens her eyes and the soil flows from her hand. She sees a hand-size building stone, picks it up, steps to the well, drops it inside, HEARS nothing, then steps back. Nothing happens. Some in the crowd are disappointed and others start to get angry and grumble. Mars is in the crowd in a hooded cape that hides his face.

MARS

You crazy old woman.

TITUS

(mocking)

Maybe you should seek the help of the gods of Rome.