

1. INT. MUSEUM OF KAHNDAQ - LATE AFTERNOON

Chief archaeologist, ADRIENNA TOMAZ (40), is giving a tour of the museum to some dignitaries, including MAX DANNER (55) the newly-appointed Governor of Kahndaq. Tomaz's son AMON (15) is also on the tour.

DANNER

Thank you, Professor Tomaz for agreeing to stay behind after hours to give us a tour of your wonderful museum.

TOMAZ

I hadn't realised I had a choice, Governor Danner.

Museum Director, ISHMAEL GREGOR (45), hastily intervenes.

GREGOR

What Professor Tomaz means is that given the choice she would've happily given you the tour as soon as you arrived in Kahndaq, Governor.

DANNER

(laughs)

I know what the Professor meant, Director Gregor. Don't worry, I won't take offence. I'm not as touchy as my boss.

GREGOR

And of course we'll be happy to provide a tour for Mr Mannheim when he visits Kahndaq himself.

DANNER

Thankfully Intergang's other activities keep Mr Mannheim very busy elsewhere.

(to Adrienna - attempt at charm)

And he's not as interested in history as I am.

They continue the tour.

DANNER

And this is?

AMON

The Spear of Haff used by Hercules in his fight against the Hydra.

DANNER
(amused)
And this?

AMON
The Cup of Mamaragan, head of the
Council of Wizards.

DANNER
This?

AMON
One of the statues of Osiris that
used to mark Kahndaq's border with
Egypt.

DANNER
Your son will make an excellent
archaeologist when he grows up.

TOMAZ
He already knows more than I do.

DANNER
(to Amon)
The head of the spear, the
wizard's cup and the eyes of
Osiris all have fragments of
Eternium in them, isn't that
right?

AMON
They did, yes. For over 2,000
years the magical eyes glinting
with Eternium in the statues of
Osiris kept Kahndaq safe. But over
the millennia the statues crumbled
and as the stones were looted so
the magic which kept our country
safe weakened.

TOMAZ
Looted much like the Eternium
artefacts in the museum, stolen by
representatives / of your
organisation-

GREGOR
(talks over the end of
Adrienna)
/ And how is the Eternium mining
going, Governor Danner?

DANNER
Profitable. And is leading to some
significant technological
breakthroughs.

TOMAZ
 (under her breath)
 All the better to control us with.

They move into the last room of their tour. A jagged, malevolent looking CROWN hangs as if floating, lighted by spots.

DANNER
 And this must be... let me guess...

AMON
 The Crown of Sabbac.

GREGOR
 Of course, not the actual crown.

AMON
 The real crown has been lost for 4,000 years.

TOMAZ
 It was originally forged at the command of the mad tyrant king, Ahk-Ton. He enslaved the entire population of Kahndaq to mine enough Eternium to make the Crown.

DANNER
 What did he intend to do with the Crown?

TOMAZ
 Ahk-Ton read that by concentrating so much Eternium in one object he could harness Sabbac.

DANNER
 Sabbac?

TOMAZ
 The six demon lords of Hell.

AMON
 Satan, Aym, Belial, Beelzebub, Asmodeus, and Crateris.

TOMAZ
 That concentrated evil would give anyone who wore the crown immeasurable power. Turning them into a demon god whose only aim would be to rule over an Earth transformed into an extension of Hell. Whoever wears the crown is invincible.

DANNER

But, it didn't happen?

TOMAZ

Thankfully, Ahk-Ton was stopped before he had a chance to wear the crown.

AMON

By Teth-Adam, the hero of Kahndaq.

DANNER

Ah, yes, I saw the colossus bestriding the port when I flew in.

TOMAZ

Teth-Adam was an ordinary citizen of Kahndaq chosen by Mamaragan...

GREGOR

Whose cup we saw earlier.

TOMAZ

...and the Council of Wizards to prevent Ahk-Ton wearing the crown and bringing about the end of the world. Teth-Adam became the most powerful super being there has ever been. Sadly, in the ensuing battle most of Kahndaq was destroyed. Thousands killed. Entire region laid waste. And when the dust had finally settled there was no sign of either Teth-Adam or the crown.

DANNER

(glint in his eye)

Has anyone tried to recover the crown?

TOMAZ

Don't worry Governor Danner, a demon god isn't going to suddenly appear and disrupt your plans.

GREGOR

(despairing)

Professor Tomaz.

TOMAZ

Many have searched for the crown. Many have failed. Most have died in the attempt.

(MORE)

TOMAZ (CONT'D)

There are rumours that a cult built around the living heirs of Ahk-Ton continue that search. Every few years there are rumours. Clues that have supposedly come to light in ancient texts. But, I can tell you as both an archaeologist and a realist, they're dead-ends, smoke in the wind. But know this, there's a legend that says if the crown is found and falls into the wrong hands, Teth-Adam will return to save Kahndaq and the world from the forces of darkness.

As Adrienna has been speaking the room has hushed. The assembled people hang on her every word.

GREGOR

(laughs nervously)

But these are legends, Governor. Stories to scare children at night.

(he ruffles Amon's hair -
to the boy's obvious
annoyance)

DANNER

Well I for one could do without either a demon god king or a hero with unlimited powers.

AMON

I wouldn't mind Kahndaq's hero returning.

DANNER

And what would you have him do?

GREGOR

(hastily)

Adrienna, didn't you have something to show Amon?

(Adrienne looks
uncomprehending)

The new acquisition?

TOMAZ

New acquisition?

GREGOR

The tablets.

TOMAZ

(catching on - gritted
teeth)

The tablets, yes, of course, the
tablets. Come on Amon, let's going
and look at the tablets.

DANNER

(to Adrienna)

I also have an important meeting.
Thank you again for your very
informative tour Professor Tomaz.
And Amon, I'll be watching your
progress with interest.

(beat)

And who knows, those tablets might
be the key to finding the crown.
Good luck.

Danner, Gregor and the rest exit one way and Adrienna and
Amon go through a door into the ARCHIVES SECTION of the
museum.