

BLACK ADAM

Plot Outline

SETUP

- Kahndaq Museum, Shiruta [capital of Kahndaq] – Professor Adrienna Tomaz gives a tour to the new Intergang-appointed governor, Max Danner – accompanied by Museum Director, Ishmael Gregor and her son, Amon.
- Adrienna – with Amon's help – describes some of the treasures of the museum – including five of the statues of Osiris which stood at Kahndaq's border – there used to be hundreds – all with eternium eyes – eyes which were looted over the years
- They come to a replica of the Crown of Sabbac – the real crown, made of Eternium, has been lost for 4000 years – the Crown was almost used by the mad tyrant king Ahk-Ton to become a Demon God and turn Earth into Hell – but he was stopped by Teth-Adam/Black Adam using the power of Shazam granted by the Council of Wizards
- Danner and his Intergang entourage leave
- In the archives of the museum Amon helps Adrienna decipher ancient tablets which point towards the secret resting place of the Crown – Adrienna vows to retrieve and destroy the Crown – she will go with Ishmael and her brother Karim
- On the other side of the city Danner is now meeting with Hawkman & Dr Fate from the Justice Society (JS) – they need some Eternium, which Intergang have been mining, to use in the fight against Darkseid [tying Black Adam more strongly into the wider DC Movie Universe] – Danner also mentions the Crown in relation to the eternium it is made from – but JS discount it because it's more myth than reality
- Adrienna, Ishmael and Karim find the resting place of the Crown and enter – overcoming a number of boobytraps and obstacles – latterly helped by Amon, who has snuck along with them
- They find the Crown and solve the last puzzle to release it – however, Ishmael reveals himself to be in league with Intergang and takes the Crown – Intergang soldiers pour in and take Adrienna, Karim and Amon into custody

INCITING INCIDENT

- Amon wriggles free and hides – he searches for a solution to their predicament before he's recaptured – he reads one of the inscriptions carved in the wall that talks of Kahndaq's fallen hero which ends with the word: 'Shazam' – as soon as he speaks the word he releases Black Adam from his tomb-like prison

NEW SITUATION

- The Intergang soldiers attack Adam and he kills them – Ishmael orders reinforcements from the nearby Intergang mine just before the ceiling collapses and seemingly kills him – Adrienna, Amon and Karim escape the caves with the Crown
- Black Adam pauses – he looks at an inscription/pictograph and says, "Humut. I'm sorry. I'm unworthy of these powers." He is about to say, "Shazam," when he hears Amon, Karim & Adrienna calling for help – he hesitates but goes to their aid
- *Here's Black Adam's motivation: he's unworthy, so his goal is to become worthy of his son's memory, to be a true hero
- Outside Adrienna et al have been captured by Intergang soldiers – who have come with tanks etc. – one of the soldiers from inside made it out – he blames them for bringing Adam into the world and orders them to be executed
- But Adam arrives and rescues them – they hide in a cave out of the way of the fighting – as the Intergang attacks grow larger, Black Adam's rage grows until it becomes uncontrollable and he emits an almost atomic level of power

- The explosion is so large it's seen in Shiruta miles away by Danner, Hawkman and Dr Fate – Danner, believing this is a trick by JS, calls off the deal – Hawkman and Dr Fate assure him it's nothing to do with them and they fly to the location of the blast
- At the blast site, Adam asks where he is and how long he's been in the caves – Adrienna tells him he's in Kahndaq and he's been gone for 4000 years – Adam looks at the devastation he's created and the city in the distance and says, "This isn't my world anymore."
- He's just about to say, "Shazam," when Hawkman and Dr Fate arrive – realising it's this super-being who has jeopardised their deal for the Eternium they try to discover what he wants – but the conversation goes badly and they fight – Adam beats them and they retreat and vow to regroup, recruit more of the JS and return to defeat him to ensure they get the Eternium they need

CHANGE OF PLANS

- Adam heads for the caves when a last rogue soldier shoots him with an Eternium weapon which renders him unconscious – Adrienna, Karim and Amon take him back to Kahndaq's city along with the Crown of Sabbac

PROGRESS

- Adam tosses and turns in Amon's bed – in his fever dream he relives his son's death over and over – Adrienna watches over him – she looks in particular at the Eternium wound on Black Adam's side: it is a malevolent-looking canker
- He wakes – he's disorientated – a man out of time – and incredibly hungry – Adrienna and Karim shuttle food from outside which Adam devours, while Amon gives him the rundown of 4000 years of history – including superhero lore with mentions for Hawkman and Dr Fate – they bond, Amon reminds Adam of his own son, he says
- Amon, and Adrienna, say that now Adam has returned he can rid Kahndaq of its oppressors – but he says, "I don't recognise this Kahndaq. I'm not a hero. It would be better if I went back to my tomb." – Amon storms to his bedroom disappointed
- Adrienna gives him the whole with great power comes great responsibility speech, but tailored to saving Kahndaq and its people – but Adam tells her that he shouldn't use the powers of Shazam because when he does it leads to tragedy
- Black Adam tells her about what really happened 4000 years ago – his son Humut was the true hero but he was killed saving Adam – then Adam confronted Ahk-Ton and in his fury destroyed all of Kahndaq (a near-nuclear blast), killing thousands
- But the main problem was that he enjoyed the power and destruction, and realised he had the potential to be every bit as cruel and terrible as Ahk-Ton – the Council of Wizards also feared this and entombed him and hid the Crown
- "I don't deserve these powers," – he says, "Shazam," transforming into a normal man – he borrows some clothes and leaves
- Adrienna decides to go the museum to see if there's a way of destroying the Crown – Amon goes with her – they search the archives but nothing – they decide to try where they found the Crown to see if the inscriptions there give any clues
- As they're leaving the museum they pass through the great hall filled with Kahndaq's treasures – they pass along the row of statues of Osiris – as they pass the middle one, it's eyes light from within – Adrienna brings the Crown even closer and the light blasts out – they didn't know that any of the statue's eyes were still Eternium
- Adam walks through the vibrant capital city – he sees the oppression of Intergang but it's not his fight, so he turns away – he comes to the main square where there is a market – in the centre is a massive statue – Adam looks at it unhappily
- An old woman runs a stall in the shadow of the statue – she explains that people believe that Black Adam will return when Kahndaq is in need but hoping for that is

- like entering the lottery hoping for a miracle, rather than doing something yourself – as they watch some Intergang soldiers brutalise someone and laughing
- Adam says it probably better that Adam stays asleep, it is for the people to rise up – “Still,” says the old woman, “it’d be good if someone showed them how.”
- Meanwhile, in Hawkman’s mansion he and Dr Fate try to find out about Black Adam and choose a team to combat his particular powers – *must be specific reasons for Atom Smasher and Cyclone to be involved – **I’d also add The Spectre to the team
- Fate uses his precognition to see what Adam may do – in his vision he sees Black Adam go nuclear, destroy Shiruta and rule Kahndaq from a throne of skulls in the ruined palace – but he warns the rest of the JS team (who have assembled) that the future is slippery, uncertain
- They get a call from Danner – the Crown has been found, which would give JS all the power they need to defeat Darkseid – but Dr Fate urges caution: the Crown is a thing of evil, it’s unsure whether it could be wielded for good – but The Spectre says Fate is being too cautious, the Crown’s power will allow them to destroy Darkseid
- Adrienna and Amon head to the cave tomb – it’s largely wrecked from the fight – but they start reading inscriptions – they find one that says, as the Crown is a thing of dark magic only a pure piece of magic can destroy it – they say a prayer over the rock beneath which Ishmael was seen crushed
- Adrienna and Amon return home – Max Danner and his goons are there waiting – they want the Crown – out of the shadows comes Ishmael, he survived the cave-in – he knows Adrienna’s hiding place – they find the Crown
- Ishmael tells Danner that only a direct descendent of Ahk-Ton can wear the Crown – but Danner tells him he just wants it for the Eternium it contains – he’s going to find a way to melt it down so he can divide it up and sell it
- They question Adrienna and Amon about the location of Adam but they won’t tell Danner
- Intergang take them to the square – Adrienna and Amon are going to be publicly executed unless Black Adam is given up – they think he’s being hidden by the people

POINT OF NO RETURN

- Adam is in the crowd – he wrestles with himself, still thinking of the hero Humut would want him to be – he looks around the crowd, willing the people to rise – but as the execution is about to take place he thinks of the old woman – they need an example – but still he holds on
- Next to the execution Danner holds the Crown of Sabbac
- Adam fights his way to the front of the crowd and takes one step too much – an Intergang soldier punches him on the Eternium wound and it pulses – Adam rises and he says, “Shazam.”
- Ishmael watches this from the front – he notices the wound, the semi-evil in Adam’s eye – he thinks he sees something in Adam he may be able to exploit later, if needed

COMPLICATIONS & HIGHER STAKES

- In the aftermath, we see Danner, Ishmael and a rag-tag of Intergang soldiers fleeing Shiruta chased by an angry mob
- In the centre of the city the dust is settling over the battle – Adam stands victorious – now the people have seen their supposed champion they urge him to ascend the stairs of the ruined palace on one side of the square – he looks to Amon who nods that he should
- Adrienna asks if Adam thinks this is the path Humut wanted for him – Adam answers that his son wanted peace – he will sit on the throne but only until Kahndaq is free – he sits, the people cheer, he tells them to round up any Intergang soldiers who might be left

- Outside the city, Intergang have regrouped in their HQ next to their mining operation – Danner is raging – Ishmael keeps telling him to use the Crown – but Danner says JS will defeat Adam – Ishmael disputes they are the answer – Danner belittles him
- Ishmael can take no more – he shoots Danner in the arm, causing him to drop the Crown – he reveals that he is the last descendent of Ahk-Ton as he raises the Crown – “Now you will see the power of Hell unleashed as I become Sabbac!” – he puts the Crown on and... nothing – Danner laughs, Ishmael kills him
- Adam talks to Adrienna – Danner and Intergang have the Crown, they could use it – Adrienna tells him, they haven’t – where is it? – in a very safe place – they go to the museum and there’s the supposed replica where it’s always been, except it’s the real Crown
- Despite his aversion to the Eternium, Adam is strangely fascinated by the Crown – it clearly holds a dangerous allure for him – his hand moves unconsciously to the eternium wound on his side – he says, “But maybe I could wear the Crown? Maybe it’s the only way to defeat Intergang and JS? Maybe I could control its power and use it to cleanse not just Kahndaq of evil but the world?”
- Adrienna is worried and takes the Crown and puts it in her bag – the evil gleam in Adam’s eye dissipates (though a lingering thought still remains) – he asks if Adrienna has found a way to destroy the Crown
- She shows him some of the ancient tablets – pure magic is needed to destroy the Crown – deep in the Kahndaq desert there is a great convergence of ley lines, where they intersect was known by the ancients as the, ‘Pit of Time,’ – made from magic, whatever is cast into the pit is cast out of space and time [a concept which could’ve tied Black Adam into the new Flash movie] – there’s only one problem: it’s near the Intergang mine
- JS arrive at Intergang’s HQ – they’re greeted by Ishmael – he’s in charge now – he tells them Black Adam has taken over Shiruta and the Eternium Danner promised them is in a warehouse in the docks – he also says that as Ahk-Ton’s last surviving descendent he will take charge of Kahndaq once Adam is gone and bring stability
- He also tells them that Black Adam has the Crown and intends to wear it to increase his powers to become invincible – JS must get the Crown so it doesn’t fall into Adam’s hands
- The plan will be that JS head to the Palace to neutralise Adam and Intergang will come into the city after to retake control
- Adam says he can take the Crown – but Karim comes in and tells them JS have arrived – it’s only a matter of time until they attack Shiruta – so it’s agreed Adam will fight them while Adrienna heads to the mine to destroy the Crown – Amon is also there – Adrienna tells him to stay away from the centre of the city to be safe
- Adam sits on the throne – he finds it uncomfortable and the Eternium wound in his side is throbbing and painful, making him irritable – the people of Kahndaq are bringing him collaborators now as well as Intergang members – he is going to execute them all – but at the last minute he stops himself
- JS arrive and get the wrong idea – they think Adam is still in execution mode – they attack and there’s a great battle
- Outside the city Adrienna and Karim skirt the lines of Intergang soldiers massed at the edge of Shiruta – they make it to the mine and find the Pit of Time – but just as they’re about to throw in the Crown they’re intercepted by Ishmael and some soldiers
- Adrienna dangles the Crown over the Pit – but Ishmael brings out Amon who, again, snuck along with them and has been captured – Ishmael holds a gun to Amon’s head

- In the midst of the battle against JS, Adam hears anguished Adrienna’s call – he flies off, pursued by JS
- Adam arrives and is immediately bombarded by Intergang forces who have come back to the mine – JS help them – Adam’s rage grows as he sees Ishmael hurt Amon – Adam goes near-Atomic once again
- The aftermath of this is that Adrienna and Karim have been saved by Dr Fate – Hawkman got Amon clear but the latter has been gravely injured – Shiruta has been partially devastated – the Pit of Time has been buried – but Adrienna believes that at the last minute she did manage to throw the Crown into the Pit – Ishmael, chasing the Crown, appears to have also fallen into the Pit

MAJOR SETBACK

- Black Adam heads back into a semi-devastated city – the people have somewhat turned against him seeing his destructive powers – Amon when he comes round is wary of his hero now
- Adam accepts that, as he thought, his power leads only to tragedy – he accepts he will never be a hero – but with the Crown and most of Intergang now gone, Kahndaq has no need for him
- Adam says, “Shazam,” and agrees that his tongue should be cut out so that he can never say the magic word again and transform – until that time he will be transported to a holding facility away from Kahndaq

FINAL PUSH

- Adrienna heads back to the museum – she wants to see if there’s a way she can save Adam – she finds nothing – as she leaves she passes along the statues of Osiris, the one with the eternium eyes is in darkness – the Crown truly has gone – she leaves, but behind her the eyes begin to twinkle
- Cut to: the mine – under the rubble, the Pit of Time still churns – and there is The Spectre – he has judged the rest of JS’s logic to be incorrect regarding the Crown – and his judgement has exonerated Ishmael – he descends into the Pit
- Inside, in the blackness outside of time and space, Ishmael falls into infinity – he notices a glint in the darkness: the Crown – but there’s nothing he can do – suddenly he sees another figure: The Spectre has found him – Spectre transports both Ishmael and the Crown out of the Pit
- Before The Spectre leaves with the Crown Ishmael asks to hold it once: it belonged to his ancestor and his family have been looking for it for 4000 years – Spectre agrees – Ishmael immediately puts the Crown on and is transported to Hell – waiting are Satan, Aym, Belial, Beelzebub, Asmodeus and Crateris (SABBAC) – they bestow their powers on him
- Spectre realises he’s been tricked, his judgement clouded by the six demons to make him make the wrong decision – he flees to warn the rest of JS
- Adam waits to be transported away from Kahndaq – Adrienna comes to see him – tells him that Amon has forgiven him – Hawkman arrives to take him away – as he’s leaving he puts his hand to his eternium wound – Adrienna notices but doesn’t make the connection
- Adam is flown away, muzzled in case he changes his mind and says, “Shazam” – but from the window he sees Ishmael/Sabbac rising from the mine – he tries to say something to Hawkman but is knocked out
- Sabbac makes a zombie/legions of hell army rise from the desert sand and closes in on Shiruta [*make them scarier and more abundant] – Spectre arrives to tell them the foe they face – JS head into battle and are badly beaten by Sabbac

- Sabbac makes his way to the Palace and sits on the throne – he gives a command and, starting in Kahndaq, the Earth begins to transform into Hell – fiery lakes open up, vulcanoid peaks rise, the sky blackens
- Meanwhile, Fate has followed Adrienna to the museum – she is trying to find out what kind of pure magic could destroy the Crown – Fate says the only being who contains that much magic is Adam, but using that level of his power up at one time would probably kill him
- A message gets to Hawkman – Sabbac the Demon God – Hawkman frees Adam, but Adam says he doesn't want to hurt anyone else – Amon comes on the screen in Hawkman's plane, he tells Adam that he's Earth's only hope – only his power of destruction can stop Sabbac
- Adam says, "Shazam," and he and Hawkman head back to Kahndaq – Adam tells Hawkman he's got a plan...

CLIMAX

- Black Adam fights the Demon God Sabbac with the help of JS – but nothing they do seems to make a dent
- Spectre, while trying to shield the city and its residents, is fatally wounded by Sabbac – this is fair judgement for his error in giving the Crown to Ishmael
- He turns to Adam and tells him, he has to think of his son, think of being a hero, tap into the purity of his memories and then unleash his full potential, not in rage but in love and serenity
- Sabbac, overhearing this, laughs – "You don't know who Black Adam is – he's a destroyer" – then he makes Adam an offer: Join me and you will have any realm of this new Hell to rule over by my side – "You want the power to make things as you want" – that glint that was in Adam's eye returns, he feels the eternium wound on his side – he agrees to join Sabbac
- He says they should go outside the city to the cave where he and the Crown were found – that is where the power of Council of Wizards is held – that can make Sabbac even stronger – Sabbac agrees
- JS members come together to regroup – they are readying themselves for a final fight against Sabbac and Adam – but Hawkman says: "This is Adam's fight alone. I only hope his plan comes off."
- Sabbac uses his powers to peel open the mountain and forge a new dark throne from the ruins of the Wizards cave/temple – the throne is covered in the inscriptions from the cave walls – Adam stands to the side of the throne – both looks out on lava and fire and smoke and blackness overcoming the world
- But just as Sabbac thinks he has been victorious, Adam turns and grabs the Crown on his head – it burns into his hands and Sabbac tries to wrestle him – Adam thinks of his son, his wife, Adrienna, Amon, trying to think of all that's good and pure – his eyes gradually glow, his power ramping up to an unbelievable degree
- In Shiruta, JS, Adrienna, Karim and Amon are trying to usher people into safe places underground – while at the same time fighting the Legions of Hell
- Then, in the desert, pure light – Adam goes nuclear – from the city they can see a mushroom cloud rising, they feel the shockwave, which disintegrates the Legions of Hell – it appears Adam has won and destroyed Sabbac as the elements of Hell begin to fall apart

AFTERMATH

- JS, Adrienna, Amon and Karim head into the desert to look for Adam – they find him in the centre of a crater, no longer Black Adam but just a normal man – and he's alive

- They head back to Shiruta where Adam recovers from his wounds – JS ask him to try Shazam to see if he can still transform – he says the magic word but nothing happens – Adam is powerless
- Recovered, Adrienna asks Adam what he'll do with his life now he's just a normal man – he says he's going to see some of the world then maybe come back and help with the rebuilding effort in Kahndaq – Adrienna says she'll be there when he returns – and Amon bursts in and says, he will too
- Adam is travelling through some far-flung jungle province in the middle of nowhere – he witnesses some injustice and tries to intervene – the bully beats Adam and leaves him bleeding – Adam's rage rises – he says "Shazam," and Black Adam rises again