

**ATLANTIS BEARER OF FRUIT**

Written by

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Based on the Novel

**First Draft - Limited Edition Scenes 1 - 37 only.**

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LIBRARIAN, a male faun, fiddles with the cord of a sparking illumination-bulb.

Peeking around a dark corner, a tense AEDON messes with his curly hair, biting the nails on his other hand. Mischievously FAERAUD, pulls a steel ball from a pocket in his toga. Aedon holds him back.

FAERAUD

Aedon, you do want the genetikos to validate your father?

Faeraud tosses the piece. The faun turns at the rolling sound, looking down a corridor opposite the boys.

Fireworks spark and sputter.

The Librarian ducks, slowly gets up, then cautiously goes after the distraction.

Aedon slams his body against the opposite wall next to a sealed door.

Faeraud snatches a round globeaky left on the faun's desk before tumbling to the door next to Aedon.

He inserts the Librarian's key into one of two keyholes. The globe spins around. A second later its rings stop.

Faeraud pulls out a second globeaky.

AEDON

Faeraud, how did you get--

FAERAUD

Perhaps a smidgen of benzodiazepine fell into Yenocha's prune juice.

Faeraud shoves the key in. It spins with anticipation.

AEDON

They'll send us to the Restorium if that globeaky--

CLICK, CLICK, GROAN. Mechanical gears are heard turning.

The door opens.

Faeraud tugs at Aedon's arm, pulling him up the winding staircase inside the--

INT. LIBRARY TOWER, SCROLL CHAMBER - DAY

Following Faeraud up the stairway, objecting--

AEDON

This is one of the most highly  
restricted towers--

Glancing up, hundreds of feet above, the boys see the under-  
part of a roaring flame. The stairs spiral up to a platform.

On that level, the room is lined by dozens of shelves, each  
with scrolls, organized in pristine condition. Some of them  
appear to be floating rather than stacked to rest.

Sleeping owls are perched on crisscrossing rafters between  
the boys and the flame.

AEDON (CONT'D)

(nervously)

Witness Wise Owls -- they'll --  
they'll wake up and report--

Faeraud motions for Aedon to lower his voice. He picks up  
pace frantically, searching the scrolls. He is on a mission.

FAERAUD

If you were a scroll, a really  
important one, with lots of secrets  
-- where would you hide?

AEDON

Perhaps we shouldn't have been so  
hasty to search for a magic scroll.

FAERAUD

(brushing a hovering  
scroll aside)

A few too many floating decoys.

Faeraud spots a chest atop the highest shelf. A closed-eye  
owl sits next to it.

With awe, Faeraud slides a slanted scroll-table over to the  
shelf. He climbs up on it. His left foot slips slightly.

FAERAUD (CONT'D)

A logical place, perhaps.

Stretching to reach with difficulty, Faeraud fingers the box.

A bat flies from the chest.

A WITNESS WISE OWL lifts an eyelid, slightly.

Startled, Faeraud loses his balance and falls to the floor. An ornate rug softens his fall, but part of the wooden floor beneath cracks.

FAERAUD (CONT'D)  
Owww! ... Of all the Asterian  
Enchantments, will ya help me up.

Aedon extends a hand. The same idea hits them both--

Quickly they pull a rug back where the cracked floor reveals a wooden door. With some effort, Faeraud pries it open.

Slowly, Faeraud lifts out a black cylinder. A blue line around its perimeter almost glows.

AEDON  
It's too short to be--

FAERAUD  
Finally -- the "Scroll of Fire."

Another owl begins to stir.

AEDON  
(worried)  
What have we uncovered?

FAERAUD  
My Smart-owl, with this, we could  
become kings -- save the crumbling  
empire.

Aedon shakes his head as a third owl begins to wake up.

Faeraud shoves the scroll under his toga before heading down the stairs.

At the doorway, they catch site of the Librarian Faun returning to his post.

Faeraud steps back worried.

3

EXT. LIBRARY TOWER - EVENING

3

The building is silhouetted against a burning sunset, matching the flame above its opaque tower.

Around back, the shadows of two figures clinging to a rope, inch down the side of the tower.

AEDON (V.O.)  
You'll take it back, right?

Aedon pauses to look out across the golden water.

The vast ocean dwarfs the library like a spec on the wall.

4

EXT. SPACE, EARTH

4

The distant bald moon floats past. We move toward planet Earth.

Closer, we arrive noticing that the continents are slightly different in shape.

Earth rotates and the South Pole is now upward.

Rounding the globe a new continent reveals itself.

TITLE: "ATLANTIS"

SUBTITLE: "BEARER OF FRUIT"

Zippering through the titled letters we speed ahead, fly low, over the continent.

BUT WE DON'T STOP THERE -- we continue on past.

The spray of waves touch us as we cross the Mesapian Sea. Mermaids leap from the ocean as we pass.

Our speed ramps down. We approach another land, SAHADA.

5

EXT. LIBRARY TOWER - DAY

5

A flying box-like vehicle, called a Valix, swoops through the ancient city of past, the civilization adorned with technology beyond the present. The Valix hovers to a stop. It docks on a platform near the top level of the library.

A figure emerges from the vehicle. Her robe flaps in the breeze as she disappears into a doorway.

In a building across the river, the vibratious young man, Aedon, paces with worry. He pretends not to notice the arrival as he packs his last toga and secures the trunk-case.

VOICE (O.C.)

They just want to ask a couple questions. Before you--

Aedon abruptly lifts his hand to stop the reminder, then nods with consent.

6 INT. LIBRARY TOWER, TRIVELATOR - DAY

6

Together Aedon and Faeraud step onto a triangular platform. This trivelator whisks them up toward the top floor.

Glancing above through the ceiling window, they notice the torch stretching into the sky. Its base is a gigantic tower topped by a flame ruffled in the wind.

AEDON

Seems like we never left.

FAERAUD

(reminding)

We were never here, Aedon.

A pudgy educatory-mate, AUSETHEN, rides up next to them on another trivelator slab.

AUSETHEN

Have ya found a date for Eve of  
Apaturia, Aedon? Wanna ask my frog  
out?

Ausetthen shoves a crystallized amphibian toward his face. Faeraud snatches it away, examining--

FAERAUD

Interesting piece, Ausetthen. Still  
looks kinda alive.

Passing on a downward trivelator, ARESHIA lowers her head, flipping bangs across her face, ignoring them.

AEDON

Maybe I'll ask Areshia.

FAERAUD

Isn't she a boy?

AUSETHEN

If ya wanna ask a boy, ya should've  
asked Faeraud.

The trivelator ramps to a stop at the top level, near the entrance of the tower.

Down the corridor, the mystery lady disappears into a room.

7 INT. LIBRARY TOWER, VAULT ENTRANCE

7

The Librarian cocks his head back and forth trying to see around a lamp. Finally he stands, balancing on his hoofs.

The mystery lady, AHTEANA, stops to accept his respectful bow. Her long hair almost floats when she turns to greet the upset elder, Instructioneer--

YENOCHA

I am certain Fake-rude is connected with its disappearance.

Ahteana tosses a glance of disbelief.

YENOCHA (CONT'D)

And that gray-bander, Aedon, has been hanging with him of late.

AHTEANA

Instructioneer Yenocha, do I detect a man growing old and bitter?

LIBRARIAN

(eager interruption)  
When the illumination-bulbs came back on, I discovered--

AHTEANA

(ignoring Librarian)  
Certainly you didn't bring me here, all the way from our Asterian moon, to spank a couple misbehaved educatory-mates.

YENOCHA

I was about to summon their fathers. But -- you know the issue regarding "the one."

LIBRARIAN

(raises voice)  
A sorcerer using an enchantment could break through its protection.

YENOCHA

Only Asterians are allowed to use such magic. Are you suggesting--

AHTEANA

What did you see?

LIBRARIAN

The door. It was open a slit. At first I thought it was due to the energy burst. But when it wouldn't close properly--

YENOCHA

I was notified. Immediately I  
proceeded to inventory the tower.

Ahteana begins a visual inspection of the doorway to the  
vault. Behind it, a stairway winds higher.

AHTEANA

The Scroll -- are you certain that  
it's missing?

LIBRARIAN

Yes, my lady. There are few who  
know where any of the "Rataka  
Scrolls" are hidden.

AHTEANA

(turning to Librarian)  
Yet you seem to have known.

LIBRARIAN

Speculation has always burned as  
bright as the flame above.

Yenocha points to the door latch. It's intact.

LIBRARIAN (CONT'D)

Thank Yaswhen the other two scrolls  
remain hidden in someone else's  
library. With the Asterian's powers  
weakening--  
(abruptly stopping)  
Sorry--

AHTEANA

The scrolls were hidden away so  
they would not fall to the clutches  
of evil. And with their sealment,  
the powers they once gave us, did  
diminish. A dilemma we foresaw. Yet  
this was the best choice.

Volumes of scrolls and writings wallpaper the chamber.  
Scientific instruments dot deliberately placed tables. Some  
of them slowly spin, active in motion.

Yenocha's sandals clunk across the wooden floor. He paces,  
tapping his hip, then raises a looking-glass to his eye.

YENOCHA

When the illumination-bulbs faded  
earlier--

Nervously, Aedon, shuffles in, almost tripping. Catching  
sight of Ahteana he quickly pulls himself together.

AEDON

(respectfully bowing)  
Ahteana! Voerdu!

A pleasant smile crosses Ahteana's face and she slides to the  
side of her plushly draped bench.

AHTEANA

Voerdu, Aedon. Come sit next to me.

Yenocha scrunches his cheeks with disapproval.

AHTEANA (CONT'D)

It has been many sun-cycles since  
we have spoken.

AEDON

I've missed you're visits.

AHTEANA

Your father?

AEDON

Worthless me, not even a copy-  
parrot. Alas, I've made new  
friends. They're my family now.

AHTEANA

(accepting)  
You have always surrounded yourself  
with those who are with honor.

As Aedon opens his mouth, perhaps to spill what he knows--

YENOCHA

(impatient)  
Sands drain in the hourglass.

AHTEANA

(to Aedon)  
When the illumination-bulbs went  
black, what did you see--

AEDON

Can one be expected to see much in  
the dark?

YENOCHA

Then you never left the educatory?

AEDON

The energy burst lasted well into the evening. Even you left Master Yenocha. What is this all about?

YENOCHA

There are dangers associated with unapproved magic poems--

AHTEANA

A few sun-cycles back, when I taught the "Rataka" here, Aedon was my best pupil.

AEDON

I remember the teachings well.

YENOCHA

Then you recall that the Papyrus on which they are written must remain sealed?

Aedon stirs, putting his hands into the pockets of his toga.

AHTEANA

(lifting a finger)  
At Apaturia, after your  
Registration, come to the Irminsul?  
(noticing Aedon's worry)  
For an Apaturia gift I have for  
you.

Aedon nods with a bow, walking backwards to depart.

YENOCHA

Certainly he wasn't telling all that he knew.

AHTEANA

Mouths may loosen after the "Registrations of Youth" are bestowed. There will be less apprehension of expulsion then.

Yenocha sits, pinching the bridge of his nose with worry.

YENOCHA

Should one of the "Ratakas" become unsealed, the evil Sayer might slip in and empower an Uprooter.

## AHTEANA

The beginning -- to the end of our era, appears close. Many concerning winds blow against the tide.

9

EXT. GIANNI DOCKS - DAY

9

A vessel clanks against the dock where Aedon wrestles to raise its sails against the blustery wind. On the side its name is painted--

AEDON

Whoa, steady SEAOLA.

FAERAUD

(shouts from his boat)

Aedon, you're the best navigator there is.

Aedon fastens down his delta-transporter (flying vehicle) named "SKYOLA" before stepping off the boat to drag his trunk aboard.

AEDON

You're not taking the lead?

PLOP. Baggage drops at his feet. His half-brother, YAPET, commands attention with a strut to match his rugged look. His twin brother, SESKEF, with smoother skin, lags behind.

YAPET

Really, you're going to Apaturia?

SESKEF

Isn't that kind of silly -- it is, I say. Isn't your mother's story just a--

YAPET

Where do you plan to store your belongings?

SESKEF

No room in our abode--

Yapet glances over at his vehicle, a wooden framed balloon with gas pouches, bobbing in the wind. A couple transporters are attached beneath.

YAPET

(to Seskef)

Hardly room for all the stuff you've packed, Seskef.

Yapet steps in front of Seskef continuing--

YAPET (CONT'D)

Even if those genetic tests prove  
in your favor, no one is going to  
believe your mother's droopy story.

Yapet abruptly turns to depart, leaving Seskef to gather up  
their bags.

SESKEF

Yapet thinks -- many say -- that  
you're that Uprooter.

AEDON

(noticing the bag)  
Seskef, you might want to fasten--

Seskef grabs one of the unfastened bags. Clothes spill out.  
He gathers up the belongings, taking off to help Yapet.  
Faeraud comes over.

FAERAUD

I hope their brackets snap and  
their delta-transporters fall into  
the sea. Your half brothers are as  
poisonous as their father.  
(yells to Yapet)

I hear your father, Gilggy, has  
lost favor. Gotten himself in an  
ocean of trouble.

AEDON

Gilgamoeh follows better in the  
footsteps of King Yaswhen than they  
do. When he returns--

FAERAUD

Yaswhen return? Indeed you don't  
listen to those fables? Centuries  
ago he was laid to rest in a veiled  
bed, surrounded by chanters.

Faeraud stomps off as Aedon raises a sail. A red parrot,  
PETER, swoops down from the sky, landing on the rail.

PETER

(High pitch voice)  
Dahrling! Dahrling!

The bird pants, extending his blue and yellow feathered wing,  
waiting--

AEDON  
 Maybe you could finish the message.

PETER  
 Maybe pretty bird get a cookie?

AEDON  
 (feeding a morsel)  
 Peter happy now?

The bird gulps down the food then pantomimes the message, delivering each word as if he were a woman.

PETER  
 Dahrling, dearest, you must travel here, back home, immediately. This regards the genetikos-replica and your father. Do not delay.

Aedon recognizes the voice Peter imitates.

AEDON  
 Mother, no way. Her message is too late. Tell her I'm not coming.

PETER  
 Not going? It took me days to fly here.

AEDON  
 And why is she sending copy-parrots. Everyone has a transglaust now-a-days.

PETER  
 Did you not hear the part about--  
 (imitating Cleacious)  
 This regards the genetikos-replica and your father.

AEDON  
 Gadeirus is beyond the main continent. I barely have time to sail to the Irem.

The bird leaps over to the locked down transporter.

PETER  
 Aedon could fly--

Aedon's transporter takes to the sky. The City of Gianni, the Educatory, and the Library Tower shrink in the background.

10 INT. AEDON'S TRANSPORTER - EVENING

10

Mist flashes by as they move toward a distant landing deck which extends from an island cliff. The capacitor chugs.

AEDON

Do these Akasha Fogs ever let up?

PETER

At least they won't eat you alive like fogs of the Foreverlasting.

(noticing)

You're not worried about the fog.

AEDON

My father -- what if--

Peter covers an eye with his wing as a warning light flashes on the control panel.

AEDON (CONT'D)

The old pyramid up here has always been spotty. We'll just glide in.

PETER

Glide? More like dive -- in a tail spin into the freezing sea.

AEDON

Calm down birdie. There's a backup talent of orichalcum behind your seat -- should we need more fuel.

The transporter reaches--

11 EXT. ISLAND OF GADEIRUS - EVENING

11

Illumination-bulbs twinkle from the fog covered hills that rise from the ocean.

Aedon's transporter is a dot against the sunset as it heads into the clouds.

12 EXT. CLIFF CITY, FLIGHT DECK - EVENING

12

Aedon hops out of the transporter as its capacitor winds to a stop. Peter swoops out and rests on Aedon's shoulder.

Approaching the plaza, its upper levels hidden in low hanging clouds, Aedon freezes.

AEDON

Did they add a new level to the plaza? What happened to that eatery that used to be here?

13

EXT. CARRIAGE SHOP - EVENING

13

A jolly man, receding hairline, CURIOUS CAIN, steps out.

CAIN

Carriage?

AEDON

Curious Cain?

CAIN

My memory digs up the voice of some prince vowing never to return here again.

A fine white stallion, MECA THE UNICORN, trots forward with carriage in tow.

CAIN (CONT'D)

My finest unicorn. Oppositely tamer than the wildest beast in the Agglomeration.

MECA

Those who live there are merely misunderstood.

AEDON

How many talents do I owe?

Cain brushes Aedon's hand aside, grabs a large hourglass and turns it over, starting its measure.

CAIN

When you return-- Remember a small gratuity will buy extra feed for your unicorn hostess.

Aedon climbs into the cab with Peter.

14

EXT. GADEIRUS, DENSE PATH - EVENING

14

The carriage bolts down the woodsy path, slowing when Aedon twists the reins.

MECA  
 (looking back)  
 Frightful path up ahead, it is.

AEDON  
 Watch the road there--

MECA  
 Meca, I'm Meca the mean unicorn.

AEDON  
 (sitting back)  
 I am called Aedon. Glad to meet  
 you, I think--

PETER  
 Glad, Birdie is not, now that  
 you've opened dialog with that  
 boisterous unicorn.

Aedon slouches down into the corner of the cab conversing  
 with Peter as Meca continues her conversation.

AEDON  
 Odd personality, I'll admit.

MECA  
 Always loved these more frigid  
 temperatures--

AEDON  
 (to Peter)  
 What's her story anyway, telling me  
 that her name is Meca the mean  
 unicorn?

MECA  
 --why was just talkin' 'bout  
 stompin' a vacation up near the  
 Agglomeration--

AEDON  
 What's she going to do, pierce my  
 gut with her dull horn?

MECA  
 --'cept was a bit concerned the  
 seasonal Northerner might just be  
 ending and a bit too much of a  
 chill.

The pathway thickens with unkempt trees. Meca pauses at a  
 fork in the road, then proceeds left where willows sweep,  
 brushing against them.

Aedon leans forward, objecting with concern.

AEDON

Meca, why are we going this way?  
Mother's abode is to the right.

MECA

Oh, you poor uninformed boy. Did  
she not tell of the renovations?

AEDON

Renovations?

A tunnel of branches gives way to--

15

EXT. CLEACIOUS' ABODE - EVENING

15

An enormous estate ornamented with decorations made from  
tarnished silver appears as cold as the breeze.

Meca gallops over a stone bridge where murky algae jimmies  
beneath, slowing to a stop at the gated wall.

Aedon steps out of the carriage as two iron-grated doors  
swing outward.

In a silver-silk toga, his mother, CLEACIOUS, glides forward.  
A fur wrap drops from her shoulder, unnoticed. She greets  
him, offering a nectar.

CLEACIOUS

Dahrling, you're late.

MECA

(picking up the fur with  
her snout)

An unhealthy garment. One might  
take caution around such.

Aedon motions the nectar away, entering the abode.

16

EXT. CLEACIOUS' ABODE - NIGHT/DAY

16

Scary fingers of a tree branch reach over the castle. The  
moon beyond brightens, becomes the morning sunrise.

17

INT. CLEACIOUS' ABODE, HALLWAY - DAY

17

Aedon pauses outside Cleacious' room, listening--

CLEACIOUS (O.C.)  
Just need you to make certain the  
replica proves true.

SCAPAPPI (O.C.)  
Ya've got doubts Gilgamoeh might  
not be Aedon's real father.

CLEACIOUS (O.C.)  
Silly goat, it was a pitch black  
night.

SCAPAPPI (O.C.)  
Yur su'posin' that gen-tika thingy  
isn't comin' out likin' what ya  
want. This will cost ya, Cleacious.  
Now sign here.

CLEACIOUS (O.C.)  
We will own the world once Aedon  
becomes Prince Lord.

A Kangaroo bounces down the hall, stopping to offer--

KANGAWAITER  
Egg-yoker, my prince?

Aedon grabs the breakfast sandwich, awkwardly stumbling into--

18

INT. CLEACIOUS' ROOM

18

SCAPAPPI THE GOAT pushes a palm leaf pen toward CLEACIOUS. He  
looks up at Aedon perturbed at the interruption. Cleacious  
exchanges a veil she is fussing with for the pen.

CLEACIOUS  
Lingering about -- one might hear  
but partial sound drops--

AEDON  
I expected others to doubt. But  
even you, you're not certain that  
Gilgamoeh is my father. -- ARE YOU?

Setting down the pen, Cleacious notices her naked wrist and  
begins trying on various bracelets.

CLEACIOUS  
The royal family does not want to  
face reality.

SCAPAPPI

Former Prince Lord Methouslan, not wishin' ta deal with a controversy had da genetikos sealed--

CLEACIOUS

Until your Registration of Youth.

SCAPAPPI

Ya realize ya live in a political climate where there are those who probably already tampered with da results.

AEDON

That's why you called me back-- I mustn't go to Apaturia.

CLEACIOUS

But Dahrling, you must go.

AEDON

(sitting down)

It all makes sense, now. Never once has Gilgamoeh granted me audience.

Scapappi quickly rolls up the scroll, preparing to leave.

SCAPAPPI

If yas donts goes, yas wonts gits yur 'heritance. Den yas wonts pay fer dis place and den I'll be forced ta sell yas as slaves ta da Aszeans.

AEDON

Worthless, worthless me. I've never been one to tend to such things. I have no talents or skills.

19

EXT. CLEACIOUS' ABODE - EARLY MORNING

19

Aedon packs his trunk-case into the carriage. Cleacious steps out from the gates, turning her head away from the mote.

CLEACIOUS

The brook isn't the only thing needing repair.

AEDON

I shall miss Apaturia. I'll miss my friends...

CLEACIOUS

But I have foreseen that favor lies  
with you at the Eve of Apaturia  
Dinner.

AEDON

Dinner? With the Etruscans? A  
formal invite overlooks those even  
more qualified than I.

CLEACIOUS

Your "Registration of Youth" --  
Certainly you want your diploma?

AEDON

I'll settle as a tradesman, in  
Tyrehenia, perhaps merchantiling.

CLEACIOUS

And abandon all that you've  
learned, worked so hard for?

AEDON

There's hardly a thing that could  
fix my predicament, but for a  
forbidden enchantment.

Aedon pauses. Thoughts about enchanting WHISPER in his head.

AEDON (O.C.) (CONT'D)

(whispering thoughts)

Enchantments ... Enchanted scrolls  
... FAERAUD ...

Cleacious begins brushing wrinkles from Aedon's garment like  
he was about to go on stage.

CLEACIOUS

I beg you to reconsider. It is time  
for my son to take his place at the  
Irem, and receive his inheritance  
of wealth and--

AEDON

Perhaps -- perhaps I might  
reconsider.

(remembering)

It's customary to exchange presents  
at Apaturia and I have not a gift  
for my father. ... I'll see what  
opportunities lie in Tyrehenia.

SCAPAPPI

(peeks around gate)

Won't Gilggy be squirmin' in his skin when yaz gots a gift for him and he'z not ready to reciprocate.

AEDON

He is the only father I've known. Yet, if he ignores, gives no recognition, I'd be-- I won't be pressed into making rash decisions -- not today.

20 EXT. COAST OF ATLANTIS - DAY 20

Aedon's transporter heads toward the City of Tyrehenia.

A giant tower on each side of the river inlet anchors a bridge ten levels thick, covered with roads, shops, and buildings.

A couple flying horses lead the way to a parking area attached to the underside of the bridge.

21 EXT. BRIDGE OF PILLARS - DAY 21

Surveying the shops nestled atop, Aedon steps back when a waterbus, running through a trough, speeds by, splashing excess water over his sandal.

22 INT. GIFT SHOP - DAY 22

The shop, filled with models of planes, transporters, balloons, and other toys, is dizzying to Aedon.

He settles on a toy transporter, picks it up, and examines it. He spins its tiny capacitor-fan with his finger and then makes a BLUBBERING sound.

A GIGGLE turns him around.

ARESHIA, examining a sunbrella in the next isle, watches.

Aedon quickly sets the transporter down, as if he were caught with his hand in a cookie jar.

AEDON

Areshia? How did you get here?

ARESHIA

You're shopping -- for Apaturia gifts?

AEDON

Heard the stories about Apaturia are mostly exaggerated. Was thinking of settling in these parts.

Areshia smiles and holds out the sunbrella.

ARESHIA

And miss your "Registration?" I'll be there. We could exchange presents.

AEDON

It wouldn't be proper for me to get something for my brother's girlfriend.

ARESHIA

Half-brother-- Hardly think you'd be breaking any traditions, since he doesn't believe that your his brother anyway.

After Areshia departs, Aedon hands the CLERK the sunbrella. He spots a looking-scope and peers through its lens.

CLERK

Most powerful lens there is. Can see halfway across the continent.

AEDON

I bet my father would like one of these.

CLERK

Desperately needing to find something -- or someone?

AEDON

He means everything to me. Tie 'em both up.

CLERK

Costs more than you'd make in a sun-cycle, lad.

AEDON

Your finest wrap.

The Clerk tears a sheet of golden paper from a roll and grabs a purple velvet cord to wrap the package.

23

EXT. IREM, BANQUET HALL - NIGHT

23

Wide columns support the extended roof of the colorfully lit palace. A waterbus stops in front. Aedon jumps off seeing--

AEDON  
(calling)  
Faeraud. Faeraud.

FAERAUD  
(stopping, turning)  
Aedon. Happy you made it.

AEDON  
May my father be as thrilled.

FAERAUD  
Gilgamoeh? It's ashamed he's never around.

The two moons in the night sky provide more illumination than Faeraud wishes. He leads Aedon into an alley.

FAERAUD (CONT'D)  
Even if you weren't his son, he should be as proud as a giraffe to have adopted one.

AEDON  
He's just got to be my father. I don't know how I'd go on if--

FAERAUD  
(lowering voice)  
There are ways to assure. Enchantments. Scrolls. Is that not why you have sought me out?

Aedon shakes his head as they stop at a crevice in one of the buildings.

AEDON  
Gilgamoeh will be at dinner.

Faeraud presses up against Aedon, his arm almost pinning him against the wall.

FAERAUD  
Stick with me Smart-owl. I'll take care of you. No disappointments.

The "bro-mance" intensifying, Aedon takes a breath. Faeraud steps back.

FADE OUT.

24 INT. IREM, BANQUET HALL - NIGHT

24

FROM BLACK, a roll of carpet is thrown. It unrolls, running through the dining quarters.

Acrobatic FIRE-EATERS and PIPE BLOWERS tumble in, passing Areshia. She stands off to the side like a mermaid out of water. Aedon walks up to her.

AEDON

Apa'hei, need a friend?

ARESHIA

Here-- Something for you-- an Apaturia gift.

She shoves a package into his gut. Aedon takes it before handing her one of two long boxes he carries.

AEDON

I-- I picked out something for you too.

Areshia opens her box and is pleased with the sunbrella.

Aedon tears into the brown wrapper of his gift, a winding rope tumbles out landing on his sandal.

AEDON (CONT'D)

Odd gift. Entirely lengthy.

ARESHIA

It's a rope-tie, Silly. You wear it around your toga.

AEDON

(defensively)

I know how to fasten a toga. Though this one could take all day to wrap.

Two white painted faces, one HAPPY, one SAD, cartwheel past them and join the RAVENERS BAND.

RAVENERS

(singing)

It's Apaturia, no need to worry ya.  
(MORE)

## RAVENERS (CONT'D)

Royal famili-a, is here to greet  
ya. It's Apaturia, no need to worry  
ya. It's Apaturia, no need to worry  
ya. --

Aedon's eyes search the area, looking for his father. He holds the golden wrapped gift, obvious its a looking-scope.

Faeraud enters, looks about until he finds Aedon. He grabs Aedon by the arm, yanking him away from Areshia.

Dressed in a coat of rich purples, MITCHUM, parades by turning everyone's attention. Clearly his outfit stands above all others.

## FAERAUD

Could anyone have designed a more crowd-bashing toga than that thing?

## AEDON

Do I detect envy?

## FAERAUD

(pointing to lounge)  
Grab that one before he does.

As the boys settle in behind a table, a group of monkeys drop from the ceiling. Each hangs onto a vine, their other paw clutches a pitcher of juice.

## FAERAUD (CONT'D)

I always remember a person's favorite drink. Listen, Adah and Na'ama -- they'll both be drinking cranberry juice.

The monkeys approach the table with the two women and pour cranberry juice.

## FAERAUD (CONT'D)

Seskef-- Now Seskef wants to order apple juice but he won't. You see apple juice is also Yapet's favorite drink and since they're serving him first, he'll take the apple juice. Then Seskef, wishing to appear independent from his brother, will order something else like grape juice.

Areshia settles in next to Yapet and the serving transpires just like Faeraud described.

AEDON

What will your father drink?

FAERAUD

Yes, my father -- Prince Lord Lemech-- He'll pass completely on the juice. Lemech always has a single serving of Gilgamoeh's Red Wine -- from your father's vineyard. Never a goblet more, nor less, always one single glass.

A KANGAWAITRESS enters with a jug and as she passes by Faeraud, he stops her.

FAERAUD (CONT'D)

Allow Lemech's grandson, Aedon, to do the honor tonight.

Aedon shakes his head, nervous. Then he stands up, takes the bottle from the Kangawaitress.

Passing by guests, Aedon is uneasy.

BANQUET GUEST ONE

(whispering)

Is that -- Aedon?

BANQUET GUEST TWO

Yep, that's him.

BANQUET GUEST THREE

Who's Aedon?

BANQUET GUEST TWO

That guy there. The gray-bander, who thinks he's Gilgamoeh's son.

BANQUET GUEST THREE

Why would anyone, even a gray-bander, want to be related to Gilgamoeh?

Aedon serves the mild mannered PRINCE LORD LEMECH.

An ENSEMBLE OF WAITERS dance down the carpet isle and serve food as Aedon returns to Faeraud's table.

AEDON

My heart beats with joy, for I have seen my grandfather, Lemech. Yet it aches, to meet my father, Gilgamoeh.

FAERAUD  
He's not coming Aedon.

AEDON  
I see the smirks, hear their  
remarks.

Aedon stares down at the golden-wrapped gift he still holds.

AEDON (CONT'D)  
(looking at his armband)  
Everyone has a color. They know  
where they belong. But me? My band  
is gray--

FAERAUD  
A little magic never hurt anyone.  
Come to my chamber when the moon is  
high.

As Faeraud takes off, Aedon notices Yapet and Seskef sneaking out, leaving an objecting Areshia alone by the dance area.

Coming up from behind, Aedon surprises her.

AEDON  
I've come to rescue you.

ARESHIA  
Rescue? From what?

AEDON  
From abandonment.

ARESHIA  
Not to worry, Yapet will return  
shortly.

Awkwardly, they watch the others on the dance floor.

AEDON  
Maybe, while you're waiting, our  
sandals could share a couple steps?

She looks about, miffed, yanks Aedon's hand, and pulls him into the crowd to dance.

ARESHIA  
I don't like being kept in the  
dark.

AEDON  
That is rather rude.

ARESHIA  
--or lied to--

AEDON  
Certainly.

ARESHIA  
And I don't care if, this time, we  
are breaking any traditions.

AEDON  
And when Yapet appears--

ARESHIA  
I'll tell him that I've moved on to  
a whole new continent -- one he's  
not on.

Areshia grabs Aedon's head and plants a kiss on his lips.

The moon notches higher which peeks through the doorway  
beyond, a line of steam slicing it in half.

25

EXT. IRON ISOLATION - NIGHT

25

The horizontal line of steam leads to three gigantic smoke  
stacks. Below, an iron fence imprisons an enormous brick  
building.

A bag of tools plops to the ground.

SESKEF  
You packed more gear -- more stuff  
-- than a channel of warriors.

YAPET  
If you were sensible, you'd worry  
more about the owls.

WIDE-EYED OWL-GUARDS sit atop the wall.

SESKEF  
How did I get talked -- involved in  
another one of your schemes? Why  
not -- what about the front door?

YAPET  
And alert others to our mission?

SESKEF  
But it's impossible to sneak into  
this place-- Every toga knows that.

Yapet nods toward a break in the wall where the river rushes underneath. A metal grate guards the opening.

YAPET

We'll swim under the grate. I've seen the mermaids do it.

SESKEF

Why do we have to replace the genetikos-replica, anyway?

YAPET

The throne belongs to Gilgamoeh and then to you or I, not to Aedon.

The sound of ruffling feathers from an owl in the distance quiets their voices.

SESKEF

Once we get in -- if we do get in-- How are we gonna unlock the vault?

YAPET

You don't think I played kissy-face with Areshia all year, because I liked her all that much?  
(divulging, whisper)  
Her father may have helped, snuck a globeaky by way of her sandal.

Yapet pulls a globeaky from his pocket and holds it up. Moonlight glints from one of its rings.

26

INT. FAERAUD'S CHAMBER - NIGHT

26

Setting down the wrapped looking-scope, Aedon is intrigued by dozens of time pieces on the wall. Off to the side sits a large mirror, covered.

AEDON

Interesting place.

Aedon steps over to peek under the tarp. Faeraud rushes to the object, holding it in place.

FAERAUD

NO! Don't!  
(exhaling relief)  
You know, how when you're a young lad -- alone in a big room--

Faeraud yanks the tarp off. A full-sized mirror, framed in lava-rock, reveals itself, it's glass full of void.

FAERAUD (CONT'D)

Can't believe the old reflecting-glass is still here. My father, Lemech, paranoid it was possessed by an evil enchantment, sent it away into storage.

AEDON

How did it come--

FAERAUD

Sun-cycles past, the two of us quarreled. I had the piece brought back.

Ausethen steps into the room.

AUSETHEN

(chuckling)

Ya we're hoping to make him mad.

FAERAUD

He didn't even notice.

(to Aedon)

Because of Ausethen, we were able to explore the library under cover of darkness.

A sparking sound emanates from the mirror, giving its approval.

AEDON

(realizing)

Then HE caused the energy burst?

FAERAUD

Each of us has a burning desire for something that only the Scroll can give.

AEDON

What is it that the two of you seek?

FAERAUD

Ausethen wants to be the next Lord of his homeland, Aszea.

AUSETHEN

(scoffing)

And Prince Faeraud here, wants to be the king of the universe.

FAERAUD

About time someone replaced those Asterians. They're the primary reason this whole world is seamucked.

AEDON

Perhaps we are investigating magic that ought be better untouched.

AUSETHEN

Afraidy-Aedy. I told ya--

FAERAUD

(surprised, unsure)

You're not on the Asterian's side?

Faeraud pulls out the black tube. It magically floats away from his grip, hovering in mid air between the boys and the mirror. Only the scroll holder reflects in the dark glass, all else void.

Aedon paces around the tube, inspecting.

Faeraud takes their hands and closes his eyes.

FAERAUD (CONT'D)

Sit.

They all sit around the floating object.

FAERAUD (CONT'D)

We close our eyes, we completely visualize. The universal energy we convince, channeling it to make Aedon a prince.

AUSETHEN

(opening an eye)

Nothing is happening.

FAERAUD

We have to say the words as an enchantment. ... Aedon, you studied Asterian.

AEDON

Eh-- It's not proper for men to speak--

With a sigh, the other boys shoot a crossed look.

AEDON (CONT'D)  
 (repeating in Asterian)  
 Vuyune lecluza iyr oyuna  
 Vuyune lemploto weshau weshau, khut  
 anetaym ahonomyun vuyune munvenco.  
 Lechunolue et ketz guko ahveco,  
 blaemetevo.

AUSETHEN  
 Bet the scroll has to be unrolled  
 to work.

AEDON  
 Does it not require a key?

FAERAUD  
 Yenocha never mentioned his  
 globeaky was missing. Knew he'd be  
 in more trouble, if he told that.

Faeraud inserts the globeaky into the end of the floating  
 holder.

AUSETHEN  
 It's not opening.

FAERAUD  
 A third of the Rataka you became,  
 Reveal to us your name? ... Can you  
 say that in Asterian, Smart-owl?

AEDON  
 (stretching hand forward)  
 Ah khenkeng ahuc khut tulueyun  
 ahytoroo unot yomruno. Sloyneun  
 ketz arn runodoo fumo.

With a BURST the tube telescopes out then a black surface  
 expands filling the space and pushing the boys back. The room  
 shakes with the unleashing of its mysterious power.

QUICKFLASH: EXT. ATLANTIS: A blue disc of light ripples  
 across the city, piercing buildings, and moving across the  
 continent.

BACK TO SCENE: The onyx surface morphs into a blue liquid  
 that appears more like a sheet of water than paper.

Blue waves ripple like a miniature ocean laid out in front of  
 them. Mist from its surf splashes into the boys' faces.

Asterian symbols, made of water, float in midair above the  
 sheet with the answer.

A whispering-sloshing-voice echoes the floating letters--

SCROLL OF WATER

U'd ahum vutch vutch u'd  
aholupunto!

Faeraud stretches to touch the letters, but they dive back into the sheet of water before his reach.

AUSETHEN

What's that mean, what did it say?

AEDON

It said, I am water, water I am.

FAERAUD

Seaweed! Of all the luck, fate would play tricks on me. The Asterian enchantments are strong.

AUSETHEN

This isn't one of the "Rataka Scrolls?"

FAERAUD

It is a "Rataka Scroll," alright. Just the wrong one.

As if the scroll were answering, a spray of wetness slaps across the boys faces.

AUSETHEN

This is the "Scroll of Water" not "Fire."

FAERAUD

Now that we've found one, the spells that hide the others will erode.

Aedon notices that all the time pieces on the wall have frozen. Even the pebbles in an hourglass have stopped in midair.

AEDON

This wasn't designed for our time.

FAERAUD

Are there not opportunities that you know belong to you, Aedon? And there has not usually been a father there to give them to you. Do not opportunities belong to people like you?

Aedon shrugs his shoulders, giving in.

AUSETHEN

Aedon, no one else can know about --  
"the enchantments."

AEDON

I'm not a "Say and Teller."

FAERAUD

Don't you want Gilggy to  
acknowledge he's your father?

AEDON

(half agreeing)  
Will this ensure that Gilgamoeh is  
my father?

FAERAUD

We'll form our own secret  
organization. Together we will  
swear an oath of secrecy with a  
finger-locking-promise.

Ausetthen extends his hand and locks fingers with Faeraud.

AUSETHEN

Lock.

AEDON

(joining his fingers)  
Lock.

Dark clouds rush across the moon outside a distant window.

27

EXT. IRMINSUL PYRAMID - DAY

27

FROM A HIGH ANGLE we circle around the Irem. It is a gigantic building, high above all the others. A beam of light shines from the top of it's pyramid shape, slicing through the dark billowing clouds. Sunbeams fight to appear between the gaps.

Four cathedrals protrude from each side of the pyramid. Down a long walkway, Aedon approaches. Its architecture, overlain with crystals, reflects the dramatic sky.

Looking up, front doors rise towards heaven. Gathering his wit, Aedon notches the door open a crack.

28 INT. NORTHERN CATHEDRAL - DAY

28

Blinding beams of sunlight flash through the glass, reflecting like a laser gun out of control.

Aedon turns at the sound of an ASTERIAN CHOIR which softly serenades. Various beings sing the musical instruments, without need for a physical piece.

Down the long center isle, through the light, Aedon makes his way to another door. He pushes into--

29 INT. IRMINSUL PYRAMID, LOBBY

29

Aedon's footsteps echo on the marble floor. Thick columns rise, supporting the upward slanted ceiling. Streams of high-pressured water form a curtain across a doorway.

Wearing a tall hat shaped like his beard, AMBASSADOR RHEAF TELOPPS turns to Aedon.

TELOPPS

Haven't seen dark skies like these since -- a time long ago.

AEDON

Apa'hei Ambassador Telopps. I have come to see Ahteana.

TELOPPS

The boiling curtain opens only to those who know its magical words?

AEDON

(whispers to self)  
You lift me up when I fall.  
(louder, in Asterian)  
Unot deft go anyzyulue avauluechuer  
ahzunshaomo opulue.

TELOPPS

Only the Asterians are allowed to utter enchant--

AEDON

--ments. Podes of pardons.

The steam dissipates and the curtain of liquid parts.

As Aedon walks through the door a drop of water hits his palm. He jerks back--

AEDON (CONT'D)  
The water, it's cold.

Telopps looks away.

30 INT. IRMINSUL PYRAMID, COCOON CHAMBER 30

Aedon proceeds down a long transparent road suspended many feet above a deep pit. It leads to a center glass-island.

Hanging from hundreds of levels above, long cables stretch from the pit to the ceiling. Thousands of human-sized pods are attached like knots in a rope.

In the center of the pyramid, an enormous beam of light originates from below and shines upward, through the pyramid's top, and beyond.

The stream-of-light buzzes for a second, then it flickers. A burst of sparks produce a body-like figure, made of light, yet trapped inside the beam.

Cables holding the cocoons begin to tug. They zigzag around like rush-hour traffic.

A mechanical arm plucks an envelope from one of the cables and aligns it to a space between the glass-bridge and beam of light.

The apparition in the light, floats out and into a frozen body in the cocoon. It comes to life, turning from icy-purple to rosy-pink.

The shell splits in two, slowly opening. Ahteana walks out, beckoning Aedon.

AHTEANA  
Follow.

A waterbus stops at the far edge of the glass-bridge where Aedon and Ahteana board. It winds downward into the basin encircling the thick beam of light.

31 INT. IRMINSUL PYRAMID, WATERBUS 31

Aedon and Ahteana face each other inside the cab. Between them rests a holograph-like projector called the "transglaust" made from illumination-bulbs attached to a round base.

The beam of light beyond their window shows that it is filled with disks made of light that rise inside its core.

AHTEANA

The cylindisks -- they move slow  
these days.

AEDON

(leans over edge)  
Interesting. What would cause such?

AHTEANA

A rising spike in the use of  
unauthorized enchantments may drain  
their energy.

AEDON

(slight squirm)  
Nearly everyone makes enchantments  
these days, I've heard. Most do it  
for good. Do they not?

AHTEANA

Good enchantments or dark magic? Do  
you know the difference, Aedon?

Ahteana taps her hand to the transglaust. A light projects  
from the base. It flickers like a black and white film  
streamed through a blue filter.

32

INT. TRANSGLAUST ANIMATION - SERIES OF SHOTS

32

Three dimensional nondescript figures act out Ahteana's  
story.

A) INT. EDUCATORY: A YOUNG CAIN and ADEL each write on a  
scroll, roll it up and hand it to the PROCTOR.

AHTEANA (V.O.)

Once in an age long ago, two  
Educatory mates there were. Cain  
and Adel, their final marks each  
desired to procure. To be evaluated  
by one of two instuctioneer. One  
whom graded harshly and one who  
graded easier.

B) EXT. EDUCATORY BRIDGE: The Proctor carries the scrolls  
across the bridge toward Library Tower. Storm clouds gather  
in the distance.

AHTEANA

(serious)  
Looking into the future, fate did  
choose their road.  
(MORE)

## AHTEANA (CONT'D)

The difficult instuctioneer, upon Cain was bestowed. And Adel was set for an evaluation of an easy load. But fate was relinquished when this was overshadowed.

C) INT. EDUCATORY DORM ROOM: Cain chants, raising his hands out the window toward the sky. Lightning flashes.

D) INT. LIBRARY TOWER: The TWO INSTRUCTIONEERS sit at a table as the Proctor approaches with a scroll in each hand. A bolt of lightning strikes near a window. Frightened, the Proctor drops the scrolls. Picking them back up, she crosses them, so they are presented to the opposite Instructioneer.

## AHTEANA (CONT'D)

(Aedon gulps)

Cain desiring to pass with the highest mark of all, conjured an enchantment to negate his shortfall. With highest honors Cain received his passing scroll. But Adel was dealt a failing mark which had a great toll.

## AEDON (V.O.)

I think I get it.

E) EXT. AGGLOMERATIONNN FOREST: A GIANT BEAST attacks the carriage where Adel rides.

## AHTEANA (V.O.)

The season next, to the Educatory Adel did travel to learn. On the way a beast devoured her so she could not return. The best in our future, only fate does see and discern.

33

INT. IRMINSUL PYRAMID, WATERBUS

33

The projected image dims.

## AEDON

Terrible, certainly most. If we are not meant to speak these enchantments, then why were they written?

## AHTEANA

If you are not trained to see ALL the future possibilities, can you safely alter it?

AEDON

Seems silly to believe that things  
would just work out to favor, with  
no action in part.

The waterbus slows to a stop.

AHTEANA

If an enchantment created a box  
from nothing, do you think you  
could stand on such an object?

AEDON

Everyone knows "enchantments" are  
the glue that holds the universe  
together.

AHTEANA

Is that not faith?

They step off the bus into--

34

INT. IRMINSUL PYRAMID, CORE BASIN

34

Half a stadia beyond, a waterfall flows from an upper tunnel.  
Its pure water washes over a dozen golden eggs, each many  
times taller than Ahteana. The reaction of liquid pouring  
over the orichalcum gems generates a column of light. Plate-  
shaped cylindisks blip upward inside the beam.

Ahteana leads Aedon to the edge of a river. She waves her  
hand and then walks over the mote via an invisible bridge.

AHTEANA

Come.

Aedon takes a step, where the bridge might begin. Keeping his  
weight on the other foot, the one he puts forward, steps into  
the mote.

AEDON

(shaking water from foot)  
Invisible things only work for  
Asterians, I believe.

AHTEANA

"Believe" and one can walk a  
stairway to the moon.  
(Asterian)  
Guko wezu khertyun copurt clumo,  
epur to avaeto nuoz nuyvo  
(sub titled)  
(MORE)

AHTEANA (CONT'D)

Make visible this spot, for he who  
does doubt.

With the wave of her hand, the bridge materializes in the  
form of a glowing light.

Aedon brightens and eagerly walks across. As he steps off the  
bridge, he notices that he can see through its translucent  
glow.

AHTEANA (CONT'D)

Without faith enchantments work no  
magic. Because you believe, they  
grant your wish. If you believed  
not, they would not work.

She leads Aedon around the giant gems. They come to an off-  
spray of the waterfall.

AHTEANA (CONT'D)

Someday wonders will work by mere  
thoughts without the need for a  
papyrus or poem.

Ahteana steps up to the falls, and the water parts like a  
curtain, revealing a secret tunnel behind.

AHTEANA (CONT'D)

The Scrolls are collections of  
rhymes, all of which were added  
prior to King Yaswhen's departure,  
and authorized by him.

35

INT. IRMINSUL PYRAMID, LOWER TUNNEL

35

Ahteana leads Aedon into a carved-out hallway.

AHTEANA

This place that I show to you, not  
even the Ambassadors have  
knowledge.

A scurry of TUNNEL VOLES quickly pass with wheelbarrows of  
dirt. Clearly the tunnel is still under construction.

AHTEANA (CONT'D)

I have seen that secrets trusted to  
you remain safe. -- Though nothing  
may happen for ten-hundred sun-  
cycles to come, an underground  
refuge develops.

AEDON

The pyramid is a fortress in itself. What other safety would you need?

AHTEANA

King Yaswhen is expected to return soon. All of this is, I assure you, only a back-up plan, in case things do not go accordingly.

AEDON

Accordingly -- to what?

Arriving at a door, Ahteana inserts her globeaky into the keyhole which opens up into the--

36

INT. IRMINSUL PYRAMID, VAULT ROOM

36

A giant spinning astrolabe, globes, and other scientific gear float among puffy clouds in a room with its own atmospheric environment. Rays of light stream from star-like pinholes illuminating vases lined in rows.

Ahteana selects a distinct vase taking it to the front of the room.

AHTEANA

Are you familiar with the Asterian gifting tradition?

AEDON

I would be so humbly honored, I would not know where to begin my gratitude--

Aedon instinctively follows, and then kneels on a pedestal between the two of them.

AHTEANA

With this gift, comes an oath. Can you pledge to follow the ways of King Yaswhen?

AEDON

I'm not very good at making promises. Why me?

AHTEANA

Some truths must remain hidden until their chosen day of reveal.

AEDON  
 (pledging)  
 Lesortuen ahun u'd.

Ahteana reaches into the vase and pulls out a globeaky with a red cord.

AHTEANA  
 Look closely into the sphere.

Ahteana pushes the globe up against Aedon's eye socket. She breathes and a burst of steam appears to melt it into place.

AEDON  
 Everything is all blurry.

AHTEANA  
 It will come into focus in time.

Ahteana takes the red cord and places it around Aedon's neck like an amulet.

AEDON  
 Never shall I remove this, as a symbol of my pledge.

AHTEANA  
 Be vigilant for an evil Asterian waits to disrupt our world.

AEDON  
 Who is this evil one?

Ahteana returns the vase to its shelf.

AHTEANA  
 An Asterian who lives only in spirit, and is not allowed to possess a clone -- the one they call "Say and Teller."

AEDON  
 (following to the door)  
 Then the legends are not myths?

Ahteana stops and turns toward Aedon.

AHTEANA  
 You are special and one day you may unlock a glow of light in a dark and dreary place -- a gleam that might not save the world, but will certainly help the ones you love.

Abruptly she returns to the exit.

AHTEANA (CONT'D)

Remember the oath you have given  
here and pray that you do not stray  
from it into temptation. If you do,  
I am fearful that you may not find  
a path back to its light.

37

INT. IRMINSUL PYRAMID, COCOON CHAMBER

37

Ahteana steps back into the egg-shaped chamber.

AEDON

Such a great honor you have  
bestowed upon me.  
(raising voice)  
I will follow and protect the ways  
of King Yaswhen, like my father  
has.

After a long pause Ahteana answers.

AHTEANA

The things about your father, they  
are not for me to tell. Your  
replica will be revealed soon.

As the chamber door closes--

AEDON

(realizing what he's done)  
Wait. I must tell you -- about the  
Scroll--

The light buzzes and with a flash Ahteana is gone.

AEDON (CONT'D)

Oh no. How will I ever tell her,  
especially when I promised--

Aedon gazes upward at the beam of light.

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