

A WARM PLACE

By

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FADE IN:

INT. PARTICLE DECELERATOR TUBE WALKWAY - NIGHT

A large sterile walkway, long, cannot see the end. A series of small metal tubes, labeled in paint on the wall, lead into a large metal mater tube positioned in the middle of the wall. The steady pulse of POPS and BUZZES that are emitting from the tube are static electricity and separating ions. We HEAR MICHAEL'S voice. Continue down the hallway, through a ventilation shaft, and end behind a person's head which appears as a silhouette because of the bright blue glow of the computer monitor in front of it.

MICHAEL (V.O.)

I have prepared myself for everything I will endure. I read the Kabbalah, the mysticism and quantum mechanics. I knew about Descartes, even a little Nietzsche. I knew this is how Yehudah wanted it to be. I had listened to everyone else only to realize that I would negate every single absurd word that was spewed forth like so much incoherent babble. The reversal of ions...the anti-particles...the enlightenment equation were all that mattered now. Not myself, not this body, not what I truly know to exist. Because I do not yet truly know what this "I" is - but it seems to be getting way ahead of itself. Perhaps we had better start from the beginning.

FADE OUT.

INT. SEASCAPE - DAY (DREAM)

Thin stringy clouds pattern the atmosphere. Multi-colored hues of red, orange, and yellow speckle across ripples in the water from the lazy sunrise peeking through against the early morning's horizon. Michael floats through the air.

MICHAEL (V.O.)

I was dreaming. In my dream I floated out above a vast sea, starrng at the endless sea of blue. It all seemed so real...so peaceful.

As Michael drifts toward the sun everything loses its beauty and becomes two dimensional. The horizon, sea, and sky seem to mesh together.

MICHAEL (V.O.)

But it wasn't.

Michael panics but cannot move. He coughs as his lungs try to reject sulfuric air pouring in. His eyes water profusely.

MICHAEL (V.O.)

Then everything went to hell.

At lightning speed, with a sharp baritone WHOOSH, the sea drops from below Michael and he falls into the massive void its absence has created. Michael, still panicking, lets out a SCREAM. Everything stops. He is floating again in a black void.

MICHAEL (V.O.)

I realized I had my eyes shut, but trying to open them, I found I could not. It seemed like they were not there. It seemed like I was not there. I was aware of myself, could sense flashes of light, could hear my own voice. "You are not ready. This is not for you."

A searing white flash of light violently rapes the darkness.

MICHAEL

INT. MICHAEL'S BEDROOM

Michael snaps into consciousness.

He is breathing heavy and sweating profusely, jumping as the phone RINGS.

MICHAEL

(Groggily)

Hello?...What?...But I told you I
can't come in...A funeral...My
friend, Yehudah...It's his fuckin'
name...Sorry But I...Yeah, I know
inanimate objects can't stock
themselves!

Michael SLAMS the phone down.

EXT. FOUR WAY STOP SIGN - DAY

Michael and YEHUDAH sit OS on Yehudah's porch. Two cars get into a minor fender bender. Two men get out arguing. Yehudah is an 18 year old high school student and has slightly dark skin, dark features, dark hair. Not as tall as Michael but seems to carry himself like the tallest person in the world.

MICHAEL (V.O.)

I didn't know it yet but the next
time I would see Yehudah he would
be injected with embalming fluid,
basted with formaldehyde, and
tucked neatly inside an intricately
designed and polished wooden box.

The men are still arguing as others gather around to try and sort out what happened.

MICHAEL

I don't think Yehudah ever adapted to our lifestyle. He didn't understand. Therefore he, himself, was misunderstood.

The onlookers begin arguing with each other and seem less intent on finding out what happened and more focused on their own point of view.

MICHAEL

He didn't understand the concept of living in the moment and how people try and pass judgement and knowledge to others without any thought of semblance of truth in their own words or actions. He was different. That's why I liked him. He was an observer. He only spoke when he found something truly worth saying.

Yehudah finally speaks never taking his eyes off of the crowd in the street.

YEHUDAH

Don't you think that there might be something else to life, something we can't see? Do you think there might be some unconscious or external force driving our ambitions?

MICHAEL

Um, I don't know. Well, what do you think?

Yehudah is still looking at the accident scene.

YEHUDAH

Et tu Miyka'el?
Someday...maybe...we'll
see...nobody sees the light...it's
eternal...nobody knows.

MICHAEL (V.O.)

I didn't know what he was trying to
say but this is how he had been for
the last few weeks. I knew that
when he left for Israel the next
day he would come back feeling a
lot better...but a large part of me
thought that he wouldn't want to
come back. I didn't want him to go.
I didn't want to be alone...but I
just couldn't tell him the truth.

CROSSFADE

EXT. YEHUDAH'S HOUSE - DAY

Michael sits alone on the porch, his head resting on a post,
staring straight ahead. A fat man comes out of the house,
lights a cigarette, sees Michael. Michael continues to stare
in the distance.

MAN

I can't bear to be at these things.
I hate thinking about mortality and
death. I just needed air.

The man takes a long drag off of his cigarette.

MAN

Were you a friend of his?

MICHAEL

Yeah. I knew him about two years.
For most of the time he was here.

MAN

It's just so sad. To lose your child is the worst thing that could ever happen to anybody.

MICHAEL

Did you know him?

MAN

No. His parents and I are colleagues down at the hospital. Most of the people inside are my coworkers. We sometimes--

MICHAEL

I think that the worst thing that could possibly happen to someone is to not be remembered, to fade out of existence. If no one knows who you are then no one will remember you. And the empathy that we feel about this sense of loss vanishes...You can't grieve over something that never existed.

INT. YEHUDAH'S HOUSE - THE WAKE - DAY

MICHAEL (V.O.)

It was all bullshit anyway. Fuck his parents. What about me? What the hell was I going to do now?

Michael walks past the room with the closed casket. He doesn't look as he goes. The room is filled with chatting people. None are near the casket.

MICHAEL (V.O.)

I couldn't even see him so what was the point? Who knows if his body is in there? Maybe pieces...pieces of a body...the body of a boy ripped apart by a suicide bomb;

(MORE)

MICHAEL(cont'd)
the last vestige of a coward. Why
would anyone want to associate
their house with death?

Michael trudges up the stairs.

MICHAEL (V.O.)
I feel like a zombie. Heavy. Unable
to move under my own free will. An
aimless wanderer.

Michael walks to Yehudah's room.

INT. YEHUDAH'S ROOM

The room is painted to look like the night sky. Blue walls
blend into a darker shade at the ceiling and is spotted with
stars and a crescent moon. On the floor partially hidden
underneath the bed lies Michael's hat. Bewildered, he reaches
for it, and picks it up.

MICHAEL
It was here. He told me he didn't
ha--.

Michael stops short as he lifts up the hat. He notices books
under the bed and pulls them forward. Some are books on
quantum equations and quantum physics and others are various
publications of the Kabbalah.

Sandwiched between them is a worn notebook. Inside are
advanced diagrams and equations. Michael flips through it and
abruptly stops at a page, which reads, "**ET TU MIYKA'EL.**"

Then he notices something else.

Under that is a very complex equation with the product
equaling "enlightenment."

Below it reads, "I must be the bearer of this burden, this
gift."

There is a drawing of a person and their shadow labeled, "99%." Mirroring this is another human image that is illuminated and labeled, "1%."

Another image is labeled "The Tree of the Ten Sefirot" with a picture of ten circles, the bottom seven are crossed off, interconnected by several branches. The ones not crossed off are labeled **Understanding**, **Crown**, and **Wisdom**.

MICHAEL

This is it. Jesus Christ, this is it.

Michael spots a phone number at the bottom of the page labeled Rabbi Herschel Neuwirth.

INT. MICHAEL'S CAR - AFTERNOON

Michael is parked in the street. He has the books and the notebook spread out and is jotting down notes.

MICHAEL (V.O.)

I knew that Yehudah left the books for me. The Kabbalah stated that what we perceive is merely the apparent reality. Our five senses encompass only 1% of our world. There is also an unseen 99% realm, which describes that the universe is the result of vibrations in a sea of pure potential called spirit. These infinite vibrations create different pitch and dissonance frequencies, which become the physical realm we experience. Our consciousness is the extension of God experiencing himself subjectively through us and our universe is the result of God becoming aware of himself.

(MORE)

MICHAEL(cont'd)

While no one knows who or what God is, there is some enlightened force that control our universe. Similarly, Quantum mechanics describes a Unified Field of Enlightenment in which all matter in the universe is made of wave function particles. These particles are composed of looped strings of photons and ions that vibrate, appear and disappear from our universe. They then turn into electrons, protons, and neutrons, which consciousness or existence. At this state they are separated from the quantum or enlightened world.

Michael quickly reads over the necessary pages and notes and then gets out and walks toward the Rabbi's house.

MICHAEL (V.O.)

I was staring to understand. The light is 99% of the world and the only way to reach it is to let go our consciousness and our physical reality. The enlightenment equation in the notebook had everything to do with it. He had found a way to defy the fact that life was limited because this world was only 1% of our understanding or existence. One must find the light before they died or it would be lost forever.

Michael knocks on the door.

MICHAEL (V.O.)

Is that our purpose? Is God waiting for those that will find enlightenment in order to reach or Surpass his level of consciousness? Was God looking for a benefactor?

Rabbi Neuwirth answers.

MICHAEL

Hi, I'm Michael.

RABBI

Ah, yes. Yehudah spoke highly of you. Come in.

INT. RABBI'S HOUSE - DAY

Move to Rabbi's study and sit. Very tidy, no visible Hebrew paraphernalia.

RABBI

I'm glad you're eager to learn.

MICHAEL

Well, Yehudah always referenced the Kabbalah as a spiritual device but I also think he saw it as a guide to something more tangible; to be able to physically relate to God.

RABBI

Yes, well the Kabbalah is simply a spiritual device. To become one with God is to understand God. Yehudah was very bright and very willing but was trying to manifest something Godlike within himself. His contempt for people's vanity and ignorance fueled him too much.

MICHAEL

I know it means something.

RABBI

Well, everything has meaning. Even a name. For example...

Rabbi Neuwirth begin to write in the notebook.

RABBI

In Hebrew, Yehudah means "praised" or "the praised" and his middle name, Meir, means "giver of light."

Michael's eyes widen.

RABBI

Your name, in Hebrew, is spelled, Miyka'el which is loosely translated as "who is like God."

MICHAEL

It's not a question...I'll be damned!

RABBI

Hopefully not with a name like that you will!

MICHAEL

So if everything has meaning what about this connection?

He shows the Rabbi how spiritual concepts in the Kabbalah precisely mirror recent quantum theories. Rabbi Neuwirth quickly shuts the notebook and his demeanor changes.

RABBI

Look, I'm telling you this is all science fiction. Yehudah didn't know what he was doing.

MICHAEL

But he knew something. Before he went to Israel he--

RABBI

Do you know why he went to Israel?

MICHAEL

Yeah, to visit relatives at--

RABBI

He went to try and seek
enlightenment in the Holy Land. The
kabbalah also states everything
happens for a reason. Yehudah died
because he was dabbling in
something blasphemous.

Rabbi Neuwirth points to the quantum physics books.

RABBI

What reason will you find here?
When has science ever given us
anything without taking something
away? It tries to draw non-existing
ties to religion in order to gain
outside influence and support.
Heretics!

Michael becomes upset.

MICHAEL

No, you're wrong!

RABBI

I'm sorry Michael. Yehudah strung
you along with his sacrilegious
beliefs.

MICHAEL

I don't believe you!

RABBI

Believe me or not I cannot continue
this conversation. I have you the
truth. Now you must go realize this
for yourself.

EXT. RABBI'S HOUSE - DUSK

Michael slowly leaves the house. He is pale and looks as if
the life has been drained from his body.

INT. LIBRARY - NIGHT

Michael walks in the library. Goes downstairs to dimly lit archives. He gathers books he needs and sits at a large round table.

MICHAEL (V.O.)

I studied the notebook and the research for weeks. I was becoming distant from everybody and began reading philosophies of Nietzsche and Descartes. School and home life became burdensome. This was my only sanctuary. Nothing was real. There is no truth in this life because it is just a transitional phase. Nothing "is" because everything is "becoming" or evolving. The only truth that can exist is not in our physical awareness but in our mental awareness. I found that the shadow in Yehudah's picture, according to Psychologist Carl Jung, is our counter-ego. It is everything that we repress or despise in ourselves. I have to step through my shadow. I now knew how Yehudah was able to absorb all of this complicated material because after I started to understand I began to see the transcendence in my mind.

Michael looks over the research.

MICHAEL

How can I be unconscious yet still
be in mental control?

Michael drops down on his knees, grips his hair, and groans. His face turns red, he begins to cry.

MICHAEL

It doesn't make sense. I'm
sick...fucking sick of this. Where
is it?

Michael falls over. He calms down, stares at the books on the bottom shelf, and sees a book labeled "Atoms and the Reversal of Particles - The New Science." Michael quickly grabs and opens it.

MICHAEL

Atoms...protons, electrons, matter!
Particles, ions, unified field
theory!

Michael sees the missing piece of the puzzle and reads aloud.

MICHAEL

A particle accelerator will collide
protons and electrons to separate
ions but reversing the flow and
charge yields anti-particles called
antiprotons and positrons. This
creates negatively charged ions,
which are the basic units of anti-
matter. Accelerators also function
now as decelerators after the
discovery of antihydrogen at CERN
Laboratory...Yehudah knew the
formula but didn't know how to put
it in practice...Wait, I know where
to find an accelerator!

Michael finds an on-line listing of the accelerator, prints out information on it, and leaves.

INT. MICHAEL'S CAR - NIGHT

MICHAEL (V.O.)

I remember one is downstate. We learned about it in science and I couldn't believe someone would build a four square mile underground metal tube. It was only three hours away. I knew I had to go.

Michael speeds off toward the interstate.

INT. YEHUDAH'S HOUSE - DAY

Michael knocks on the door. Yehudah's mom answers.

YEHUDAH'S MOM

Hi Michael. I'm afraid he's going to make you work again.

She hands him a piece of paper with writing.

MICHAEL

Yeah, what else is new?

Michael looks at the paper. It reads, "As with any structure, physical or ideological, it must have a sound foundation."

MICHAEL

Foundation...basement. Yeah, *real* hard.

Michael jets to the basement and finds another note on the stairs. It reads, "Once the foundation is established the door to knowledge must be sought."

MICHAEL

Door to knowledge...Well, only one door down here.

Michael opens the closet door and sees a large glass of water sitting on a bare shelf.

MICHAEL

What the...Why is there water in
the closet? Water in the
closet...water closet. Bathroom!

Michael heads up to Yehudah's bathroom, which is partially stripped from remodeling, and finds another note inside that reads, "To receive true faith one must look to God. Only then, through the reflection of man, can he see his own divinity."

MICHAEL

Um, ok. There's no mirror
here...Receive faith...look to God.

Michael glances up and sees a handheld mirror taped to the ceiling with the letters UMB on the glass. He pulls it down and facing the same direction looks through it. On the inside tub basin wall behind him, written backwards but legible in the mirror are the letter RELLA.

MICHAEL

Umbrella.

Michael Runs downstairs, out the back door, and into the yard.

EXT. YEHUDAH'S BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS

Yehudah is reading at a patio table with a giant parasol in the middle. Michael is out of breath.

MICHAEL

Are you my friend or my long
distance coach? I cracked your
little codes again. You're so
weird!

Yehudah looks up at Michael and smiles.

YEHUDAH

Et Tu Miyka'el? Who is like God?

MICHAEL

Sorry. I still don't know the
answer to that question.

Yehudah nods and laughs.

INT. MICHAEL'S CAR - NIGHT

MICHAEL

And you Michael, who is like God.
I'll be damned!

EXT. PARTICLE DECELERATOR - NIGHT

Michael stops the car in front of a large padlocked gate. The place is deserted. Michael looks at his watch - 11:04. A sign on the gate states, **"FACILITY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF PHYSICS RESEARCH. NO TRESPASSING."** He GUNS the engine and CRASHES through the gate and doesn't stop until he reaches a side entrance. The door looks old and neglected and Michael is able to jimmy his way in with a screwdriver. He was in...

INT. PARTICLE DECELERATOR - NIGHT

Michael snaps back to reality and is staring at the deceleration program with the enlightenment equation on the computer monitor. He looks at his watch - 12:02. He had been thinking to himself for about an hour.

MICHAEL

OK, security measures bypassed.
Particle flow reversed.
Now...supplies.

Michael walks into a room with a red medi-cross on the door.

MICHAEL

Virtual pharmacy. They weren't
kidding. Let's see here...magnesium
chloride.

(MORE)

MICHAEL(cont'd)

This should stop ions from passing through me and should direct all particle into me. And a sedative...there they are.

Michael fills a syringe with magnesium chloride, grabs some sedative pills, leaves room, lowers the chamber temperature to 35 degrees, and sets the timed sequence on the computer. He carries a metal chair and walks down the hall to the particle ionization chamber door. A warning sign reads, **"SEVERE RADIATION HAZARD. DO NOT ENTER WHILE ACCELERATOR/DECELERATOR IS OPERATIONAL."**

INT. PARTICLE DECELERATOR CHAMBER - CONTINUOUS

Michael enters the thick metal plated room. It is in the middle of large particle decelerating shafts that separate the atomic particles and are fed into the room via ion catalysts through a ceiling-to-floor device on the wall, which looks like an enormous speaker woofer.

Michael quickly locks the thick metal door and places the chair on the opposite side of the room facing the ion entry point. He sits, injects the syringe of magnesium chloride, and swallows some sedative pills. A bright light begins to flicker in unison with a loud WHOOSHING sound in front of Michael and it continues to increase in speed and volume. Michael begins to pass out as the sound becomes deafening and the bright light stays constant.

INT. PARTICLE DECELERATOR CHAMBER - DAWN

The deceleration chamber door swings opens and several police officers and scientists creep in. A scientist yells from the computer room.

SCIENTIST #1

It was in use between 12:20am and 1:00am.

An officer looks at his watch - 5:27am. They notice that the only things different about the room are the metal chair and the watch on the floor, which was the only thing that seemed to bother the scientists.

SCIENTIST #2

Oh my God. Look.

Something that looks like a human shadow with its arms ever so slightly extended on each side of the body is etched or burned into the back wall, as if sitting on an invisible chair.