



PROTOA PARANOIA (TALES OF THE INCANDESCENT ILLUMINATION NUMBER
EIGHTEEN)

Written by

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In search of The Tower Of Babel, a ship full of pilgrims begins
questioning the sanity of their captain as alien lights in the
sky reveal an ancient Egyptian deity.

BRIGHT LIGHT FADES SCENE IN PER USUAL:

EXT. THE OCEAN - NIGHT

POURING RAIN and JAGGED ROCKS all around, WAVES CRASHING and spraying against taller more foreboding protrusions and peaks of shorter ones dipping up and down like little earthen shark fins and hell-spires.

THUNDER AND LIGHTNING fill the sky and are our only illumination around at the vast tumultuous ocean.

EXTREME CLOSE UP PROFILE SHOT ON A MAN'S HAND AS HE STROKES HIS BRINY RAIN AND SEA WATER SOAKED BEARD,

FARTHER OUT SO WE CAN GET A GOOD LOOK AT THE OLD MAN continuing to stroke his beard, standing out in the rain by himself at the bow of a large wooden sailing ship, the man is dressed in an old fashioned brown button down and English sailor's suspenders, he has droopy eyes and a very thinned hairline, his name is HERSHNAM, Captain Hershnam, that's right, he may not look it, this frail old man, but he is indeed this ship's captain, we find out when we see behind him a DOOR OPENS UP AND

an elderly woman dressed in an old fashioned skirt and bonnet, EUCLINA, comes out and she looks out through the rain, staying in the safety of the doorway and,

EUCLINA

Hershnam! Captain Hershnam! Please,
come inside!

HERSHNAM looks back to see her gesturing and calling to him, then HERSHNAM scowls and waves his arm at her, flagging her to go back inside.

EUCLINA takes a moment to stare at him with a concerned look about her, but then she looks around at the heavy rain and wind and she goes back inside.

HERSHNAM watches her shut the door and then he turns to look back out at the ocean waves and stroke his beard some more, and then

INT. CABINS - SAME TIME

EUCLINA comes in shutting the door and then we follow her down a small hall,

We enter the MAIN CABIN AREA of the ship and see that the crew is ESSENTIALLY A BUNCH OF COLONIAL PILGRIMS,

EUCLINA
 (to everyone)
 He won't be reasoned with.

EVERYONE looks at her with dread in their silent eyes.

CLOSE UP EUCLINA sorrow for her bad news added to her concerned enough eyes.

CLOSE UP a young man amidst the small crowd, lets just call him NEPHEW for now, aside from his blonde hair and fair features, we only can tell that he looks slightly more afraid than everyone else, they all may have their shoulders slouched over but this kid is practically on his way into fetal position!

EXT. BOW - NIGHT

HERSHNAM, as he was when we had left him, stroking his briny beard and letting himself get soaked in the heavy rain just standing there looking out into the vast expanse of endless ocean and

HERSHNAM (V.O.)
 We had set out on this journey with
 sunlight in our hearts. Now I
 wonder which is more empty, our
 belly's ... or our hopes.

WAVES CRASHING UP AGAINST THE SIDE OF THE SHIP,

HERSHNAM (V.O.)(CONT'D)
 This land has been harsh to us --

He cuts his own voice over off to sneer and snicker at his own words aloud, and then

HERSHNAM (V.O.)(CONT'D)
 Land? What land? What land could I
 possibly be speaking of!?

THE MAST, BLOWING IN THE VIOLENT WIND AND RAIN,

HERSHNAM (V.O.)(CONT'D)
 There is no land around within
 visible miles. Only unforgiving
 ocean waves and desolate skyline.

HERSHNAM'S HAND, gripping the boat railing now, wet and trembling,

HERSHNAM (V.O.)(CONT'D)
I'm the only one ...

HERSHNAM looking up, out at the sky with a fixed diligent brow over his sunken in eyes in their droopy sockets, and

HERSHNAM (V.O.)(CONT'D)
... who hasn't given up hope yet
... who still believes ...

INT. MAIN CABINS - SAME TIME

HERSHNAM
(V.O.)(CONT'D)
... in the omens.

PILGRIM ONE
Hes not okay. We can't leave
him out there.

Everyone in the room has a very sullen look about them still as we hear the raging rain and thunder and the waves outside,

EUCLINA
I know, but hes set in his ways, he
--

PILGRIM TWO
Hes gone mad is what he is! Hes
guided us to NOWHERE!

PILGRIM ONE
Hey, relax, shes as upset as we all
are.

PILGRIM TWO
Sorry, Lady Euclina.

NEPHEW, watching from the corner sitting on a barrel.

EXT. BOW - SAME TIME

HERSHNAM looking out at the ocean still, and

HERSHNAM (V.O.)
I followed, followed the path my
god had laid out before me ...

HERSHNAM (V.O.) (CONT'D)
... and it led us to naught but --

WE LOOK UP WITH HERSH NAM TO SEEING A COLLECTION OF BRIGHT GREEN NEON FLICKERING LIGHTS IN THE SKY FLASHING BEHIND THE CLOUDS AND THEY'RE SO BRIGHT THAT THEY MAKE THE CLOUDS APPEAR TO BE GLOWING MOMENTARILY NEON GREEN WITH EACH FLICKER, WHICH ARE VERY MECHANICAL IN THEIR PATTERN,

HERSHNAM
 (cutting off his own
 voice over again to
 exclaim in excitement
 pointing at the sky)
 A miracle! A ... a ... a sign!

HERSHNAM grins wide ear to ear and

DANCES LIKE A GIDDY CHILD REJOICING UP AT THE STRANGE GREEN LIGHTS ABOVE!

CLOSER UP SHOT NOW IN THE GREEN LIGHTS FLICKERING IN THE CLOUDY SKY. AND

PILGRIM TWO (V.O.)
 The fact of the matter is its just
 not safe ...

INT. MAIN CABINS - SAME TIME

PILGRIM TWO (CONT'D)
 ... its not safe for Hershnam, or
 for any of us, letting him lead us
 on like this any further.

EUCLINA
 Then what do you propose we are to
 do?

PILGRIM TWO
 We have maps, and compasses, and
 astrology, real tools we could be
 using, instead of the fibs and
 fables of a confused old man's
 eccentricities.

PILGRIM ONE
 Lady Euclina, we all love Hershnam,
 but hes led us far enough. All
 we're saying is that we should ask
 him to step down and rest for the
 remainder of the journey. He
 deserves that, he got us this far,
 we can take us the rest of the way.

NEPHEW watching them in silence from the corner still as the discussion unfolds.

EUCLINA

I ... --

HERSHNAM (O.S.)

Everyone! Everyone, come out here!

HERSHNAM rushes into the room, his face still lit up like a giddy child and his beard still dripping wet as he staggers in the doorway smiling and shouting in at everyone who all just stare back at him in blank silent shock, and

HERSHNAM (CONT'D)

Come out here, right now!

EXT. DECK - NIGHT

THE STORMY CLOUDS, AND THE FLICKERING AND FLASHING WEIRD GREEN NEON LIGHTS WITHIN THEM,

and THE WHOLE CREW OF PILGRIMS, all standing out on deck in the rain and looking up at the sky, and

EUCLINA

(mouth agape eyes on the sky)

What ... is that?

PILGRIM ONE

Some kind of ... green thunder.

Everyone stares up at the strange flickering green storm clouds above,

PILGRIM TWO

(whispers to PILGRIM ONE)

We're sailing strait toward them, we'll be directly under the bulk of them in minutes if we don't change course, it can't be safe.

THE MAST AND SAIL, SHAKING AND FLUTTERING IN THE HEAVY WIND AND RAIN,

HERSHNAM (O.S.)

Tis' a sign! A sign from the heavens!

Everyone turns to give their audience to Hershnam now,

HERSHNAM (CONT'D)
 These magnificent lights are the
 sign we've been waiting for!
 Rejoice everyone!

TRUCK PAN EVERYONE'S GRIM FACES LOOKING BACK AT HIM,

PILGRIM ONE
 And what if they aren't?

HERSHNAM
 Do not be faithless, boy, reading
 the omens is all that we have, its
 whats brought us out of enslavement
 and kept us safe thus far, now it
 shows you brilliant lights in the
 sky and you fear them?

PILGRIM ONE
 Not fear, caution.

A LOUD CLAP OF THUNDER! EVERYONE LOOKS UP WHO WASN'T ALREADY

AND THE WEIRD GREEN LIGHTS ABOVE CONTINUE TO FLICKER BUT
 THEY ARE DECREASING IN NUMBER AND IN LENGTH BETWEEN FLASHES,
 THE CLOUDS ARE SLOWLY RETURNING TO NORMAL DARK GRAYS AND
 BLACKS!

HERSHNAM
 You see! You have spat in the face
 of our sign and now it betrays us!

PILGRIM TWO
 We should all at least go back
 inside for now, that's *all* of us,
 Hershnam. This could simply be some
 kind of new weather phenomenon, a
 dangerous storm we're about to be
 sailing under.

HERSHNAM scowls at him for his blasphemous words, he looks
 like hes going to say something but he doesn't, instead

HERSHNAM
 (very bitterly)
 The lot of you all go, I, your
 Captain, shall remain out here to
 read the omens further, without the
 encroachment of your fears to
 offend them.

EUCLINA
Hershnam --

HERSHNAM
(stern, harsh)
No, Euclina.

HERSHNAM turns his back to the Pilgrims and looks back out at the ocean and sky,

NEPHEW, watching him from a distance, feeble looking as he struggles to keep his balance standing out here in the wind and rain as the boat sways back and forth on the waves,

EVERYONE ELSE, still very fearfully focusing on the sky, start going back inside and

PILGRIM ONE sighs, looking at Hershnam and then turns and joins the others to exiting,

and EUCLINA, looking at Hershnam's back like she might even cry, and then PILGRIM TWO puts his hands on her elderly shoulders from behind and

PILGRIM TWO
Come on, Lady Euclina, you'll catch
cold out here.

turns with her to help her back toward the door to exiting, and then

HERSHNAM, looking out at the clouds still, and

NEPHEW has remained standing as was this whole time as everyone else exited scene, and now that its just him and Hershnam on deck pretty much, he takes a few steps toward The Captain, still having a little trouble not to slip on the wet deck wood in the gusting wind and rain, and then

ON HERSHNAM, and we PULL FOCUS as NEPHEW COMES WALKING UP BEHIND him,

CLOSE PROFILE ON HERSHNAM AND HIS SOGGY BEARD as

NEPHEW (O.S.)
Uncle?

HERSHNAM turns only his head to face him,

HERSHNAM
... Yes?

and then turns back to looking out at the sky and sea.

NEPHEW
Wont you come in, Uncle?

HERSHNAM
Who is to read the omens and guide
us then, you?

NEPHEW
Uncle, no, I only mean to say ...

NEPHEW (CONT'D)
... what are we to do if you are
to catch ill out here ... or,
worse.

HERSHNAM
Worse what? So its my stamina *and*
my faith that are in question, is
it then, boy?

NEPHEW
No, I --

HERSHNAM
Or have you lost faith entirely as
well, like the rest of them?

NEPHEW
No, Uncle, I have not lost faith.
It is just that --

HERSHNAM
Go inside, boy.

NEPHEW staring at his Uncle's back, spray of rain or ocean
waves who can be sure, but spray regardless, all around the
feeble young boy and captain alone in the dark on deck.

INT. MAIN CABINS - MOMENTS LATER

NEPHEW coming in, sullen and soaked, and

EVERYONE looks toward him,

NEPHEW is silent, he seems fully at a loss for words.

The whole room is too. All we hear is the rain thunder and
wind from outside the ship. And then

EUCLINA goes to NEPHEW and they hug as she begins to sob,

NEPHEW

(consoling her)

Grandmother, Uncle is, he may be right, he may have the forces of the universe at his side. After all, we are still alive and come this far, have we not?

EUCLINA, sobbing in his arms, and

PILGRIM ONE AND PILGRIM TWO exchange concerned glances with one another.

EXT. DECK - NIGHT

HERSHNAM, watching the

THICK CLOUDS, and then suddenly

HERSHNAM'S brow furrows in confused awe as he watches

A FLOCK OF BIRDS FLYING BY OVERHEAD FLIES INTO THE THICK CLOUDS AND WHEN THEY APPROACH THEM THE GREEN LIGHTS FLASH LIKE SOME SORT OF AN INVISIBLE FORCEFIELD AND THE BIRDS DROP STRAIT DOWN!

HERSHNAM, watching in amazement as

MORE BIRDS FLY STRAIT INTO THE INVISIBLE FORCE-FIELD IN THE CLOUDS, LIGHTING THEM UP WITH EACH GROUP THAT SMACK INTO IT GREEN AND WE WATCH THE BIRDS FALLING IN MASSES AS MORE BIRDS JUST KEEP FLYING INTO THE CLOUDS FORCE-FIELD CAUSING GREEN FLASH AFTER GREEN FLASH AND

HERSHNAM'S FACE, MOUTH HANGING OPEN EYES STARING UP IN WONDER AS THE GREEN FLASHES CONTINUE and then

INT. MAIN CABINS - SAME TIME

The ominous vibe still lingers in the room, and EUCLINA has stopped sobbing and

PILGRIM TWO and PILGRIM ONE are in the center of the room and everyone is surrounding them as they speak,

PILGRIM ONE

Something must be done.

PILGRIM TWO

Things can't go on like this.

EUCLINA
But what can we do?

ALL OF THE OTHER PILGRIMS look very sullen, hungry, tired, hopeless, nothing to say just watching the conversation

NEPHEW
My uncle is ... not well, but I would still like to believe in him.

EUCLINA
As would I, but --

PILGRIM ONE
The boy knows not but what a boy knows, which is appropriate, being that he is just that, a boy, but fibs and fables, those ought not be in charge of a man who calls himself our captain.

NEPHEW, silent,

PILGRIM ONE
We have no choice.

PILGRIM ONE and PILGRIM TWO share a foreboding uneasy nod with each other, and then

HERSHNAM (O.S.)
Everyone! Everyone! Come out here!

Everyone looks toward the entrance of the room and

HERSHNAM RUNS IN SCREAMING AGAIN!

HERSHNAM (CONT'D)
Everyone! Come outside! You have to see this!

EVERYONE, looking at him in uncomfortable silence. And then

EXT. DECK - MOMENTS LATER

EVERYONE standing behind HERSHNAM and they're all looking up at the sky with puzzled looks about them, watching as

FLOCK OF BIRDS AFTER FLOCK OF BIRDS FLY INTO THE INVISIBLE FORCE-FIELD AND THE GREEN LIGHTS FLASH AND FLASH!

PILGRIM ONE

What the hell do you thinks goin'
on?

PILGRIM TWO

Its like, some kind of invisible
force-field or something.

EUCLINA, watching the flashes and birds very perplexed, with
an old lady's look of sorrow and dread as she clasps her
hand over her open mouth and

NEPHEW

They're ... dying.

CLOSE UP ON FLOCKS OF DEAD BIRDS DROPPING OUT OF THE SKY AND
SPLASHING INTO THE WAVES BELOW!

PILGRIM ONE

(to PILGRIM TWO)

Hey, grab a shotgun, lets make the
most of this, it seems to be
drawing them in.

PILGRIM TWO nods in agreement, turns to run back in for the
shotgun

but before he can get back to the door, he stops, because A
DEAD BIRD DROPS RIGHT IN FRONT OF HIM!

PILGRIM TWO, staring at the DEAD BIRD at his feet,

and then

MORE DEAD BIRDS START DROPPING TO DECK, THE FLASHING GREEN
LIGHTS BEHIND THE CLOUDS ARE RIGHT ABOVE THE SHIP NOW!

THE PILGRIMS ALL LOOKING AROUND AT THE DEAD BIRDS AS THEY
DROP TO DECK, and then

THE PILGRIMS all start rushing to gather up the bird
carcasses, smiles on their faces, happy to have food,

EUCLINA

(to HERSHNAM)

Hersham, you were right, these
lights, they were a sign, they have
brought us food! We shant starve
now! I --

HERSHNAM

No!

HERSHNAM runs around yelling at all of the pilgrims,

HERSHNAM (CONT'D)
 You mustn't touch the birds! For
 they are holy!

Nobody listens to him, a few people give him sorrowful glances and then continue gathering arm-fulls of dead birds.

SHOT STRAIT UP AT THE FLASHING CLOUDS IN THE SKY AND BIRDS PLUMMETING DOWN AT US

HERSHNAM, frantic, looks up at

THE GREEN FLASHING CLOUDS AS MORE BIRDS CONTINUE TO DROP DOWN AND LAND ON DECK ALL AROUND HIM.

HERSHNAM, trembling in frantic fear and frustration,
 He looks around at EVERYONE GATHERING THE BIRDS, and then

HERSHNAM
 Stoooooop!

So PILGRIM ONE DROPS HIS BIRDS AND RUSHES OVER TO HERSHNAM IN AN ANGRY HUFF AND PUFF, STERN, CLENCHED FISTS, and

PILGRIM ONE (CONT'D)
 Hershnam!

HERSHNAM isn't listening, just shouting and waving his arms around at everyone and looking up at the sky, so PILGRIM ONE GRABS HIM BY THE ARM and

PILGRIM ONE (CONT'D)
 Hershnam!

HERSHNAM looking him in the eyes, wrist still in his hand but then he lets go,

PILGRIM ONE (CONT'D)
 Hershnam, please, let these people eat. You said yourself these lights in the sky were a blessing, they've blessed us, now let us be blessed that we may not starve.

HERSHNAM
 You blaspheme this holy sign with your base cause.

PILGRIM ONE

"Base Cause"!? What would you have us to do with all this helpless meat, pray over it?

HERSHNAM

I do not know yet what to make of these lights or of these birds, but until that time of my knowing comes, we aught not pounce upon every bit of flesh god sends passing by us like we were not but animals ourselves!

PILGRIM ONE

You make no sense, Hershnam, none at all!

HERSHNAM

These birds are holy, they are expected to be venerated, not gathered like sticks for a fire!

PILGRIM ONE

A fire that is the life-fire of your own people, you daft old delusional --

HERSHNAM

I will have you thrown in the dungeon, you godless prick!

PILGRIM TWO (O.S.)

No, Hershnam!

THEY BOTH turn to face PILGRIM TWO,

PILGRIM TWO (CONT'D)

You will let your people eat or it is you who will be spending time in the dungeon.

HERSHNAM, not knowing what to do, stammering in anger and just looking back and forth at the two pilgrims, and around at the other pilgrims as they all collect the birds which continue to drop all around out of the sky, and then,

PILGRIM ONE

Hershnam, come on.

PILGRIM TWO

Don't make this harder than it has to be, please, Hershnam.

HERSHNAM, completely lost for words, bitter scowl at each of the two pilgrims at his side, and then we CUT OVER TO

NEPHEW, watching from a distance with EUCLINA as

PILGRIM ONE AND PILGRIM TWO forcibly take HERSHNAM by the arms and force him toward the door to the cabins ...

CLOSE ON NEPHEW and EUCLINA still watching helplessly with sorrow and relief mixed in their eyes as the two men essentially drag Hershnam away, usurping but also hopefully saving him and the entire voyage, and then

CLOSE ON THE CLOUDY GREEN FLASHING SKY AGAIN, LOOKING STRAIT UP AS MORE AND MORE BIRDS FALL ALL AROUND,

some of them splashing into the ocean waves all around, and plenty of others splatting onto the deck of the ship as the PILGRIMS continue to gather as many as they can.

EUCLINA and NEPHEW look away now and look into each others eyes and then,

FROM BEHIND THEM, WE'RE RISING UP TO AN AREAL SHOT AS WE WATCH WITH THEM THE BIRD'S CONTINUE TO DROP FROM THE SKY AND THE PILGRIMS GATHERING THEM, WE'RE UP HIGH NOW, WE CAN SEE THE MAST WHIPPING IN THE WINDS, AND THE BRIGHT GREEN FLASHES THUS ARE ALSO GROWING BRIGHTER THE HIGHER AND HIGHER WE CLIMB, UNTIL WE'RE RIGHT UP INSIDE THE CLOUDS AND WE WATCH A BIRD FLYING AT US AND THEN RIGHT WHEN ITS RIGHT UP AT THE CAMERA THE BRIGHT GREEN LIGHT FLASHES AND WE

HARD CUT TO BLACK:

and we hear THE SOUND OF THE SCENE AND THE THUNDER CONTINUE TO ROAR ANOTHER MOMENT UNTIL WE

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. THE DUNGEON - LATER

LOW ANGLE SHOT WITH HERSHNAM'S SAD FACE IN MOST OF THE FRAME, AND WHEN WE SHIFT FOCUS WE SEE HES STARING OUT A WINDOW BESIDE HIM AT THE STORMY OCEAN BEYOND. He has a somber, defeated look about his drooping face, more than before, and the top of his brow finally lay horizontal instead of its usual creased, parallel now with his sagging eye-sockets.

THE CELL GATE he sits behind is clearly not locked, its just hanging open and swinging and squeaking haphazardly back and forth.

But HERSHNAM doesn't care to move even a muscle, his every bone in his body is sighing from within it feels like to look at him sitting there.

CLOSE UP ON THE WINDOW WITH HERSHNAM'S SAD FACE IN THE SHOT STILL TOO, AND WE LOOK OUT WITH HIM AT THE STORM CLOUDS, STRIKES OF LIGHTNING, AND LISTEN TO THE THUNDER AS IT ROLLS AND ROLLS ON WITH THE CRASHING OF THE WAVES ALL AROUND,

NEPHEW, holding a plate of cooked bird pieces enters the room and

HERSHNAM doesn't even acknowledge him, just continues to mope out the WINDOW.

NEPHEW, standing there just holding the plate in silence, and then

NEPHEW

Uncle?

HERSHNAM turns his head only halfway to looking at him,

NEPHEW (CONT'D)

I've ... brought down food, Uncle.

HERSHNAM turns to look back out the window.

NEPHEW (CONT'D)

Uncle, please eat.

HERSHNAM remains silently facing the window, ignoring him.

NEPHEW (CONT'D)

Uncle ... I --

HERSHNAM (O.S.)

You what, boy!?

frightening the boy, he almost drops the plate,

HERSHNAM, looking at him now and scowling, and then

HERSHNAM (CONT'D)

You've forsaken your own Uncle and Captain, and your own god as well.

NEPHEW

Uncle, you said yourself that the lights were a sign from god, and then when the birds began to fall, we had truly thought that you had proven your words, I was so ... relieved.

HERSHNAM

Relieved of your hunger.

NEPHEW

Relieved that your words and actions were not false! Why, Uncle, why could we not eat of the birds!?

HERSHNAM

They are holy!

NEPHEW

They are a blessing! You ask for a sign and then you spit in its face when it literally falls out of the sky and lands at your own two feet!

HERSHNAM, scowling at the boy, miserable,

NEPHEW takes a breath, calms himself, and then

NEPHEW

I'm sorry, Uncle.

NEPHEW steps into the cell and sets the food down on a little wooden table, then, he turns and faces HERSHNAM,

NEPHEW

Uncle, please, you must eat.

HERSHNAM gives the PLATE ON THE TABLE a dirty glare and then he SPITS IN THE CORNER, and

HERSHNAM

I'll have no part of your blasphemous supper.

NEPHEW

Then you'll do what, Uncle, perish down here?

HERSHNAM

Better than devouring holy flesh.

NEPHEW

Uncle, if you were to perish, then
who would lead us to the new land?

HERSHNAM

I'm sure one of the fine young men
who horded me down here like some
common thief will do just fine in
leading a lot such as yours.

NEPHEW, silent, doesn't know what to say, he goes to turn
away but

then he turns back like hes going to say something as
HERSHNAM turns back to facing out the window,

NEPHEW

Uncle --

PILGRIM ONE (O.S.)
(interrupting NEPHEW)

Hey!

HERSHNAM and NEPHEW both turn to look toward the deck hall
door where the pilgrim's voice had come from,

PILGRIM ONE (O.S.) (CONT'D)
The two of you better get up here
and see this! Now!

HERSHNAM and NEPHEW exchange raised brows with each other.

EXT. DECK - MOMENTS LATER

GREEN, BUT ALO RED AND BLUE LIGHTS NOW TOO FLICKER OVER AN
AREAL SHOT OF EVERYONE STANDING ON DECK STARING UP AT
SOMETHING, AND WE WATCH PILGRIM ONE COME OUT OF THE CABIN
DOOR FOLLOWED BY NEPHEW AND HERSHNAM TO JOINING THEM ALL
LOOKING UP THROUGH THE RAIN IN ABSOLUTE WIDE EYED WIDE
MOUTHED AWE AT

THE TOWER OF BABIL, A TALL, SPIRALING STRUCTURE, WITH GLOWING ALIEN TECHNOLOGY SNAKING ALL AROUND IT, FLASHING GREEN AND INDIGO LIGHTS, AND A MULTITUDE OF ENTRANCE ARCHWAYS LEADING INTO TUNNELS OF SPACE AGEY WIRING AND STROBING DARKNESS!

FAR OUT AREAL SHOT, THE STRUCTURE IS HUGE COMPARED TO THE SHIP, WHICH SITS JUST IN FRONT OF IT, ANCHORED IN PLACE WITH THE SAILS DRAWN IN, AND ALL THE PILGRIMS LIKE LITTLE ANTS ON-BOARD THE DECK JUST STARING UP AT THE GIGANTIC ALIEN TOWER AND ITS HUNDREDS OF FLASHING LIGHTS AND WE CAN NOT SEE TO THE TOP OF THE TOWER, IT GOES ALL THE WAY UP INTO THE CLOUDS.

WORMS EYE VIEW ON DECK OF THE PILGRIMS ALL STARING UP AND

WORMS EYE VIEW THE TOWER FROM SHOULDER LEVEL ON DECK WITH THE PILGRIMS, AND TILTING UP SLOWLY AS WE ALSO SLOWLY LOWER THE CAMERA.

HERSHNAM, stammering, dumbfounded,

PILGRIM ONE
(to Hershnam)
What do you make of it?

HERSHNAM
Its ... the Tower Of Babil, that stands before us.

NEPHEW
What does it mean?

PILGRIM ONE
Is this the promised land? This ... this ...

THE TOWER BEGINS TO SHAKE AND ALL THE LIGHTS LIGHT UP EVEN BRIGHTER AND A LOUD LOW HUM LIKE A HORN OR AN ALARM BLARES COMING FROM WITHIN THE STRUCTURE and

ALL THE PILGRIMS stagger on deck grabbing at their ears and shutting their eyes tightly!

EUCLINA, running for NEPHEW, HERSHNAM, and PILGRIM ONE, and

EUCLINA
What is going on!?

EUCLINA runs to the safety of them and they stand together looking up at

THE TOWER SHAKING AND LIGHTING UP AND THEN

SUDDENLY EVERYTHING GOES BLACK! The lights all shutting off at once takes us all a moment to readjust to the new lighting to

LOOKING AT THE OMINOUS SHADOWY DARK TOWER, STILL AND SILENT NOW AS THE WAVES BELOW CRASH AROUND THE BASE.

BIRDS EYE VIEW PANNING OVER THE DECK AT ALL THE TERRIFIED PILGRIMS STANDING AROUND LOOKING UP AT US, AND THEN

EUCLINA

What's happening?

PILGRIM ONE

I don't know.

NEPHEW

I'm scared, Uncle.

HERSHNAM'S mouth just hanging open and his brow beyond furrowed staring at the tower, and then

ON THE TOWER, WITH THE VILLAGERS IN THE SHOT TOO WITH THEIR BACKS TO US AND STARING UP THROUGH THE DARKNESS AT THE TOWER AND WE'RE PULLING OUT SLOWLY, VERY SLOWLY, AND THEN WE START TO SEE OUT OF ONE OF THE HIGHER UP ARCHWAYS IN THE TOWER, A SHADOWY FIGURE BEGINS TO PROTRUDE FROM THE DARKNESS, THE HEAD OF A SNAKE, A METALIC SNAKE, A GIANT ROBOT BASILISK!

THE BASILISK COMES SLITHERING OUT OF THE TOWER, THE BEAST IS HUGE, AND

IT COILS ITSELF AROUND THE TOWER A FEW TIMES, SNAKING IN AND OUT OF THE ARCHWAY TUNNELS AND

THE PILGRIMS, all standing on deck and staring up at the tower as

THE GIANT ROBOT BASILISK SLITHERS AND WINDS IN AND OUT OF THE MANY ARCHWAY TUNNELS AND AROUND THE TOWER, THREADING ITSELF AND WE HAVE NO IDEA HOW LONG IT MUST BE BUT IT MUST CERTAINLY BE VERY LONG!

and then

PILGRIM TWO

What in the name of god is that thing!?

EVERYONE WATCHING, FROZEN IN HORROR AS

THE ROBOT BASILISK SLITHERS UP TOWARD US AND LOOKS STRAIT DOWN AT ALL OF THE PILGRIMS ON-BOARD THE SHIP!

NEPHEW

Uncle ...

EUCLINA

Hershnam ...

HERSHNAM

Its ...

THE ROBOT BASILISK, looking down over the ship at everyone, its EYES LIGHT UP RED!

HERSHNAM (CONT'D)

... a god ...

THE ROBOT BASILISK OPENS ITS MOUTH AND A DIGITAL SOUNDING HISS COMES OUT AT US and then as we continue to hear the HISSSSSSS

HERSHNAM (CONT'D)

... the Basilisk.

THE BASILISK REARS UP ITS HEAD AND

PILGRIM ONE

Its going to attack the ship!

THE ROBOT BASILISK HISSES EVEN LOUDER DOWN AT THE PILGRIMS and

HERSHNAM

It is a god! We have nothing to fear! Let it do its will with us!

THE ROBOT BASILISK COILS ITSELF BACK A BIT, ABOUT TO STRIKE,

HERSHNAM raises his arms and closes his eyes and EUCLINA and NEPHEW look at him with sheer broken hopeless speechless horror stricken across their helpless wet faces, then

THE ROBOT BASILISK LUNGES AT THE TINY SHIP!

EVERYONE SCREAMS!

But not HERSHNAM, who still has his arms raised and his eyes closed and is smiling even now!

THE ROBOT BASILISK LUNGES AT US WITH ITS JAWS OPEN AND THEN

THE ROBOT BASILISK IS DEFLECTED BY AN INVISIBLE FORCE-FIELD AND GREEN LIGHTS FLASH LIKE THE ONES IN THE SKY THE BIRDS HAD FLOWN INTO!

AND THE ROBOT BASILISK REARS BACK LIKE IT HIT ITS HEAD ON SOMETHING, IT SHAKES ITS HEAD BACK AND FORTH AND THEN IT LEERS STRAIT BACK DOWN AT THE SHIP, BUT NOT EXACTLY AT THE SHIP SO MUCH AS AT SOMETHING WE CAN NOT SEE DIRECTLY IN FRONT OF IT IN BETWEEN THE SHIP AND THE SNAKE.

THE PILGRIMS all looking on confused and nervous,

our group of HERSHNAM, EUCLINA, NEPHEW, and PILGRIM TWO as well,

ROBOT BASILISK, leering at the area in front of the ship, and then

ROBOT BASILISK STRIKES! GREEN FLASH DEFLECTED!

AND AGAIN! AND AGAIN! AND AGAIN! A FLASH FOR EVERY STRIKE!

WE WATCH FROM ON DECK BEHIND ALL THE PILGRIMS AS THE ROBOT BASILISK STRIKES AND IS DEFLECTED REPEATEDLY,

AREAL CLOSE PAN OVER THE PILGRIMS AS GREEN FLASH ... AFTER GREEN FLASH ... ILLUMINATE THEIR AWESTRUCK FACES.

ROBOT BASILISK, HISSING AND STRIKING THE FORCE-FIELD OVER AND OVER AGAIN, HOPELESSLY, AND THEN

THE VIOLENT THRASHING STOPS! THE BEAST'S JAWS ARE CLAMPED AROUND SOMETHING WE CAN NOT SEE, and then

THE BEAST, JAWS CLAMPED AND THE REST OF ITS BODY TRIES TO WRETCH WHATEVER ITS GOT ITS TEETH SUNK INTO TO NO AVAIL AND WE SEE THE SILHOUETTE FLASH IN GREEN LIGHT OF A TALL MUSCULAR EGYPTIAN ARMOR WEARING MAN WITH THE HEAD OF AN ALLIGATOR, SOBEK!

CLOSE ON THE FLASHING SILHOUETTE OF SOBEK'S SNARLING JAWS,

CLOSE ON THE ROBOT BASILISK STILL WITH ITS TEETH SUNK INTO THE INVISIBLE FLASHING GREEN SILHOUETTE OF SOBEK'S HIGH TECH SPACE AGEY SCIFI LOOKING SPEAR,

THE PILGRIM'S, all staring up at the FLASHING shape of SOBEK, defending their ship,

BROAD AREAL SHOT OF THE WHOLE AREA AND WE WATCH AS SOBEK'S INVISIBILITY FLICKERS A FEW MORE GREEN FLASHES AND THEN

SOBEK IS FULLY VISIBLE NOW, GREEN SCALEY SKIN WET WITH RAIN AND OCEAN WATER,

and his SPEAR is visible now too, high tech looking and glowing at the tip with ROBOT BASILISK'S JAWS clamped around it and

SOBEK ROARS!

AND SOBEK WHIPS HIS LANCE WITH ROBOT BASILISK STILL CLAMPED AROUND THE TIP AND

IT RIPS A HUGE PORTION OF THE SNAKE IN HALF! THE HALF LEFT COILED INTO THE TOWER DROPS LIFELESS SPLASHING INTO THE WATER BELOW AND

THE HALF THAT'S STILL ATTACHED TO SOBEK'S LANCE WHIPS AND WRETCHES AND THEN THE GLOWING RED MECHANICAL EYES GO DARK AND

SOBEK ROARS, HOLDING UP HIS LANCE WITH THE DEAD ROBOT BASILISK AT THE END HIGH INTO THE AIR LIKE A WAR TROPHY AND THEN

SOBEK THRUSTS THE SPEAR INTO THE WATER SPRAYING A TORRENT OF OCEAN SPRAY UP AROUND HIM!

THE PILGRIMS ALL CHEERING AND REJOICING AS THE OCEAN SPRAY STREAMS ACROSS THEM!

AREAL BROAD SHOT THE AREA AS SOBEK TURNS TO FACE THE SHIP AND THE WATERS AROUND SETTLE BACK DOWN FINALLY.

NOW BACK ON DECK WORMS EYE VIEW AS SOBEK FINISHES TURNING IN THE WATER TO FACE THE PILGRIMS.

SOBEK, standing and staring down at us, the rain falling around his huge alligator jaws turning it more into a light misting like standing beneath a waterfall like he was some kind of canopy for the ship, an armored Godzilla that they can trust, as THE PILGRIMS all continue to cheer

THE PILGRIMS, FINISHING THEIR REJOICING, AND THEN

WE SILENTLY STARE UP AT SOBEK FOR ANOTHER MOMENT, THEN

CLOSE UP ON NEPHEW, hes smiling and is as glad to be saved as everyone else is,

EUCLINA too, and

PILGRIM ONE and PILGRIM TWO, also smiling and overjoyed.

SHOW SOBEK AGAIN, still standing there staring down at the pilgrims on-board the little ship, and then

EUCLINA

I guess he was right, after all.

NEPHEW, turning to look at something, and as he does we watch his smile fade, in fact he goes from smiling to complete dreadful wide eyed fear and then he looks likes hes about to cry and he staggers forward in a panic and screams

NEPHEW

Uncle!

HERSHNAM is running for the edge of the deck and hes got a SWORD drawn and hes screaming behind gritted teeth and

HERSHNAM

The beast is evil! It must die for
striking the holy Basilisk Of The
Tower!

HERSHNAM leaps off the boat swinging the BLADE at SOBEK and
screaming a delirious war scream and

A BUNCH OF PILGRIMS and EUCLINA watching him and screaming
NEPHEW running at us screaming and sobbing and

WE FOLLOW HERSHNAM AS HE LEAPS OFF THE SIDE OF THE SHIP AND
SWINGS THE BLADE AND WE FOLLOW HIM STRAIT DOWN AS HE FALLS
TOWARD THE OCEAN WAVES AND THEN SPLASH!

NEPHEW, SLOW MO SCREAMING AND CRYING AND RUNNING SHOT AND
THEN

SOBEK, JUST STARING DOWN AT THE TINY SHIP, AND THEN

A FLASH OF GREEN LIGHTNING

CUTS US TO BLACK.

AND WE HEAR SOBEK ROAR ONCE MORE.

END.