

Addison's dream

You are alone in your room, when you notice the faint scent of incense in the air and hear a strange low noise, something akin to chanting perhaps. You rise from your chair and exit the room into the hallway. Instead of finding the building you expected, you suddenly are in a large stone chamber of Egyptian design. Seated on a throne is a figure in full Egyptian regalia, a lithe but powerful man with dusky skin. The very air crackles with electricity and occasionally you catch strange movement out of the corner of your eye. The man beckons you forward with a casual gesture and when you approach, he speaks. His voice rushes into your ears, dripping with unspeakable power.

"For a moment it amuses me to touch your mind, pathetic creature. Do you really think in all your fury and action you can influence my grand plan? Are you so impossibly confident and foolish to bear such delusions?" I see. In that case, I wish to show you something." He gestures to a dish of water now floating between the two of you. Within you can see the interior of a train. Jackson Elias is seated in one of the cars, reading a newspaper. Two men are seated across from him in the car, discussing the difficulties of European colonialism in Africa. For a moment one of the men's faces darkens, looking a bit like the man on the throne. He then says, "You know you can't trust the natives either. Look at what happened to that millionaire, Roger Carlyle. He was supposed to have been killed by some nasty types... or so they say." Across the compartment, Elias perks up his ears. A moment later he can be seen jotting down a quick note on a pad in his pocket.

The dish fades from existence. The other man stares directly into your eyes. You realize with a start that his eyes are bottomless, like holes opening into the depth of space where galaxies wheel and the very essence of the universe flickers and dies. "Do you truly think that any of what has passed so far has not been part of my will?"

"You have an unattained desire, do you not? Give it voice now and I will fulfil it. I will give you whatever you wish so long as you give to me a moment of your free will, at a time of my choosing."

On refusing Addison awoke back in the hotel.