(Printed with the demonstration version of Fade In)

TITLE

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ALKADIS: DISASTROUS DEFENCE

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FADE IN:

INT. MAINLAND SECURITY HEADQUARTERS - MORNING

JESS, a beautiful Black woman in her mid-20s, the office secretary, enters holding a coffee mug. She is in the company of FRED, a slightly tall Black man in his 40s with a clean haircut, and NICHOLAS, about 50, a bit muscular and average height, with a naturally bald head concealed within trimmed hair.

Jess walks ahead of them and pushes the door open, letting them enter first.

JESS

Yesterday I had one hell of a day. Had to run, crawl, duck, train how to dodge bullets and such ugly movements. If that's what you guys are accustomed to, then you really have extra super balls.

NICHOLAS

You gotta major in how to cheat death all the time.

FRED

Thank heavens that nuisance is no more, courtesy of our generous men in the Prisons Department. He's gonna get his balls crushed in there, trust me.

JESS

That's a great relief - to us.

FRED

(amidst laughter)
The list of bandits is still long,

girl. No holiday yet, maybe not ever.

NICHOLAS

Another one could be planning an unannounced visit right here, this moment.

Jess walks to the swivel chair beside a cabinet, some distance from her desk.

JESS

Guys, you trying to scare me?

FRED

No, we're pulling you back to reality.

She sits and slowly drags the chair toward her desk. She places the mug on the desk, cups her chin in her palms, and grins. Fred walks slowly over and bends beside her, eyes fixed on the computer.

Nicholas stands with his arms folded, staring at Jess.

Jess raises her head and meets Nicholas' intense gaze.

JESS

(shyly)

That look scares the hell outta me, Nick.

She picks up the mug and takes a sip.

INTERCUT WITH:

Here's your **corrected and properly formatted version** of the second scene, using **Fade In demo-style formatting** with only grammar fixes and no content changes:

EXT. VINNEA ISLAND - MORNING

An aerial view displays a small but densely populated island town of Vinnea. It is connected to the mainland by a bridge. Off the main highway from the bridge, other roads branch off. Near the center of the island is a large, conspicuous, and highly secured building. Not far from it stands a big residential suite with security personnel stationed at the entrance and scattered across the premises. A few blocks away, the VINNEA HOTEL stands tall, its name spelled out in large, clear letters.

Residents of Vinnea go about their daily activities as motor vehicles move smoothly within the island and across the bridge to the mainland.

At the residential suite, three identical cars emerge from the main entrance and pull up in front of the building. One of the security officers walks to the second car and opens the door, allowing the VICE PRESIDENT — mid-60s, tall and slim — to step out. He marches into the building, followed by two other officially dressed men.*

From above, eerie yellowish rings appear and begin to descend as onlookers watch — their surprise slowly giving way to fear. The rings transform into vertical rays that surround the entire island.

A truck ahead of the cars heading toward the bridge catches fire upon touching the boundary formed by the rays where they meet the ground. All motor vehicles, machines, and related objects within the island simultaneously stop functioning.

The rays then morph into a non-transparent, curtain-like material that blocks visibility on either side of the boundary. Thick smoke begins to build up over the island.

Vehicles approaching the island halt on the bridge at the terrifying sight, causing a long queue to form on both sides of the now-invisible barrier. People try to make sense of what's happening from either side.

One person steps out from the front car headed toward the island. He approaches the barrier, stretches a hand toward the visible yet intangible boundary — but quickly recoils. He stumbles back and collapses, his body turning charcoalblack, dead. The onlookers scream in horror.

INT. MAINLAND SECURITY HEADQUARTERS - CONTINUOUS

The contents of the computer screen raise Fred's eyebrows.

FRED

Oh my G...! Guys, forget about that look and help me understand this.

Jess immediately drags the seat to the position behind the desk, facing the computer directly. Nicholas joins them and stands behind Jess's seat.

JESS

What the...?

Jess moves the cursor to the message folder that appears on the screen. She opens it. A message displays:

"WELCOME TO THE TERRITORY OF ALKADIS. THE ULTIMATE DEFENSE IS AT LARGE. THE JOURNEY OF CONQUEST HAS JUST BEGUN."

Jess reads it aloud, her eyes almost popping out.

JESS (cont'd)

Oh my God!

NICHOLAS

(reads aloud)

Alkadis? Ultimate defense at large? What sort of prank is this meant to be?

FRED

Did you just call this a prank? Man, this can never be it.

JESS

Wait a sec. And *the journey of conquest...

NICHOLAS

An error?

JESS

Who in their right mind would be so careless as to send such a sensitive message to this office by mistake?

FRED

Absolutely no one. This is way too far from an erroneous course of action.

Before their eyes, pictures and videos from Vinnea stream in: the burning truck, the scary sight of the dead man, the traffic jam along the bridge, and all the strange occurrences surrounding Vinnea.

They all look confused, frightened, and surprised.

JESS

Jeez! What in God's name is this?

Jess reaches for the telephone but is interrupted when a tall Black man bursts in, worry and confusion written all over his face. He is KEN, mid-30s.

KEN

Seems we have a situation. A very ugly one. Have you-?

He notices from the screen and their expressions that the three are already aware.

KEN (cont'd)

This issue is damn serious — based on what's happening beyond what we're seeing.

Jess rises from her seat, restless.

FRED

Told you guys. This is a nasty affair of a very high magnitude.

KEN

No doubt we're in deep shit. Getting back to Vinnea's Central Com Unit isn't possible — there's no signal. About a minute ago, Aviation Authority reported the loss of a helicopter within their radar over Vinnea's airspace. Isn't that enough proof that there's already a big mess over there?

FRED

See? Guys, we can't keep sitting here with that...

JESS

I gotta call the Chief.

NICHOLAS

That's the most appropriate thing to do. The ever-busy man must've taken a longer rest after last night's nasty encounter.

KEN

It's obvious he's still not aware of what we've got on our hands.

Jess calls with her mobile phone, but it goes unanswered. She gulps down the remaining contents of her mug and places it back on the table, still holding the phone to her ear.

FRED

So sad. The bandits could be planning to execute something nastier.

Jess calls twice more, but there's no response.

KEN

I'll be at my workstation. We're trying to get something. Meanwhile, keep calling the Chief.

Ken exits, pulling the door shut behind him. Silence follows as each one tries to process the situation.

EXT. VINNEA ISLAND - MORNING

JEFF, late 40s, muscular with a medium height walks out from the busy Vinnea Hotel. Right behind him is CYNTHIA, a lady whose body possesses masculine features. She is almost 40. They are both dressed in black Ninja attire with only their heads remaining uncovered. Behind them is another group of ninja soldiers in different colors, each one of them with a sword in readiness for any confrontation. Also with them are a number of horse-drawn and hand-drawn carts.

They match straight to the highly secured building where they engage the security personnel in a fierce physical fight. The security personnel are rendered more vulnerable to the ninja soldiers when all their guns fail to fire any shot. Jeff and some of the ninja soldiers then make their way to the Vice President's residence as Cynthia and others continue with the onslaught within the secured building and all over the streets of Vinnea.

All those overpowered are forcefully bundled onto the carts and taken to the Vinnea Hotel building.

INT. JACKSON'S HOUSE - MORNING

JACKSON, late 50s, with an ever serious face walks downstairs into the living room. CAROLINA, early 50s is seated on the dining table, sipping from a mug.

CAROLINA

Darling you have a series of calls.

JACKSON

Did you just say series of 'em? Any clue of who the impatient callers are?

CAROLINA

Are you kidding me? You know the position you hold in this country. Doesn't that ring a bell to you, especially at such horrible times?

Carolina gets up as Jackson walks towards her. She helps him fix his tie after which he picks the phone from the table then checks the missed calls.

JACKSON

Nine missed calls! Can't remember borrowing anyone a pair of lungs.

CAROLINA

There could be another serious unpleasant situation.

Jackson's phone rings while he's still holding it. He takes it.

JACKSON

(softly)

Jess, I'm almost outta the house. Why can't you hold your horse just a little bit?

(listens)

A what?

A look of curiosity engulfs Carolina's face as she tries figuring out what the issue is.

JACKSON

(listens, then)

I'm on my way.

He turns to Caroline with a downcast face.

CAROLINA

Seems the bandits are so envious of the peace and prosperity we have enjoyed all these years.

JACKSON

They must be daydreaming to think along that line. I will never give a chance to any vandal of whichever dimension to pee and drop their shit in this like they're imagining.

Jackson turns immediately and heads for the door. Carolina slowly drags her feet after him.

CAROLINA

Are you leaving just like that? You can't walk out there in an empty stomach. Should a least take a bite of...

She stops on realizing Jackson isn't paying any attention to her, as he keeps walking away without looking back.

JACKSON

No way my tummy is gonna accept anything until I catch and drill some sense into the skulls of those vagabonds.

He gets into his car which is driven off immediately.

INT./EXT. VINNEA HOTEL - MORNING

Jeff holds the Vice President by the neck using the left arm while his other hand holds a sword as he drags the veep towards the Vinnea Hotel. Behind them are other senior staff and the overpowered security personnel, all held hostage by the ninjas.

The hotel's main door opens and the VP together other captives are surprised to see the ninjas lined up on either sides as they are dragged inwards.

The door is closed as they proceed into the well-lit hall with a large screen on the wall.

JACK, mid 50s, a bit tall and muscular with an ever smiling face emerges from one of the doors dressed in a white suit and dark glasses almost concealing his eyes. He is flanked by two ninja soldiers, each with a sword.

He claps as he approaches the veep, a smile of satisfaction eminent on his face.

JACK

What a pleasant surprise! Look who we have here.

He beckons Jeff to push the Vice President forward as he takes a sword from one of his two soldiers beside him. He then makes some steps and stands right in front of the Vice President, a sword held firmly in his hand as if he intends to act on the VP. This scares the other captives.

JACK (cont'd)

Mr. Veep, welcome to my territory. Within these few minutes there's no doubt you have witnessed the might and power I possess. Imagine causing everything to come to a standstill in this precious island of a very powerful country. That's just a bit of many great things I'm capable of doing.

He moves a step backwards as the captives give a sigh of relief.

JACK (cont'd)

Right now I present to you and everyone else here a choice between working with me or for me. You choose the first option, you're safe. The second option applies to people who render themselves unable to make the right choices at the most opportune moments. What am I trying to say, Jeff?

Jeff fishes out a remote control from one of his pockets then brings the screen on the wall to life. The words "WELCOME TO THE TERRITORY OF ALKADIS, THE ULTIMATE DEFENSE" appear. This surprises the VP and his colleagues.

The screen then displays scenes from various parts of Vinnea where Cynthia and other ninja soldiers are mercilessly capturing and rendering unconscious everyone offering resistance. The captives are thereafter dragged into the same Vinnea Hotel building by using carts being pulled by horses and the ninjas.

They are also shown a specially designed room with bright walls, ceiling and floor. Four men fully covered in protective gear walk out of the room to receive captives whom they forcefully push inside the room. Once the victims have stepped into that special room, they instantly collapse and remain still for about sixty seconds after which they get up looking extraordinarily strong and more aggressive. Thereafter, two guys in ninja attire guide them into the training hall full of other ninjas who have formed straight lines in readiness for training.

Another scene briefly shows the deaths of those who cross the boundary towards the bridge.

JACK (cont'd)

O, shit! I bet none of you here is ready to face such kinda death. I think that's enough for now.

The screen goes blank as Jack turns to the captives.

Shock and fear grip the captives as the screen darkens. Jack starts walking up and down in front of them.

JACK (cont'd)

You see what am talking about? This shall no doubt apply to everybody here if the right senses are not put into good use. Within this building and all over the island I'm quaranteed ultimate security. No power from outside can counter this. Whoever tries to get out of here meets the wrath of my soldiers scattered all over. If, in an unlikely scenario someone manages to outshine my soldiers, then an ugly form of death awaits them. Another bad news is that as we speak right now, there's nobody that is in a position to know what's going on here, and even if they knew, there's no way they could ever risk trying because getting in here is impossible. But if you read with me from the same page then you are safe under any condition.

VICE PRESIDENT

Who are you and what do you want from us?

Jack stops the movement and turns to the veep.

JACK

To the first question. Let me just say I'm that smart guy who has the ambition of handling the world in the most appropriate way —
technologically. They say a journey of a thousand miles begins with one step. But because I'm a person who doesn't understand how patience works, I have proven them wrong by starting mine with several long strides at a time. You know why?

The VP gives him a fierce look without saying a word.

JACK (cont'd)

Everybody knows what Vinnea means to your country. Sorry, my newfound country and a strategic capital like I have been working on it for years. Who on earth wouldn't like to enjoy the comforts and reputation associated with the leadership of this rich and prosperous country? I mean, just look at the potential of this island. I first fell in love, especially with Vinnea when I came for a tour I personally considered highly classified.

With the sword clenched tight within one hand supported by the other behind him, Jack turns and faces away from them.

JACK (cont'd)

What baffles me is that a country as powerful as this is headed by a very weak yet authoritarian person and men like you are acting like mere minions. Can you imagine that?

He then turns and faces the veep again.

JACK (cont'd)

That is why I am here.

VICE PRESIDENT

Does that justify how you're handling our citizens and the damage you're causing?

JACK

Another good and relevant question. Every successful conqueror must have a strong, reliable and loyal army. That's what I'm doing. I'm taking control of affairs here from where I intend to expand my domain and put weaklings where they rightfully belong. Don't forget that all the weapons manufactured, stored and supplied from here and even their ability to operate are all at my disposal right now. Don't you see why you have no choice than to work for me while you're still sane?

VICE PRESIDENT

I can do no such thing.

JACK

That leaves me with no choice than to make you my loyal soldier. You and all these people.

He starts walking up and down again.

JACK (cont'd)

A heavy cloud hangs over and all round this island and it shall be that way until my mission is accomplished. That is the power of ALKADIS. It is the unbreakable and invincible power of defense. That is what I hold.

(to Jeff)

Do the needful with them.

He gives back the sword to his soldier then leads the way out of the hall as Jeff and the other ninjas rough up the protesting VP and his team.

INT. MAINLAND SECURITY HEADQUARTERS - MORNING

Shortly after.

Jackson gets into the office and is met by Jess at the entrance. She makes a U-turn and tries to catch up with his pace as he walks to his office.

JACKSON

Anything positive worth the attention of my itching ears, Jess?

JESS

Nothing positive -- so far. Things seem to be getting worse.

JACKSON

That last part doesn't sound friendly, Jess. Any communication from above?

JESS

None yet. But everything is already out there.

They get into his office. Jackson takes his seat while Jess remains standing. KATE, early 30s, slim with blond hair enters, eyes focused on the tabled in her hand.

KATE

Good morning, sir. It obvious Vinnea is under siege.

JACKSON

That term sounds extremely heavy and so unfriendly at such a time, Kate.

KATE

Well, I seem not to find a friendlier term to use given the scenario, sir.

JACKSON

I bet simply saying Vinnea is inaccessible won't slit your throat.

KATE

Alright, sir. It seems something serious is going on within but we cannot get to see what it is, other than the pictures and videos we see online that do not capture anything beyond that particular barrier.

Jackson gets up from his seat and moves closer to the window, his back facing the two ladies. Jess maintains an upright posture with arms folded across her chest.

JACKSON

This is disastrous! Who knows what that particular individual or whichever group it is has in mind concerning their next course of action?

Jackson turns then stands behind his seat, one hand supported by the headrest, obviously lost in thought.

As Kate continues viewing the tab, pictures and videos surface of a number of people coming out of the island and upon crossing the barrier collapse and die as their bodies turn to the scary charcoal-black state.

JESS

O my God!

Jackson hastily joins the two again.

Shock and silence engulf the entire room as they look at the horrific scenes.

Breaking news appear all the television stations as well as the social media platforms with the videos and pictures capturing the bridge and the external appearance of the island as surrounded by the boundary formed.

Jackson's phone rings. He sees "IM CALLING". He mumbles some inaudible words then takes the call on speaker.

IM (V.O.)

This social media drama should not blow this thing outta proportion. Do something to cool down things. I know it is just a matter of seconds before the president gets to me in an unpleasant tonne. Right now I cannot step outside the car because I don't have answers for Alicia and her noisy colleagues who are camping right here.

JACKSON

I'm right on it, sir.

Jackson looks at the phone dejectedly at the end of the conversation.

INT. VINNEA HOTEL - DAY

Jack and Cynthia walk side by side hastily along one of the corridors. Behind them are his two usual ninja soldiers also walking side by side. Jack nods in approval when he sees his soldiers dragging more captives into the building.

JACK

(to Cynthia)

I like what I'm seeing. It's just a matter of time before this precious island becomes a home to my invincible army. Push Rick to render all those people useful -- to me.

CYNTHIA

Right away, sir.

Jack takes one way followed by the two ninjas while Cynthia takes the other.

EXT. OFFICE OF THE INTERIOR MINISTER - DAY

62 year old MICHAEL MURPHY disembarks from his official vehicle in the company of his aides. Scavenging journalists flock around him, unmoved by his ever serious face and hoarse tone. The beautiful outspoken ALICIA, aged 37 and MODI, the 32 year old Asian among other media people bombard him with several questions at a time. He waves his hand to silence them. They obey as they pay attention to capture every detail.

MICHAEL

Easy, ladies and gentlemen. I bet you know the situation, based on what you have seen being aired by yourselves or your colleagues. But I believe in your professionalism as well-trained media personalities. Right now we do not actually know what's going on within Vinnea and that's what we're working towards unraveling. Our security personnel are on the ground trying to pacify and perhaps hedge against any further damages.

A number of hands are raised. He assumes them and reluctantly points at Alicia who appears so relentless.

ALICIA

Mr. Minister, it has been established by experts that the airspace of Vinnea is kinda shielded or clouded by a fatal network of substances that cannot be verified. This has obviously paralyzed signal, blacked us out of Vinnea and also rendered Vinnea's airspace a no-go zone. There are also rumored reports of a possible coup in its early stage, based on the besieging of Vinnea which is a very significant town in our country. What do you make of it?

MICHAEL

Did you hear that? Rumored reports. Alicia, like I said I believe in your professionalism and fact-finding ability. Forget about the rumors and wait for those reports from my office. The entire security team is working towards establishing the truth behind what we are facing right now.

Modi grabs the opportunity ahead of everyone else, catching the minister unaware.

MODI

Mister Minister, you just said you're trying to hedge against further damages yet it's obvious the island is inaccessible. How are you going to do that?

Michael looks a bit confused. Thinks for a while as the journalists stare at him.

MICHAEL

We're working on it. We're figuring it out. Thank you.

He turns and walks away from the journalists who go after him with endless questions as his security team tries to keep them away. He gets into his office.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. DARIUS' HOUSE - MORNING

The TV's split screen shows Michael's address to the press as well as the situation in Vinnea Bridge where cops strain to control the surging crowd.

DARIUS, late 40s, bald-headed, huge and muscular in a vest and short pants emerges from the kitchen eating a huge chunk of sandwich with a plate containing another.

On seeing Michael on the TV, he pays more attention with the sandwich closely held near his mouth as he listens until the Minister ends his address to the media.

Darius places the sandwich back to the plate, reaches for his phone on the table and makes a call.

EXT. VINNEA ISLAND - DAY

A large number of the ninja soldiers spread all over Vinnea Island intensify their attacks on residents of Vinnea. One of the soldiers fully covered to the face emerges from Vinnea Hotel walking stealthily. He dodges his colleagues who are busy attacking residents then carefully walks towards the main highway leading to the bridge.

INTERCUT WITH:

EXT. VINNEA BRIDGE - DAY

INSPECTOR AARON, aged 54 leads the operation at the bridge some few meters away from the entrance to Vinnea where a number Vinnea's residents are gathered as they watch in dismay the occurrences around and above the island.

The ninja soldier from the island emerges at a very high pace past the deadly boundary, frightening and drawing everyone's attention. Some cops point their guns towards him ready to shoot but to their shock and relief, he drops dead as his body decomposes like earlier victims. From his hand drops a white folded piece of paper and a flash drive.

COP #1, 30s and COP #2, 20s standing beside Inspector Aaron request him through hand gestures to go check it out.

INSPECTOR AARON

Sure. We gotta check 'em out.

On getting to that particular place, Cop #1 carefully picks the device as the inspector goes for the piece of paper which he keenly looks at. Some other cops join them.

INSPECTOR AARON (cont'd)

(reads aloud)

ALKADIS. Find Mr. Hu at Kaikoto Lab in Nagasaki.

COP #2

That's Japan!

Inspector Aaron rereads the note louder as the two cops keenly look at the device in Cop #1's hand.

INSPECTOR AARON

Yeah. And what the heck's ALKADIS?

COP #1

(shows the device)

Must be this.

Inspector Aaron takes the device from Cop #1 as Cop #2 moves closer. He passes the piece of paper to Cop #2 who looks at it quickly then passes it to Cop #1.

COP #2

Internal conditions must really be unbearable for him to deliberately face this kinda death.

Jackson's car stops right behind them. He alights and joins them.

JACKSON

(eyes on the body) Latest casualty, a ninja?

Inspector Aaron turns to Jackson with the device dangling from his hand.

INSPECTOR AARON

Came outta there with this.

COP #1

(displays the paper)

And this.

JACKSON

This illegal sect?

INSPECTOR AARON

Means we've got a nasty situation to contend with in there. And looking at what's flying up there... No doubt a more threatening global warmer.

Jackson is handed both the device and the paper.

JACKSON

It's unfortunate and disheartening to learn that we can't get in there to ascertain what we actually have at hand.

INSPECTOR AARON

Could be a secret sympathizer, although the mention of Japan kinda gave me goosebumps.

JACKSON

Where does Japan come in?

Jackson looks at the device for a while then the paper.

JACKSON (cont'd)

ALKADIS?

INSPECTOR AARON

You know something about that name?

JACKSON

Heard about it a while ago. I gotta go right away.

Jackson starts going then hesitates. He turns to the Inspector and his men with half a smile.

JACKSON (cont'd)
Kinda encouraging strides. Thanks,
guys. Inspector, well done so far.

INSPECTOR AARON

On duty, sir.

Jackson gets back to his car which is immediately driven towards the mainland.

INT. MAINLAND SECURITY HEADQUARTERS - DAY

Michael looks troubled as he walks up and down. BILL, early 60s and JUNE, an ever smiling woman in her mid 50s look at him silently with concern written over their faces.

Michael looks at his wrist watch then sits down without saying a word.

JUNE

Calm down, Mike.

MICHAEL

O, save me that, June. The country is in a panic mode. Everybody's hope lies with me more than anyone else. Can't you see?

BILL

You definitely have to calm down before you get to figure out something.

MICHAEL

How the heck can I ever calm down when we all know the trouble we're in? Nobody knows the state of affairs in that island with those horrible things we're seeing. The Vice President can't be reached yet nobody can get in there. You all know the losses we've incurred within these few hours, don't you? A farther extension of this kinda scenario should never even be imagined.

Jackson enters. This heightens tension the more. Michael immediately gets up from his seat.

MICHAEL (cont'd)

(to Jackson)

Things have become worse?

JACKSON

On the contrary, sir, there is a new development. This might interest you.

MICHAEL

(curiously)

New development? What could that be?

JACKSON

Vinnea is besieged by ninjas.

JUNE/BILL

(concurrently)

Ninjas?

JACKSON

Yes. That illegal sect is behind this circus.

MICHAEL

How do you know it's them?

JACKSON

One of them showed up.

Michael fidgets at this but conceals with a remorseful expression then turns his face away from his colleagues.

BILL

Why would an insider consider crossing that barrier just like that when they're sure of dying there and then?

MICHAEL

That kinda courage beats common sense tenfold.

JACKSON

Well, he did.

BILL

And died?

JUNE

Only super magics can make anyone stay alive past that deadly point.

MICHAEL

Perhaps he was a rebel that was cast out by his superiors or colleagues.

JACKSON

Very unlikely.

All the three turn their attention to Jackson who fishes out the device from his pocket and shows it to them. Michael looks kinda surprised and confused as the other two look on with mixed feelings.

JACKSON (cont'd)

Might be of help to us towards unearthing something.

MICHAEL

What the heck's that?

JACKSON

I refer to him as the escapee. He came out with this and dropped it right in front of our officers down there. He obviously knew he could never stay alive, therefore resorted to what he did.

Michael takes the device from Jackson then walks slowly back to his seat from where he looks at it for some time as his colleagues look on.

MICHAEL

Jackson, what are you trying to tell me, or rather us? You just said that Vinnea is under siege and that ninjas are responsible. Then this. How's this going to help us kick the ninjas out of our precious island? I was expecting to see a button that could be pressed in order to lift that scary barrier off Vinnea. Then this?

JACKSON

That's the only thing our hope is pegged on right now.

JUNE

How can you be sure of that? It could be a trick, you know?

MICHAEL

My exact thoughts. Could be a trap from those same ninjas to lure us into doing something stupid that could worsen our situation. Jackson dips his hand in the other pocket and fishes out the piece of paper.

JACKSON

Then what are you going to think after seeing this?

He passes it to Bill who reads it aloud then passes it to Warren. Michael looks disturbed but tries concealing it.

JUNE

Kaikoto lab in Nagasaki. That's Japan!

MICHAEL

Are you actually buying that?

Michael gets up, walks to Warren then grabs the piece of paper from his hand and takes a closer look.

BILL

Well, at this point in time I'm open to anything suggesting our way outta that furnace burning our people in Vinnea.

JUNE

I mean, do we have any other idea apart from this? Connecting the two, I tend to believe this could be somehow a way.

MICHAEL

(eyes on the paper)
This is getting ridiculously nasty.

JACKSON

However nasty and ridiculous it seems to get, we have to act as soon as now.

Michael drops the paper on his table then turns to Jackson as the two others look on.

MICHAEL

How do we act? First of all, none of us here is ignorant of the fact that anything involving Japan is completely out of the question. Besides, how sure are you that that thing is legit and that it's gonna offer any solution?

(MORE)

MICHAEL (cont'd)

We can never risk sending anyone to Japan. None of us here is ignorant of that.

JACKSON

Mister Minister, is that risk comparable to the number of people who have died and everything we've lost within these few hours? We do not even know whether the rest of our people in there, including the VP are still alive or they have been completely blown up, looking at the magnitude of the heat being expelled from there. We have no choice.

MICHAEL

But venturing into anything concerning Japan should never cross anybody's mind.

BILL

Mike, are we going to sit here and do nothing when those ninjas are busy using our resources to boil our own people within our own territory?

MICHAEL

Let us figure out something else. We can't risk sending anyone to Japan over what we aren't sure of.

JUNE

No, Mike. There's no harm in trying. As things stand now, I suggest we take that risk because it's the only suggested way out. That's far much better than doing nothing when our people are being exterminated in such an ugly and undignified manner.

BILL

Remember, Vinnea is our heart. If it gets blown up, we could be forced to go on our knees as a country. You shouldn't hold such a stand given the circumstances.

Michael turns to Bill with a harsh look.

BILL (cont'd)

(calmly)

It's just a concern. You and all of us here know what's at stake.

Michael, obviously infuriated goes back to his seat.

MICHAEL

The president will never like this idea, trust me.

BILL

Right now, some decisions should rather be made without bringing her in. She'll understand based on the current circumstances.

JACKSON

I also believe Lady One would be pleased to know that at least something has been done without waiting for her to remind anybody of their duty.

Michael gives Jackson an unfriendly look then leans backwards on his seat.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MAINLAND SECURITY HEADQUARTERS - DAY

Everyone is seated as Michael keenly looks at the device in his hand.

MICHAEL

The term 'team' sounds ridiculous and so fishy. We aren't gonna fight the Japanese. It's just a simple task.

JACKSON

Simple task, sir? This isn't.

MICHAEL

What I'm trying to say is that we don't intend to attract unnecessary attention in Japan by sending a horde of humanity. That is likely to raise suspicion domestically and in Japan, eventually causing uncalled-for tension. We need N-SES in Vinnea because that is where the real problem is, not in Japan.

JACKSON

You are right. Yes, we need N-SES within the island. But that would be only necessary if it is accessible. I also think that the person behind this debacle could be somewhere out there, a place we do not know yet.

BILL

I see a bit of sense in that. N-SES should go out there. We need to access our precious island.

Michael laughs it off.

MICHAEL

You too harboring such ridiculous thoughts?

JACKSON

Mister Minister, this is not ridiculous. Listen, guys. This is a very serious situation and we do not have time to argue. We need my team out there. We already have N-SES members and enough cops but as you can all see, they have very little to do. It could be that way until we try this Japan way. This should never be taken for granted.

JUNE

Well, to save on time, I'd go with our usual four Special Agents for Japan.

MICHAEL

(coldly)

That number could raise suspicion. But since the majority have had their way, I'm left with no choice than to give in.

JUNE

We all know Marx is on leave, and Scott's still nursing his injuries. Any other person in mind apart from Darius and the lady Shree?

JACKSON

N-SES and this department as a whole has a long list of men and women who are equal to such tasks.

BILL

Great, waste no second in reaching them.

Jackson takes out his mobile phone and makes a call which is taken immediately.

JACKSON

(over the phone)

Big man, thank heavens you know the state of affairs in the country. Pick up Shree and meet us at the headquarters ASAP.

He ends the conversation just as Jess, Fred and Nicholas make their way in.

JACKSON (cont'd)

Perfect timing. Let me see 'em.

Jackson takes the envelope from Jess. He opens it and peeps through to see the content.

JACKSON (cont'd)

Mister Minister, here are the tested samples from the lab.

He passes the envelope to Michael as the other guys look on. Michael takes it, looks at Jackson direct in the eye then drops the parcel on the table in front of him.

MICHAEL

I'll have a look at them later. Right now I have so much going on in my mind.

EXT. VINNEA BRIDGE - AFTERNOON

The bridge looks organized with motor vehicles belonging to civilians lining up on either sides of the road along the bridge with those belonging to the N-SES and cops occupying the highway at close intervals.

Inspector Aaron and a number of his officers stand some meters away from the entry point to the island, their attention focused on the inaccessible island that is still surrounded by the thick curtain-like rays and the heavy smoke high above.

EXT. MAINLAND SECURITY HEADQUARTERS - DAY

A car pulls over right in front of the building. Both front doors open simultaneously. Darius emerges from the driver's side while SHREE, a beautiful and curvaceous Asian lady who looks younger than her actual age of mid 30s steps on the ground from the other. They close the doors in unison, look at each other with smiles then take off their sunglasses as they stage a uniform match into the building.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. VINNEA HOTEL - DAY

Within the large hall where Cynthia is surrounded by a large number of ninja trainees, she demonstrates to them various moves which entail both defense and combat techniques. The strong newly recruited guys under the influence of Alkadis show resilience as she beats them up mercilessly.

Inside one of the several spacious empty rooms, Jack displays his great martial arts skills by displaying several styles that include the use of sword. Jeff pushes the door open but Jack, obviously engrossed in training doesn't notice him. Jeff watches for a moment then claps in approval. This attracts Jack's attention. He stops and turns to Jeff.

JEFF

That was a nice move, master.

JACK

How is the situation outside?

JEFF

Everything is in order. Except that Rick is nowhere to be found.

Jack seems not to be bothered by the news as he makes some few steps towards Jeff.

JACK

Don't worry about Rick. I always suspected he'd do something stupid. Good news on our side is that he can never leave the island alive. Even if he miraculously gets out there, everything is under control. I have very long arms, you know.

He stops some few meters away from Jeff with half a smile.

JACK (cont'd)

I have you and Cynthia. With that in mind, I'm guaranteed of many loyal soldiers.

JEFF

There has been a great progress. As of now we can talk of close to no resistance. We've taken control of all the areas we've been able to reach and we're still pressing further.

JACK

All those people must be rendered useful -- to us.

JEFF

Sure.

Jack gives his colleague a smile of satisfaction.

JACK

Remember, you also need to keep fit.

He picks up one sword from the ground not far from him and throws it to Jeff as he runs towards him with his own, ready for a combat.

JACK (cont'd)

Why not try this?

Jeff gets hold of the sword and instantly the two get into a serious sword and fist fight that lasts for minutes in which the two get the better of each other but Jack outshines Jeff eventually, sending him on the ground. He offers him a hand from the ground.

JACK (cont'd)

You're not that bad.

Jeff responds by showing a thumb up then leaves the room.

INT. MAINLAND SECURITY HEADQUARTERS - DAY

The four top security officials are seated while Jess and all the other four N-SES Agents retain an upright posture.

Michael gets up from his seat holding the device and shows it to Darius and his colleagues.

MICHAEL

So far, this is the only thing we can attach our hopes to. We do not have any details about what it contains. I'm told a ninja emerged from the island holding this and a piece of paper containing some info. Then my colleagues here struggled to convince me that the guy in question was a secret sympathizer. Well, I thought it could be a trick but since we ran outta ideas and with the situation down at the island, we found ourselves with no choice than to take this dangerous route. That is your mission.

DARIUS

Taking the forbidden Japan route, right?

JACKSON

Of course. We have no choice than to look for that guy. He could probably help us pull some relevant info outta that drive. Remember, we do not have time.

JUNE

Simply put, it is that urgent and the earlier you set off for Nagasaki, the better for everyone in this country.

DARIUS

But sir, you think it's a good idea to send all the four of us?

MICHAEL

(to his colleagues)
See what I was talking about?

JACKSON

(to Michael)

Mr. Minister, we aren't going back on this.

(to Darius)

Darius, I believe in you but we do not have time to argue over this. Take it as an order, right?

DARIUS

Okay. Okay, sir.

JACKSON

It's just a worthwhile precaution. You aren't going there to wage war. But you can never tell. It's a direct mission to Kaikoto. Find Mr. Hu, do what you're to do then return immediately -- with the solution, of course.

MICHAEL

In short, don't make trouble because you could never get any help and it might turn ugly if you do anything stupid. If such a situation arises you could find yourselves fighting the Japanese government on your own.

DARIUS

But provocations are likely to come our way in one way or the other, given that the ninjas are involved. There could be others in Nagasaki waiting to pounce on us.

MICHAEL

That's the task you have -- avoiding eminent provocations.

JACKSON

And that's why you're four.

MICHAEL

Okay. Case closed. Prepare to catch the next available flight to Japan. You are not using a jet for obvious reasons. Remember, you're ordinary tourists on this. Here.

Michael hands over the device to Darius.

JACKSON

Okay guys. We have a whole lot to do within a very short period of time, say minutes. We need to get going immediately.

Jess and all the N-SES guys make their way out of the building, Fred leading the way.

MICHAEL

Good luck guys.

Jackson forces a smile as he turns to Michael then closes the door behind him.

INT. JACKSON'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Jackson gets into his house and collapses on the couch. Carolina's attention is drawn from the kitchen. She peeps and on seeing Jackson, she organizes her things fast then joins him in the living room.

CAROLINA

There you are. I don't want to imagine the hell of a day you must have had. Saw it on TV. Scenes that could possibly break the strongest of all hearts.

JACKSON

You can easily guess that I'm the most troubled man on earth right now.

CAROLINA

I can imagine that weight over your shoulders.

Carolina goes back to the kitchen then comes back carrying a glass full of some drink.

CAROLINA (cont'd)

Here. This can kinda help calm down your nerves.

JACKSON

Thanks, darling.

He takes the glass from Carolina who then sits beside him.

CAROLINA

I saw the Lady One shed tears right before every citizen that followed live proceedings. How's the situation now?

Jackson adjusts himself well on the couch then takes a sip.

JACKSON

Nothing good to write home about so far. Encouraging news is that we were able to get something crucial that might be of help to us.

CAROLINA

Something crucial?

JACKSON

Yea. A small device whose contents we couldn't access here.

CAROLINA

So how is it gonna help?

JACKSON

A team has been sent to Japan, where we were made to believe the gadget could be unlocked.

CAROLINA

Japan of all places?

JACKSON

Happens to be the only place our solution lies. The desperate times you hear in common sayings.

Jackson takes off his tie and throws it on the couch. He takes more successive sips.

CAROLINA

That sounds encouraging. A bit of relief to my dear husband.

JACKSON

No relief yet until I'm done with those rascals.

Jackson gulps the entire glass content and passes it over to Carolina. All this while Carolina does not take her eyes off him, looks of sympathy and compassion.

JACKSON (cont'd)

I think I need something warm before taking a bath then joining my team down there.

Carolina gets up and heads for the kitchen as Jackson lies straight on the couch.

INT. PLANE - NIGHT

Darius and Fred occupy adjacent seats while Shree and Nicholas occupy two seats behind them. Everyone seems to be asleep except Darius, Fred and Nicholas.

Darius and Fred are seated silently as Nicholas steals glances at Shree who is half asleep beside him.

Fred turns to Darius.

FRED

Seems to me you enjoy such kinda trips.

DARIUS

I came to love what I do. It has made me see different places, meet different people and most importantly, save lives. At the end of it, a sense of satisfaction engulfs me.

FRED

A feeling of being considered a hero, right?

DARIUS

I do not actually consider myself a hero. I just love it when people get a second chance to live because of me. How I'm regarded does not matter.

FRED

(turning to him)
So you are never bothered about the risks involved?

DARIUS

The risk of losing my life stopped bothering me the moment I lost my father who raised me as a single parent. We were in a South American country that was being ruled by a very ruthless dictator who killed and maimed people that were opposed to his kind of rule. Foreigners were the worst casualties and victims. It took the intervention of our country to take me back home alongside my father's body after he was murdered. I was still a young man then and that's the time I made up my mind to join this team and rescue many people.

FRED

Sorry about that, man.

It's fine. Here I am, taking up such duties wholeheartedly with the intent of rescuing lives. So tell me, what do you know about the Japanese?

FRED

Several things, especially the case of them being specialized in kicking people's asses.

DARIUS

(midst laughter)

You scared of 'em?

FRED

Seems you intend to see me unravel my punches.

DARIUS

Thought we just agreed we aren't gonna unleash those punches unless extremely necessary.

FRED

Then get ready to respond to that necessity.

Their laughter wakes up Shree, who raises her head and makes a deliberate cough that signals the guys to lower their voices. Silence ensues.

EXT. NAGASAKI - AIRPORT - MORNING

Having made their way out of the airport's exit point, Darius and his colleagues cross the road to the other side of the road where a van driver wearing a large South American round cap slows down and beckons them. He is ROBERTO, 50s.

ROBERTO

Hey amigos! Which way?

DARIUS

Thank heavens you speak English.

ROBERTO

Of course, of course. My second language. I'm Roberto.

Roberto parks the vehicle aside then gets out of the car as he takes quick glances at the four, one after the other with a friendly smile.

ROBERTO (cont'd)

Mind a ride with me?

DARIUS

Have an idea where Kaikoto is?

ROBERTO

Kai... what?

NICHOLAS

Our destination is Kaikoto. Know where it is?

ROBERTO

I have been in this country and this city in particular for almost seventeen years but I have never heard of such a place.

SHREE

Are you sure, sir?

A Japanese CAB GUY, 30s who seems to be monitoring them from afar drives towards their direction and stops near Roberto's car.

ROBERTO

No. Yes, I mean I don't know. (points at the other cab)

Perhaps some of those guys could be of help.

Roberto signals the Japanese Cab guy to come out of the car. He joins them.

CAB GUY (SUBTITLE)

(to Roberto in

Japanese)

What's with the visitors?

ROBERTO (SUBTITLE)

(in Japanese)

They are looking for a place called Kaikoto.

CAB GUY

(excitedly)

O, Kaikoto?

NICHOLAS

You know the place?

ROBERTO

He doesn't speak English. But he knows the place. He's a native who's obviously more familiar with all corners of this city.

FRED

How the heck is he gonna communicate with us?

The cab guy looks at each one of them speak, trying to guess what is being talked about.

ROBERTO

No worry. I'll handle him.

Darius takes a quick look at his colleagues for any suggestion.

DARIUS

Do we have a choice guys?

SHREE

Time factor matters too.

DARIUS

(to Roberto)

Tell him to take us to there right away.

ROBERTO

(grins)

Alright.

Roberto and the guy talk briefly in Japanese as Darius and his colleagues look on, trying to guess what the two are saying. Roberto then turns to them.

ROBERTO (cont'd)

The deal is done. Twenty-nine thousand Yen or simply two hundred dollars.

SHREE

Seems the place is really far from here.

ROBERTO

Kind of.

Okay. We've got to go.

ROBERTO

(to the guy, in

Japanese)

Don't waste our guests' time.

The cab guy starts walking towards his car and beckons them to follow him.

NICHOLAS

(to his colleagues)

You trust this guy?

DARIUS

Let him try me.

ROBERTO

Don't worry. You're safe.

They follow the guy to his car.

DARIUS

Thanks a lot, amigo. Watch our backs.

ROBERTO

Great. I'll be here when you get back. Take care of that beautiful girl.

DARIUS

Of course.

Shree turns and waves at Roberto who gives her a smile.

INT./EXT. CAB - MORNING

Several miles away from Nagasaki Airport, the car moves along a road that is not so busy with forests on either sides. Darius occupies the seat beside the driver. The other three are seated at the back with Fred's head resting on the headrest of his seat, eyes closed between Shree and Nicholas who are both concentrating on the sights beside the road.

Darius makes a deliberate cough.

DARIUS

Hey guys, that silence is too loud in here. It's getting me a little bit worked up.

Shree's attention is drawn. Nicholas adjusts his sitting position, making Fred also to sit upright.

DARIUS (cont'd)

Is my buddy really okay at the back?

The cab driver smiles when Darius turns to look at his colleagues.

NICHOLAS

You two had a chitchat all night. Words get depleted, you know?

DARIUS

Not to him.

(to Fred)

What's going on in your mind, buddy?

Shree looks at the two then turns her face away with a smile.

FRED

(sarcastically)

Perhaps how to face those ninjas in Vinnea.

The cab makes an emergency stop, drawing their attention.

In front of the car, a ninja appears. Then two more.

NICHOLAS

What an unpleasant surprise!

DARIUS

(to Fred)

Your buddies just heard that.

Two more ninjas appear on either sides of the car. Shree pushes the door and knocks one aside. One breaks the windscreen but Nicholas pulls him inside and punches him repeatedly as they all get out of the car. The cab driver pushes the door open and takes off as ninjas attack the four guys.

A serious fight ensues between the two camps. This goes for several minutes as they advance farther away from the road into the forest.

Having beaten the ninjas, the four try figuring out their way out.

NICHOLAS

Seems like a prearranged setup.

SHREE

Been suspecting that all along. We gotta brace ourselves for nasty encounters.

FRED

Which way now?

DARIUS

Do we even know how far we are from that damn lab?

SHREE

Those guys must have tricked us. Did you even see how our driver took off?

NICHOLAS

I never trusted that guy.

INTERCUT WITH:

EXT. MAINLAND SECURITY HEADQUARTERS - DAY

Jackson drives in. He stops the car, gets out then fishes out his ringing phone from his pocket as he leans on the car to takes it.

JACKSON

I bet you had a very long night, sir.

MICHAEL (V.O.)

The president is getting restless here. Nobody has heard from the veep until now and still, Vinnea is inaccessible yet seems to be on fire. The weight is too much.

JACKSON

Mr. Minister, we are together in this. Just calm down.

MICHAEL (V.O.)

How do you expect me to calm down with all this...?

JACKSON

I understand.

MICHAEL (V.O.)

I don't think you do. If you did, right now we'd be talking about the progress made by your special officers, who I believe must be in Nagasaki by now.

JACKSON

Sir, that's exactly what I am working on right now.

MICHAEL (V.O.)

Get the facts as soon as you can. I need something encouraging to tell the Lady One.

JACKSON

I'll get back to you in a short while.

MICHAEL (V.O.)

That short while should be shorter, CSO.

JACKSON

I'm also hoping on my guys to do the shortening.

Jackson puts back the phone in his pocket then walks straight into his office.

EXT. NAGASAKI - ALONG THE WAY - DAY

As Darius and his colleagues walk back to the road, another group of ninjas corner and surround them. They fight back but Shree and Fred are captured and bound in the process. They're taken into one of the vehicles awaiting by the roadside as Darius and Nicholas continue fighting the other ninjas.

Darius and Nicholas beat their opponents just as the van carrying their colleagues speeds off in the company of two other cars, leaving the two stranded beside the road. They are shocked to see the initial car in which they came from the airport also being driven alongside the others.

Shortly after, a truck emerges from the opposite direction. Upon the sight of it, they duck so as to ambush the driver who never notices them as he seems to be enjoying loud music. They jump on it and get in through either doors. Darius gets hold of the driver, binds his hands then gags his mouth as Nicholas takes charge of the wheel.

They increase the volume of the music and dance to it, the kidnapped driver looking on in awe behind their seats.

EXT. NAGASAKI - PARK - DAY

A good number of individuals, couples and groups are all occupied within the park. Nicholas and Darius stand under a tree each with a bottle of some soft drink. Darius' other hand is holding his phone which rings. He sips once then takes a closer look at it.

DARIUS

A call from the boss.

Darius presses a button to keep it silent then shoves it back to his pocket.

DARIUS (cont'd)

We are fucked up, man. I don't intend to give the old man a cardiac arrest. You don't know him?

NICHOLAS

Sounds kinda reasonable. I know him too well. Breaking the nasty news we have right now could send him to the morgue right now.

He takes the final sip then throws the bottle into the nearby garbage can.

DARIUS

We got to assume that call for now as we focus on the two tough missions we have right now before we are overtaken by events.

NICHOLAS

Those events seem to have started overtaking us. So what's our next move?

DARIUS

Facing those kidnappers to get our colleagues outta that hell-hole then focusing on why we are in this city being pursued like bandits on the loose.

NICHOLAS

We must be having the hell of a mission ahead, man!

That's what our job entails. Going for what you'd call the hell of missions. You expect anything the moment your plane touches down.

NICHOLAS

Now we are in it. Let's go clear the mess.

Darius nods in agreement then shows a thumb up as they walk away from the park.

INT. ISOLATED BUILDING - DAY

The room is not very clear due to the limited light inside. Shree and Fred are blindfolded, their hands are bound behind their seats. Standing beside them are three ninja soldiers holding swords and one other guy holding a gun that is pointed towards the two.

After a long moment of silence in the room, the two think they're alone within the room.

FRED

Anyone here, Shree?

SHREE

(to Fred)

I'm here. Have an idea where we are?

They hear footsteps approaching their direction. The man signals to his juniors to switch on the lights. The room gets lit but no face is shown. The man orders his henchmen to take off the blindfolds from the two captives.

Shree and Fred get surprised on seeing the Japanese cab guy and Roberto standing in front of them, each brandishing a pistol.

SHREE (cont'd)

Amigo!

ROBERTO

(smiling)

That was then. Surprised?

Roberto sits at the edge of the table a few meters away from them.

Fred looks at Roberto then Shree in disbelief

FRED

The heck is this supposed to mean?

CAB GUY

Shut up. Learn to know people.

Fred and Shree look at each other in surprise.

SHREE

So you can speak English?

ROBERTO

My boy knows the language perfectly well.

FRED

I can't believe this! What is all this shit about?

SHREE

Why are you doing this to us?

ROBERTO

Exactly my question to you. Why are you doing what you're doing to us?

Shree and Fred look at each other, confused.

ROBERTO (cont'd)

You better be truthful and fast enough before I forget that I have ever met you.

FRED

What do you mean, man?

Roberto gets up from his sitting position.

ROBERTO

(to the cab guy)

Make them vomit something.

He goes back into the inner room he emerged from as the Japanese guy takes his place at the edge of the table. The three ninjas and the other guy holding the gun retain their standing positions.

FRED

What's wrong with you guys?

The guy moves and stands in front of Fred with a clenched fist and a pistol ready in the other hand.

CAB GUY

Are you ready to tell me something I want to hear?

He turns to Shree.

CAB GUY (cont'd)

Pretty girl, are you going to save your beautiful face?

Shree looks at him without saying a word. He gives her a hard slap that makes blood ooze from her mouth.

FRED

(aloud)

What sort of human are you? First you lied to us that you don't speak English. Secondly, you colluded with these kidnappers and now you're harassing harmless people. Is that how you handle visitors in your country?

He turns to Fred with a heavy fist on his face that causes his nose to bleed.

CAB GUY

Happy to take punches in her place, huh?

SHREE

Why are you doing this?

CAB GUY

You want to deny you know why you are here? Kaikoto was once synonymous with great inventions - scientific inventions that were meant to change the whole world. That was then. But it is no longer the case. Do you know why? Because someone wanted to show us that he is a hero and blew things out of proportion.

SHREE

Why would someone interfere with good scientific inventions if it was meant to change the world in a positive way?

CAB GUY

That is what I want you to answer. Why are you interfering with us?

FRED

We don't know what you're talking about, man. You're manhandling wrong people. You better free us before my government comes for your head.

The guy laughs it off.

FRED (cont'd)

It's not funny. Better free us before something nasty happens to you.

CAB GUY

Let that powerful government that sent you come to your rescue.

FRED

No government sent us. We are ordinary tourists on vacation, man.

He bangs the table furiously.

CAB GUY

Stop joking with me! Why are you not able to access your precious island?

FRED

What? You're part of that illicit act of treason?

CAB GUY

If you intend to save your necks, hand over that device. Now!

FRED

What are you talking about, man?

The guy gives Fred a kick that makes him land on his back with the seat. Shree pleads. He then gets hold of Shree's mouth.

CAB GUY

I believe you are ready to tell me what I want to hear. Where is our device?

SHREE

We don't have it.

CAB GUY

You came looking for Hu, right? If you want to save yourselves, you've got to call your colleagues to bring it right now.

The guy signals to the ninjas to help Fred sit upright from the floor where he's lying.

CAB GUY (cont'd)

Now, I want you to act normal. Compose yourself and tell them that you've found Hu. Give them the direction. I know they'll come panting like dogs. We'll get back our device and all of you will go back to your country in the right shape and form.

INTERCUT WITH:

EXT. STREETS OF NAGASAKI - DAY

Darius and Nicholas, both in camouflage caps are meandering their way through the streets as they try looking for a short route to the place where they saw the ninjas carry their colleagues earlier.

DARIUS

We are almost there, I guess.

His phone rings but he ignores it.

NICHOLAS

That's your phone.

DARIUS

We must fix this first. Before that, there's no way I'm gonna answer it. There is absolutely no good report to write home about.

It rings again.

NICHOLAS

Could be someone else. Guy, check who that is.

Darius unwillingly obliges, fishes it out from his pocket and sees Shree's name.

Man, it's Shree!

NICHOLAS

See that? Get her.

Darius puts it on speaker.

DARIUS

(to Shree)

What's up Shree, you okay?

INTERCUT - PHONE CONVERSATION

The cab guy holds the phone near Shree's ear with a pistol pointed at her with the other hand.

SHREE

Um, yeah. I am. I mean - we are.

DARIUS

Fred there too?

SHREE

Yea. He's here. Wanna talk with him?

Darius thinks for a while, looks at Nicholas who is keenly listening to the conversation.

DARIUS

Not necessary. Where you at?

SHREE

At Mr. Hu's.

DARIUS

How's - that possible?

Shree looks at the guy beside him and thinks of what to say.

SHREE

The guys... I mean he rescued us.

DARIUS

(doubtfully)

Sounds kinda interesting. How did he do that?

SHREE

Er...he...he had a team.

(curiously)

That's so fast and surprising, you know?

Shree forces a smile as she looks at the guy standing in front of her with a gun pointed at her. She then forces a cough.

DARIUS (cont'd)

Hello! You there?

SHREE

Yeah. It's kinda fast. Hurry up guys. You'll get all the details when you get here.

Darius gives Nicholas a suggestive and curious look.

DARIUS

Alright. Okay. The direction?

Darius hangs up then turns to Nicholas who looks at him with raised eyebrows.

NICHOLAS

You with me in the same thought?

DARIUS

The call seems to me like a scripted thing. I highly doubt it.

NICHOLAS

Seems this Hu of a guy is a man with long arms, huh?

DARIUS

What I just heard over there isn't real. I smell something.

NICHOLAS

You think it's kinda trap?

DARIUS

I can only think along that line.

DARIUS (cont'd)

We are likely to have a very nasty encounter over there.

Darius looks at Nicholas' hands then pats his shoulder with a smile.

DARIUS (cont'd)

I trust your fists and those flexible legs. Time to enjoy the karate of Japan. Let's get going.

The two get straight on the way and walk comfortably towards the place.

EXT. ISOLATED BUILDING - DAY

Darius and Nicholas get to the main entrance where they are met by ninjas, two of whom walk behind them towards the building with their swords ready. Other ninjas emerge as they move forward.

DARIUS

(to Nicholas)

Are you enjoying this spectacle?

NICHOLAS

New method of welcoming guests down here, huh?

From the building emerge the three ninjas holding their swords in readiness to attack. Roberto and the cab driver then appear holding both Shree and Nicholas at gun point with their hands still tied behind them. The other guy with a gun emerges from the building then walks slowly behind Roberto, his gun ready as well.

Darius and Nicholas are surprised to see Roberto and the Japanese cab driver.

NICHOLAS (cont'd)

Roberto! And our taxi driver friend! You again in this, really?

ROBERTO

Surprised to see your friend holding your little girlfriend hostage?

DARIUS

(sarcastically)

Am not. Why should I?

ROBERTO

Stop right there and bring the device.

DARIUS

I have several of them. Which one?

CAB GUY

Stop playing games with me.

NICHOLAS

What? This guy can speak English? I never trusted him. He looked way too guilty.

CAB GUY

Shut up. Bring ALKADIS or we kill your friends and then you two.

His phone rings and Darius tries reaching for it in his pocket but Roberto and his men aim their weapons at him.

ROBERTO

It's not time to answer calls. Our business first.

DARIUS

I had unfinished business with my pregnant wife. She means more to me like your dear life to you. I need to finish it with her so that even if someone dies now...

ROBERTO

(with a serious face)

What?

Darius dips his hand in the pocket to get the phone out and in the process signals to Shree and Fred who concurrently wrestle the guys behind them, as he and Nicholas swiftly turn and get hold of the ninjas behind them. After knocking out Roberto and the cab guy, Shree and Fred take on the three ninjas as Darius and Nicholas aim those with guns.

A long fierce fight scene ensues. Many more ninjas appear but the four guys outshine them in exchange of fists and other weapons they use.

Roberto manages to escape alongside some few of his henchmen with many of them lying either dead or injured.

The four quickly vacate the place and struggle to find their way within the streets.

EXT. STREETS OF NAGASAKI - EVENING

The four guys walk hastily along one of the streets, panting heavily as they appear to be escaping from another nasty encounter.

Guys, be extra watchful. Someone's trying to sabotage our mission.

FRED

Someone must be closely monitoring us right from home.

SHREE

Remember what I said yesterday at the ${\rm HQ}$?

DARIUS

That was very likely.

FRED

So, what do we do now?

DARIUS

We have no choice than to play along.

FRED

Play along?

DARIUS

Yep. We play along. They started this game and it's really interesting.

Darius suddenly stops, prompting his colleagues to stop as well. Behind them a group of ninjas increase their pace to catch up with them.

FRED

Shit! More from this side.

They see many others coming from the opposite direction.

DARIUS

Guys, another opportunity to bend some necks before nightfall.

They stand in readiness for the big group that has surrounded all the four of them. A great fight scene erupts that lasts for several minutes. After the fight, they walk slowly, supporting each other with faltering steps out of exhaustion.

SHREE

What is our destination now?

DARIUS

Somewhere safe to put up for the night.

NICHOLAS

Still hopeful of any safety around here?

DARIUS

We got no choice. We have to get some rest.

SHREE

We definitely need to check in somewhere.

FRED

But nowhere is safe for us in this town right now.

NICHOLAS

Forget the safety part. A bit of rest as we plan for our next course of action is what we need.

They see a hotel across the road.

SHREE

How about we get in there?

The others raise their heads to look.

DARIUS

Not bad.

They cross the road and get into the hotel.

Some meters away, a man wearing a hoodie and a pair of dark glasses closely monitors them from inside a car.

Once they get to the entrance into the hotel, he takes his phone and makes a brief call then drives off.

INT. NAGASAKI - HOTEL - MOMENTS LATER

Darius and his colleagues stand a few meters away from the counter as the attendant is engaged by a certain lady in front of them.

They stand still, their eyes taking quick glances at the main entrances every time.

The lady then turns to leave the counter and comes face to face with Fred and Nicholas whom she recognizes. JOY, early 40s gives the two a curious look then their colleagues.

The two look at each other then turn to her, having recognized her.

JOY

(kinda uncertain)

Wait, wait. Am I like dreaming! Fred? Nick?

FRED/NICHOLAS

(together)

Joy!

She embraces each one of them with a hug.

JOY

What are you guys doing here?

FRED

It's quite a long story.

JOY

Must be a very long uninteresting story.

She gets more curious on seeing how messed up they all look.

JOY (cont'd)

What's up with you, guys, I mean why are you like this?

Shree and Darius stand aside, just watching with their arms folded across the chest.

Fred ignores her question

FRED

Guys, this is my lovely wife's sis, Joy.

(to Joy)

Joy, this is Darius and this stunning beauty is Shree.

JOY

(jokingly)

I didn't like the way you just described her. I'm jealous - I mean on behalf of my little sis.

They all laugh at the joke.

JOY (cont'd)

(to Shree, then

Darius)

Hi, beautiful. Hi, handsome.

JOY (cont'd)

(to Fred)

What are you doing here, in this city?

FRED

Seems you've forgotten my job?

JOY

The last time I checked, you were a soldier, not in Japan but a country neighboring mine thousands of miles westwards.

FRED

Duty calls anywhere, any time.

JOY

Indeed I can see how far duty can seriously mess up someone and it's evident all over you that your day on duty has been horrible. How about you all join me at my place tonight for some catching up while you rest for the night?

Joy looks at each one of them as they also look at each other, uncertain of what to say.

FRED

(to Joy)

You sure about that?

JOY

Of course. I mean if it doesn't alter your schedule.

(to Shree)

Beautiful?

She looks at Shree with a friendly smile. Shree smiles back without saying a word then turns to Darius.

DARIUS

Not a bad idea.

NICHOLAS

Okay.

FRED

Well.

JOY

My car's out there.

Joy walks side by side with Fred as the others follow closely. They get into her big car with Fred taking the front seat next to her. She then starts the car immediately.

INT. INSIDE JOY'S CAR - NIGHT.

Joy drives.

FRED

How come I wasn't aware you're here? Does your ever little girl know about it?

JOY

I haven't told her yet. I just got here last week, of course on duty just like you. The difference is that I don't know how to handle a gun, not to talk of lifting a leg in the name of throwing a kick at other people like you guys do every now and then.

FRED

(jokingly)

Are you kidding me? You know I'm a gentleman. I don't hit or shoot anyhow. My colleagues feigning innocence back here do that - every time, especially this huge one.

DARIUS

(lightly)

I'll take that as a joke. Don't listen to him.

JOY

Please, tell me the beautiful one isn't part of that madness.

DARIUS

(midst laughter)

Unfortunately she is the worst. A slight provocation against her, someone has to pick their teeth from the ground right there and then.

JOY

(midst laughter)

You scaring me. You know I can get all of you outta the car right now.

Laughter ensues in the car.

EXT. JOY'S RESIDENCE - NIGHT

Joy pulls over within a well lit area and all of them step out. They stand still, admiring the place. Another car pulls over near theirs, shifting their attention to it. a CHINESE GUY, 50s who looks younger and stronger steps out smiling then waves at them as he walks away. Joy waves back with a smile.

DARIUS

Must be one friendly neighbor of yours.

JOY

Yeah. He is a very friendly person. He teaches martial arts down the road.

She leads the way to her apartment.

INT. NAGASAKI - HOTEL - NIGHT

The same hotel Darius and his colleagues just left.

Two cars and a van stop right in front of the hotel. A number of ninjas come out of all the three vehicles and get into the hotel, rendering the security personnel unconscious. Two of their men remain at the entrance.

Their leader confronts the attendant at the counter, forcing her to lie prostrate on the floor as the others go from door to door of the many rooms within the hotel, conducting a search. They get out of the hotel in a haste after some time, get into their motor vehicles and drive off.

INT. JOY'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Everyone is seated except Darius who is standing by the window looking outside.

JOY

Guys, your story sent chills down my spine.

(MORE)

JOY (cont'd)

All day you've been engaging in running battles just because of that little thing? Then your encounter with ninjas... I thought they were just fiction stories in novels and movies. And now, some are in your country while others are keeping you on toes right here?

SHREE

There's no doubt this was a well calculated move to keep us busy home and away. Whoever did this kinda shit must be extremely super smart.

JOY

There can never be any other explanation.

Darius is obviously absent-minded as his eyes are focused on a roof top quite a distance where someone is engaged in Kung Fu training.

On realizing that he is not into their conversation, the others turn their eyes towards him in silence. Sudden silence within the room draws his attention. He turns to face the rest.

FRED

Seems you're in your own world, enjoying the sight a great deal.

DARIUS

Someone's up there commanding my full attention.

JOY

I guess it's the Chinese Martial Arts Teacher. He does that every evening. I hear he's something else when it comes to breaking people's bones.

DARIUS

(excitedly)

Really?

JOY

I believe it's only if you cross his line. Like I said, he is a nice fellow with very few sentences. Funny enough, I don't even know his name. SHREE

Well, it's not easy to be a martial arts teacher. That means he's just way ahead in kicking people's asses, like you're calling it.

DARIUS

I'd like to have a chat with him and perhaps know him more.

FRED

Man, we aren't here to know people. We have no time for that. You forgetting we're needed home as early as tomorrow morning?

DARIUS

(sarcastically)

Tomorrow morning? You're super optimistic, man. It seems you have a clue about the location of our scientist whose name sounds like a question mark.

FRED

That's what we should focus on, not a damn Chinese enjoying a cool breeze as he does rehearsals on how to kick people's asses.

JOY

(midst laughter)
You kidding guys?

FRED

Kidding? I'm not.

JOY

So what's your plan now that I have never heard of that Kai...something of a place?

DARIUS

To get up early enough and go looking for that guy.

JOY

Where exactly do you intend to go? I can't imagine you getting kidnapped by those masked men in black again.

SHREE

We have no choice but to keep asking people around.

DARIUS

Tomorrow we set out in two groups. One group to go down that route while the other goes upwards.

NICHOLAS

Sounds a good idea.

FRED

Perhaps go to the Martial Arts School and ask his fellow Chinese, including the Kung Fu teacher there.

Fred checks through the window but doesn't see the Kung Fu guy where he's been training.

FRED (cont'd)

Wait, where...?

The others check too but see no sign of him.

SHREE

He's gone.

FRED

We should go after him right now.

NICHOLAS

What? As a criminal or what? We can't do that.

SHREE

Of course we can't. Not at this time.

FRED

Are we gonna let him slip off our fingers just like that?

JOY

Look, guys. That guy is so mysterious. I hear he appears and disappears like that. I don't think you can ever find him. Besides, you can't go out now for obvious reasons.

DARIUS

Look, guys, let us assume we never saw him.

(MORE)

DARIUS (cont'd)

We didn't come to Japan to run after mysterious people who have nothing to do with us. We've gotta rest our aching muscles as we wait for dawn to go after the scientist.

Darius gets away from the window and rests on the couch next to Joy. They both smile when their eyes come into contact. The others give a very suggestive look at the two.

Darius reaches for a glass of water on the table and as he takes it towards his mouth he is met by all the three smiling faces staring at him. He hesitates.

DARIUS (cont'd)

What?

INT. MICHAEL'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Michael rests his frame on the couch in his living room with his legs stretched straight on the table in front of him. Beside him is a stool on which a glass of wine rests. His phone rings. He checks, sips twice then receives it.

MICHAEL

Some interesting news?

UNKNOWN CALLER (V.O.)

Not at all, sir. The guys outsmarted us.

He lowers both legs from the table with some kinda fury written over his face.

MICHAEL

What do you mean they outsmarted you? You are a damn joke! I never knew you could be this incompetent.

UNKNOWN CALLER (V.O.)

We kept trailing them until they got into a hotel. But when we made our way there, we saw no sign of them, not even in the register of guests who checked in.

MICHAEL

You idiot, that narrative is just out of what I wanna hear right now! You wanna tell me that we sent ghosts to Japan?

Michael gets up from his seat angrily.

MICHAEL (cont'd)

You, listen to me, you lose track of them, make sure you get lost. Now, get outta here.

He ends the conversation then calls Jackson immediately.

INTERCUT - PHONE CONVERSATION

Jackson's phone rings when he is stirring some liquid in a mug on top of the table within the living room.

MICHAEL (cont'd)

Asleep already, Jackson?

JACKSON

Asleep? That is unimaginable, sir!

Jackson continues with stirring as he maintains a standing posture.

MICHAEL

Why not? Your team is doing something, isn't it?

JACKSON

Of course. But I'm part of that team and that explains why I'm the latest victim of insomnia.

Jackson stops stirring then rests on the couch.

MICHAEL

Any reports from Japan?

JACKSON

No news worth reaching out to you yet.

Michael smiles at the news but retains the tone of curiosity and concern.

MICHAEL

Don't tell me what I expected happened to them.

JACKSON

Luckily, they survived.

MICHAEL

And?

JACKSON

They are safe.

MICHAEL

How about the little thing causing all the fuss? I hope they haven't messed it up in those impenetrable streets.

JACKSON

I'm yet to receive negative news about it. I believe it's safe with them wherever they are.

Michael feels helpless, collapses on the couch with a loud sigh. Jackson hears it from the other end.

JACKSON (cont'd)

Mr. Minister, you alright?

MICHAEL

Yea. I mean... I'm just overwhelmed - and concerned about those guys and the device. Perhaps you should reach them so that we know where exactly they are and uh, the kinda help we could offer them.

JACKSON

(calmly)

That won't be necessary. I trust Darius and his colleagues. Their silence means something. Besides, such missions at times present dangers that necessitate little or no communication at least to keep the enemy in a bit of darkness.

This statement slightly frightens Michael who raises eyebrows.

MICHAEL

The enemy... Have one in mind?

JACKSON

Not at all, sir. The guys are on duty and up to the task. Let us exercise patience and wait for the result. They are my guys and I trust them. Do you mind having a peaceful night, Sir?

MICHAEL

Are you like intending to hang up on me, Jackson?

JACKSON

(politely)

Not at all. Just telling you not to worry. Things are under control.

Jackson hangs up then continues with the sipping as Michael remains staring at his phone.

EXT. STREETS OF NAGASAKI - MORNING

Shree and Nicholas disembark from a cab in front of a certain restaurant where Shree gets in as Nicholas remains at the entrance to keep watch. Shortly after, Nicholas notices two familiar vans approaching. He quickly notifies Shree via phone. Just as Shree steps out of the door, ninjas and some other guys armed with crude weapons surround them. A fierce physical confrontation ensues where Shree and Nicholas manage to beat their opponents after some few minutes. They then take off.

INTERCUT WITH:

EXT. WAY TO CHINESE MARTIAL ARTS SCHOOL - MORNING

Darius and Fred walk carefully as they head towards the martial arts school. Some vehicles suddenly emerge and make a stop right behind them. The occupants, including ninjas quickly come out. One of the ninjas gets hold of Fred from behind. They then find themselves surrounded before they

Fred hits the one holding him below the belt then frees himself. Darius immediately gets the chance to handle the others behind him. A brief fight breaks out that sees Darius and Fred getting the better of the bandits who either remain seriously hurt on the ground or take off.

Just before they take off, Roberto and two other men appear from behind them with guns pointed at Darius and Fred.

ROBERTO

Surrender that device now or watch your thick skulls getting blown up.

Both Darius and Fred lift their hands without turning as Roberto walks towards them.

Isn't that the voice of our own amigo?

ROBERTO

Still have the balls? Surrender it before I...

Another car screeches as it makes an abrupt stop quite some distance behind Roberto, drawing their attention. A masked man emerges with a gun and shoots the two other men in the arm and leg, forcing them to go down. Darius instantly turns and pounces on Roberto. He gets hold of the gun in Roberto's hand, wrestles him to the ground then takes the gun from him, hitting and rendering him unconscious. Fred turns in readiness to face the masked man who walks slowly towards them. He takes off the mask and they are surprised to see JOY'S NEIGHBOR.

FRED

Joy's neighbor!

JOY'S NEIGHBOR

Yea. I think we saw each other last night. This morning, my ever-smiling neighbor told me about you looking for someone.

DARIUS

That's true. But first, thanks for saving our asses.

JOY'S NEIGHBOR

Tie him up. We're taking him out of here right now. His colleagues could get here any time.

DARIUS

That's a good idea. We must pull some info outta him.

They tie Roberto up and take him to the trunk of his car then drive off.

INT. CHINESE MARTIAL ARTS SCHOOL - MORNING

Inside the large building, a way leads from the main training hall with well organized equipment. Within the hall is a significant number of students all engrossed in training. An entrance leads to another room which has three seats and a table.

Inside this room Roberto is made to sit on one of the chairs with hands tied behind him in the presence of all the four visitors, Joy's neighbor and KOZUKI, mid 40s, his assistant at the school.

Darius moves closer to Roberto then crouches while looking at him direct in the eye.

DARIUS

Now, tell me, why are you so much possessed with that device? Seems you knew of our coming here, huh?

ROBERTO

(remorsefully)

My life and that of my entire household depends on it.

FRED

And why the hell should we believe you?

ROBERTO

I know it's not easy to make you believe me. But that's the truth.

NICHOLAS

You and your men have made our life one of a hell just within the twentyfour hours we've been in this country. Think we are going to believe you just like that?

FRED

You and your men have sworn that we can never have a peaceful stay in Nagasaki. What is your role in this?

ROBERTO

It's not me. I work with orders from above. And now that I've failed in this mission, my life is as good as ended.

Joy's neighbor walks slowly up and down within the room.

JOY'S NEIGHBOR

He must be one of Jack's men sent to retrieve the device from you so that it doesn't get to HU. Whoever sent them knows perfectly well that if it gets to him then they're doomed.

That means you know him?

JOY'S NEIGHBOR

Know who?

FRED

Yeah, Hu.

JOY'S NEIGHBOR

Yes. I'm Hu.

Surprise and excitement are displayed all over the faces of the four. Roberto also gets surprised.

ROBERTO

What?

FRED

(to Roberto)

Shut the fuck up!

DARIUS

I feel a bit relieved, man. If we knew you were the one we would have sorted out this as early as last night when I was watching you practice Kung Fu. We were actually directed to a certain scientist based in a place this guy and his colleagues made sure we could never get to.

SHREE

Right now, our country is in a very serious mess with everyone tensed.

Hu takes one of the two other empty seats.

HU

Your country could be just the starting point. The whole world is in trouble right now. The island and your country as a whole is sitting on a time bomb.

FRED

A time bomb?

HU

The power of ALKADIS and it's affiliates is more like a bomb.

(MORE)

HU (cont'd)

It could have a very devastating effect if not checked in time.

(to Fred)

Untie the man.

Fred hesitates, looks at his colleagues who seem to be carried away by Hu's words.

HU (cont'd)

He will never run away. Even if he manages to escape without the device he was sent to bring back, his life still remains in danger. And there's no way he could reach the main exit of this building in one piece if he tries to escape.

Fred unties Roberto.

HU (cont'd)

Bring the device.

Darius quickly takes it out and gives it to Hu, who gets up from his seat immediately.

HU (cont'd)

Come with me.

Hu opens another door leading into an inner room as all of them follow him in. He switches on the light that brightens the entire room.

Within the room are two screens on the wall and a computer on top of the table at the center of the room. Behind the computer is a seat. Another seat lies idle beside the same table.

Hu takes one of the seats then pulls the other empty seat beside him. He beckons one of them to sit on it. Darius gestures to Shree to take it.

HU (O.C.)

(to Kozuki in

Japanese)

Handle the students. They are not the bad guys.

KOZUKI

Alright, Master.

Kozuki leaves, closes the door behind him.

How come the guys have never been able to get to you, I mean to this place?

Hu switches the computer on.

HU

This place is very secure. And as a Chinese citizen here in Japan, anything that belongs to me is assured of maximum security. Besides, Jack knew he took everything away from me and therefore believed I could never ever get at him unless I get to him. It never occurred to him that a day like this was going to come.

He brings the two screens to life. He connects the device and waits as it loads.

HU (cont'd)

Accessing ALKADIS and all its associated programs designated for any area requires the original program encrypted for that particular geographical location. What I mean is that the original ALKADIS program can never be copied to be used in unlocking it elsewhere.

SHREE

Does that mean all our efforts are useless?

HU

That is not exactly what I mean.

Darius and his colleagues give a sigh of relief.

HU (cont'd)

We are likely to have a difficult task handling the situation, but not the way it could have been without this device.

DARIUS

This ALKADIS, is it some kinda illegal sect that is out to cause unnecessary disturbance or what?

FRED

The exact question has been cracking my skull ever since I came across it.

HII

It is an abbreviation for a programmed chemical compound that was developed by Jack and I. It was initially a project aimed at developing more advanced coolers and preservatives. In the course of our research over the years, we realized that several great things could be done with our little invention. My colleague and friend then, later came to take advantage of it but with a very ill motive, as we can all witness now.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. CHINESE MARTIAL ARTS SCHOOL - MORNING

Hu does the demonstrations as everything is displayed on the screens on the wall.

HU

ALKADIS is programmable compound made up of other complex and specially-derived elements which react under very special conditions.

DARIUS

See?

HU

It has the ability to absorb heat of any magnitude. But that is not safe because in that process, it's hypersensitive to certain sounds, especially of heavy machines and anything that is explosive in nature.

NICHOLAS

Seems those rogues intend to make our ever peaceful homeland uninhabitable.

Hu demonstrates how heat is being absorbed by ALKADIS and how it explodes with any loud sound near it. This frightens them.

HU

When one is subjected to it through scanning in a specially-designed room, their optic nerves and brain receptors are instantly manipulated to decipher only the things that are synonymous with ALKADIS, as encrypted with psycho-biological algorithms as the basis. The mind and the brain get reorganized such that one is only able to recognize and take orders from the persons they are programmed to recognize. In this case it is the developers of this program.

SHREE

That's you and the other guy?

HU

And Jack. Another scary side of it is its ability to make the victims stronger, more aggressive and very violent.

FRED

That's very scary and absolutely dangerous, man.

DARIUS

With your explanation, there's no doubt that our people are really facing it rough down there.

HU

With my old colleague and friend, I'm afraid there's no business as usual wherever he's besieged.

Hu demonstrates how ALKADIS scanning is used to manipulate the victims. Darius gives a deep sigh, with one hand holding his chin at the end of the demonstration. Shree gets up from her seat and stands behind it, still focusing on the screen in front of Hu.

FRED

Seems a number of our citizens got fried in the process of that torturous way of manipulation?

HU

ALKADIS can never cause any death if activated to operate normally under protection.

(MORE)

HU (cont'd)

But if interfered with in the process of its operation, then it could interfere with normal functioning of the victim's brain and other vital organs. What you witnessed must have been the effect of its protector.

DARIUS

The heck's that?

FRED

An additional super dangerous problem -- as it stands.

SHREE

Is there a remedy in this whole scary affair?

HU

There is. After realizing that the world was facing an eminent danger, I developed it's neutralizer which goes by the name BUTAZED ALKADIS DEACTIVATOR, simple known as BTZ-AL-DA.

DARIUS

Is it that effective, I mean a sure bet for this nasty affair with zero side effect on our people?

HU

It is a very selective gas which has high affinity for the main ALKADIS reactive particles. Once unleashed, it targets those specific victims and erases everything connected to ALKADIS in their system.

DARIUS

That means those victims need also to be put under certain conditions for this process?

HU

That's not necessary. Like I said, it's a gas which is very selective and highly sensitive to its associated ALKADIS compounds.

NICHOLAS

Would you help us resolve this shit right now?

HU

I definitely would. Unfortunately, I can't do that now and not even from here. We must access the original ALKADIS program and use it within that particular location. That is where this drive comes in.

DARIUS

And I guess as a hero who has been keeping track of this destructive weapon you'll come with us to sort this mess.

HU

This is the moment I was just dreaming of. I won't mind coming with you, not just to help the situation but also to meet the man who attempted to get rid of me.

Hu gets up from his seat, walks towards the wall and faces away.

HU (cont'd)

Nine years ago, my friend and partner then, shot me and left me for dead in a remote village beach where we used to go and refresh our minds after lots of lab work. An old man who was passing by in the company of his little grandson rescued me. For over seven months I was never seen or even heard from. People knew I was gone for good. I later found out that after that incident nobody saw Jack ever again. He took my computer and any other thing that I had in connection with the project we did together, not knowing I had a back-up in a house belonging to my cousin he never knew about.

Roberto walks to Hu and pats his shoulder as a consolation.

ROBERTO

I'm sorry for being part of this, buddy. We are in this together. We must save our necks, our families and our countries.

Hu turns to face Roberto with a smile.

ROBERTO (cont'd)

Funny thing is that we didn't even know how this Hu even looks like.

Laughter and mixed reactions fill the room as everyone turns their attention to Roberto.

DARIUS

(to Hu)

Easy, man. We have to protect the world against such roques.

FRED

Sure.

Hu gets back to his seat.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT./EXT. VINNEA ISLAND - DAY

A large group of ninja soldiers led by Jeff emerge from the Vinnea Hotel. The Vice President is conspicuous among them.

They split into different groups and head for different directions all over the island where they break into people's houses and drag them out. Those offering resistance are rendered unconscious then dragged back to the hotel building using hand-drawn carts.

INT. CHINESE MARTIAL ARTS SCHOOL - CONTINUOUS

Hu gets back to his seat. Shree takes hers with eyes concentrating on Hu's computer.

HU

The conditions under which ALKADIS performs necessitate its protection when operational. This protection also enhances its signal strength beside shielding it against external interference for the reasons I explained earlier.

NICHOLAS

So how is this protection done?

HU

There's another associated compound program by the name ALKABUTON 96, simply known as AKB.

DARIUS

This is interesting.

HU

It is even more dangerous.

FRED

Again!

HU

An area intended to be protected is highlighted on a digital map.

Hu demonstrates with the area map on his computer which is also displayed on the other screens.

HU (cont'd)

The ALKADIS-ALKABUTON 96 protected area has to be absolutely free from any traces of reactive particles, temperatures beyond certain limits among other conditions. Therefore, any unwanted material is automatically expelled outwards by an internally generated force. The collision of these materials under intense heat in a restricted space leads to formation of a curtain-like ceiling all round. The red vertical lines indicate a mixture of excess currents that come with a highly soluble dangerous gas that has a burning effect if one comes into contact with it.

SHREE

That is to say, those guys were electrocuted?

HU

Yeah. And the gas decomposed their bodies after electrocution.

FRED

That is so scary, man.

DARIUS

And obviously that is the cause of the smoke flying up there? HU

Because of the invisible limit wall that is created when selecting the specific area for protection, the excess heat and gases are expelled upwards. Any area beyond two hundred and forty meters above that selected area is very dangerous for even the strongest of all metallic materials. The heavier it is, the worse its case is. And as long as AKB is operational, signal and any other connection within that area is completely destabilized.

He illustrates all these by activating AKB, the appearance thereafter and the effect on the signal around the area.

FRED

No doubt the helicopter suffered the fate you've just described. And the mainland having been completely blacked out of Vinnea.

HU

I believe you can imagine its effect on the atmosphere.

NICHOLAS

That smoke flying up Vinnea is no doubt a death trap.

HU

Remember, AKB auto generates its own power in order to safeguard its signal from external interference. A combination of that and the excess gases together with the heat expelled are concentrated all round the marked boundary. Like I just said, if any human body comes into contact with it, they die instantly due to the sudden shock and suffocating nature of the gases that diffuse into the body system within seconds.

FRED

That's so dangerous!

HU

For a vehicle or any heavy metallic object, a direct contact with this boundary ignites a flame instantly.

(MORE)

HU (cont'd)

Encouraging news is that nothing directly happens to people within this zone as long as ALKADIS is active.

SHREE

Guys, we really have a mess to clear.

DARIUS

This is no ordinary mess, it's a disaster.

SHREE

But Master, with all the negative effects associated with this kinda invention, why create it?

HU

Jack's curiosity led to this. I knew him as an ambitious man but I couldn't imagine him going this far until a time he said to me that he would like to be considered the toughest and most dreaded man on earth. His behavior started changing and that's when my trust for him gradually faded. The good thing is that when we started this project, every permission was registered under the two of us with specific unchangeable encryption codes. That means that whenever he upgrades or reorganizes the program, I get an update and the procedural encryption report for easy tracking of his paths.

ROBERTO

And that explains the reason why they instructed us to ensure this device doesn't get to Hu.

HU

It seems he got wind of the news that I am still alive. They know once I get hold of this then they are doomed to fail in their planned disastrous operations.

SHREE

(to Roberto)

Who are they?

ΗU

Jack and the person or people he works with or for.

DARIUS

(to Hu)

That means that your life is in danger once they get to know you have that drive.

SHREE

No doubt about that.

FRED

This craze really needs to be brought to an end.

HU

It has to be faster because both the lives and health of many people are at stake. Bad news is that the ALKADIS effect on those people that have been subjected to it has an allowance of just ninety-six hours to be reversed before it decomposes to a very strong unbreakable compound that may leave them in that condition for six months then eventually kill them.

These words scare everyone within the room.

DARIUS

That's just four days!

FRED

To mean a great number of Vinnea residents are at a very high risk of becoming zombies and dying after a half a year?

HU

But we can hurry and rescue many, if not all of those locked up there. From your account of events, there's no much time left.

DARIUS

Master, I think we should prepare and leave as soon as right now if the solution lies within Vinnea.

FRED

Exactly. It's clear we've got no time.

SHREE

You guys have an idea on how to get to Vinnea with what we've got at hand?

(to Hu)

Master, how is it going to be?

HIJ

That's the most difficult part that I was getting at.

NICHOLAS

I've never been a pessimist when it comes to finding a way regardless of any complexity.

His colleagues turn to him with anticipation. Nicholas grins as he looks at each of them. Darius smiles back briefly then shifts his attention to Hu.

HU

Thanks to the guy who availed this drive with the copy of the program. Otherwise it could have been an impossible mission. This device will help us track the path of AKB to enable us gain access into the island. Though it's a very hard way.

DARIUS

That is?

HU

AKB operates for between seven hundred and thirty-two and seven hundred and seventy-six minutes continuously after which it takes a break of four to five minutes before it resumes.

DARIUS

That means we have to utilize the four minutes to gain our access. That's a very short time considering the kind of war we're likely to face while getting there, you know?

HU

That's not the big deal yet.

Everyone raises eyebrows in anticipation for more explanation.

HU (cont'd)

Unfortunately, this timing cannot be done by mere observation because when AKB timely comes to a halt, the reactions that lead to the generated circuit flow and emission of excess heat and dangerous gases stop, but the appearance does not change.

FRED

And you're sure about this, that nobody is gonna get electrocuted while crossing that particular boundary?

The guys share a light moment of laughter.

FRED (cont'd)

That's not funny guys.

HU

Nobody is going to die if they cross over within four minutes. The biggest challenge could be having to contend with those under the influence of ALKADIS. I'm sure Jack must have ensured he has them in large numbers if his ambition years ago is anything to go by.

SHREE

That means they are likely to fiercely attack us?

HU

And injure if not kill you in the process. That means you'll have to defend yourselves against them.

DARIUS

But they are the people we are supposed to be saving. Isn't there a way to avoid that direct confrontation with them, I mean, our own people?

HU

There is. But the alternative is more dangerous.

(MORE)

HU (cont'd)

It involves crudely deploying the BTZ-AL-DA that is capable of freezing ALKADIS while terminating its effects. This can go for forty-four minutes and has two possible outcomes. If ALKADIS effect is not neutralized within twelve minutes under such a condition then those under its influence are at a risk of remaining in that state for good.

FRED

What! Why?

HU

This is because of the harsh condition under which this deployment is done. Remember, ALKABUTON 96 must never operate for more than twelve minutes when the parent ALKADIS is off. The two protect each other.

DARIUS

That approach is definitely unwelcome.

SHREE

What could cause its failure within the twelve minutes?

HU

The manner in which BTZ-AL-DA is launched. It involves external trials of closely linked ALKADIS codes from this copy of the program which does not have the exact algorithms. If the range difference is so large then it freezes ALKADIS but fails to activate its own neutralizer.

DARIUS

So, what's the possible outcome?

ΗIJ

In case external trials manage to neutralize ALKADIS, then at the end of the forty-fourth minute, AKB is automatically deactivated but it comes with a very heavy explosion because of the accumulated heat and a combination of combustible gases.

SHREE

This doesn't sound any good.

HU

The time that is required to activate ALKADIS in order to get rid of the accumulated gases and to absorb excess heat emitted within is very limited and close to impossible, bearing in mind that this operation is being done from outside the zone.

DARIUS

That leaves us with the direct confrontation option, sadly.

HU

No further choice. We have this device with us. With accuracy in timing and swift action we stand a chance of gaining access into the island where the real task awaits. Like it stands, this has to be fast.

DARIUS

(sighs)

I think we should get ready and leave right away.

SHREE

Definitely. No time to waste.

нп

Let us hurry.

Hu switches off the computer and the two screens on the wall then gets up from his seat.

DARIUS

Okay, guys. Time to get going.

EXT. CHINESE MARTIAL ARTS SCHOOL - DAY

Darius makes a phone call outside the building.

DARIUS

Sir, anything new up there?

JACKSON (V.O.)

Nothing worth mentioning, Darius. I'm afraid things are worse than the way you left them, based on what we can see over and around Vinnea. Everyone hopes in your safe return with a solution.

DARIUS

We have lots of things to say and do.

JACKSON (V.O.)

There's no time, big man. I have to improvise ways of calming down everyone around here. Any encouraging news from your side?

DARIUS

Well, we managed to get to Mr. Hu just a while ago.

JACKSON (V.O.)

You did?

DARIUS

Yea. After lots of nasty encounters within these streets.

JACKSON (V.O.)

That's the best news I've ever heard in a very long time.

DARIUS

Kinda. Though we still have a very long way to go.

JACKSON (V.O.)

Do whatever you can. You know the situation around here, don't you? Nothing, absolutely nothing has changed. Worse still, we do not know what's going on within the island. We can't even tell whether our Vice President together with other citizens have already been blown up, looking at what's coming outta there.

DARIUS

Easy, sir. Nobody is gonna get blown up in there. We've already known what is happening and how to go about it.

(MORE)

DARIUS (cont'd)

The problem is getting outta this country because it seems someone is trying to sabotage our mission.

JACKSON (V.O.)

I trust you. I know what you're capable of. Just do what you can.

DARIUS

Well, sir. I've got to join my colleagues in putting our heads together on how to find a quick easy exit.

Darius ends the conversation then gets back into the building.

INT. OFFICE OF THE INTERIOR MINISTER - DAY

Michael is engaged in a secret conversation with one particular COP #3, mid 30s as they keep checking for any possible intruder or eavesdropper.

A car is heard outside. Michael checks through the window and sees Jackson. He turns to the soldier then sends him out before Jackson comes in.

MICHAEL

Ensure you act promptly as situation demands.

COP #3

No problem, sir.

The Cop #3 meets Jackson right at the the entrance and salutes him. Jackson waves at him in response but suspiciously looks at him for some time as he walks away. Jackson then turns and meets Michael at the entrance.

JACKSON

What is he doing here at this time?

MICHAEL

Sent him on an errand.

Michael shows Jackson in as he leads the way. He offers Jackson a seat but the latter remains standing.

JACKSON

(curiously)

Errand, which one could that possibly be?

Michael gets uncomfortable. He gives Jackson a blank look then takes his seat, avoiding eye contact with his colleague.

MICHAEL

C'mon Jackson. Your questions at times irritate. Aren't you aware that there are some decisions I'm allowed to take without seeking for your approval? This particular one got nothing to do with you. We have so many issues to worry about in this country.

JACKSON

(with emphasis)

Alright, sir.

MICHAEL

I wasn't expecting you. I believe you bring with you some news appealing enough to the ears.

JACKSON

Well, the guys are leaving Nagasaki anytime from now.

MICHAEL

Sounds a bit encouraging at such times, doesn't it?

Michael gets up and picks two glasses, pours some drink then passes one to Jackson. He avoids eye contact with Jackson who studies him keenly.

MICHAEL (cont'd)

This calls for a toast. Here.

Jackson takes the glass and holds it, while still looking at his senior colleague keenly.

MICHAEL (cont'd)

Aren't you happy that at least some pressure on us is reducing?

JACKSON

It's still too early to celebrate, Mr. Minister.

MICHAEL

(curiously)

Why?

Leaving Japan is an uphill task for that team. Other than that, there's still much to be done once they get here -- according to Darius.

MICHAEL

Meaning the Chinese guy never did a thing? What a waste of our scarce resources!

JACKSON

He could do very little over there. That means they have no choice than to bring him along.

MICHAEL

Bring him along? I thought his duty was to decipher the contents of that device to enable us unlock some secrets behind the messed up state of our precious island. What the hell is he coming to do when he has already failed?

JACKSON

Circumstances demand so. It's very necessary that some operations be done right here, from within Vinnea.

MICHAEL

(midst laughter)

You kidding me, Jackson? You and I know that Vinnea is currently out of bounds, unless someone is tired of this enjoyable life.

Michael sighs then gets back to his seat.

MICHAEL (cont'd)

Interesting. Well, I have no say over that. Your area of jurisdiction.

JACKSON

I'm fully on it.

(sighs)

I'd better be going now.

Jackson sips once then puts the glass with its contents on Jackson's table.

MICHAEL

Why the haste?

I have so - so much to work on.

MICHAEL

Okay. All the best, buddy.

Jackson leaves as Michael looks at him until he gets into the car and is driven away.

He then makes a phone call to unknown person.

MICHAEL (cont'd)

(over the phone)

Listen to me, idiot. This is the final chance. They're leaving that city any moment from now. Ensure you trail them with whatever means possible. Kill the Chinese and that rascal, Roberto. No trace, I repeat no trace.

Michael hangs up then continues sipping.

EXT. VINNEA BRIDGE - DAY

Inspector Aaron walks up and down along the bridge giving instructions to his officers by hand gestures as he is engaged in a telephone conversation. He sees Jackson's car approaching him. He ends the phone conversation then walks towards the car as it stops. Jackson disembarks from it.

JACKSON

You'll need a damn good break after this.

INSPECTOR AARON

(with a smile)

Really?

JACKSON

Well deserved. Things are in order, at least out here our hope is alive, courtesy of your team's sobriety. I'm impressed.

INSPECTOR AARON

Am flattered, though this is part of what I signed for. Any progress with the Nagasaki crew?

They're on their way back, hopefully with a solution.

INSPECTOR AARON

That's a great revival of hope.

EXT. NAGASAKI - WAY TO THE AIRPORT - DAY

Two cars leave the Chinese Martial Arts School for the airport. Hu, Darius and Fred occupy seats in the front car while Shree, Nicholas and Roberto are seated in the second, both of which have different drivers.

They get intercepted midway by a van and other cars from two different directions. A number of armed guys and ninjas come out of the vehicles and surround the two cars.

Hu slowly opens the door and comes out with hands raised in surrender. Darius and Fred also do the same.

SHREE

(whispering)

What the hell are they doing?

Some ninjas carefully walk towards them in readiness to attack as other armed men aim their guns.

NICHOLAS

(whispering)

There's no way I'm gonna allow these bandits to delay us here.

Nicholas gets hold of the door to open it but Shree pulls him back.

SHREE

(whispers)

What are you doing?

NICHOLAS

(with a smile)

The needful under these circumstances.

He feigns a very heavy cough as he pushes the door open then collapses on the ground, causing a distraction. This gives his surrounded colleagues an opportunity to attack the bandits. Nicholas gets up as Shree comes out of the car to join in the fist exchange that goes on for a while.

Once they manage to beat their opponents, they start walking back to the cars. One of the bandits lying on the ground lifts his head and sees a gun near him. He reaches for it, aims and shoots Hu in the back near the shoulder. When Hu's team members turn, he shoots again and the bullet scratches Shree's arm. He finds an empty gun the third time he attempts to shoot. He gets up and starts running but Nicholas catches up with him, sending him to the ground with a flying kick that is followed by several punches in the face. The others lift Hu into one car as Shree gets hold of her bleeding arm inside the other car.

INT. NAGASAKI - HOSPITAL - DAY

Darius, Fred and Nicholas walk up and down within the hospital with looks of frustration and anger.

FRED

We're fucked up big time, man.

NICHOLAS

Whoever is giving instructions up there must be so much determined to ensure we don't leave this place alive.

DARIUS

But you know what? We're gonna get home with Master Hu. Once he's stable we're taking him right away.

FRED

Is that gonna be possible, I mean with him in that condition?

DARIUS

We have no choice. All our lives are in danger and as it stands now we can never trust anybody around here, not even the doctors. In fact we should try as much as possible to ensure we guard him as long as he is still lying unconscious in that bed.

NICHOLAS

We must go back with him even if it means getting him a doctor on board or even back home.

An Asian DOCTOR, 40s, walks directly to them. They all shift their attention to him.

DARIUS

What is the situation, doc?

DOCTOR

Not so good. But there's hope.

Shree emerges right behind the doctor with a bandage on her arm.

DARIUS

How's he?

DOCTOR

Still unconscious but we have stabilized him. He'll come around after some few hours.

FRED

Hours!

DOCTOR

Yeah. He had a severe gun wound on the shoulder. And bled a lot before getting here.

DARIUS

We do not have that time, Doc.

A slim man wearing a cap walks through the entrance and goes straight to where the doctor and the other guys are. They carefully watch him approach them.

He takes off the cap when he gets to them. He is INSPECTOR TAKOYI, 40s. He shakes hands with the doctor as the others look on with suspicion and uncertainty written on their faces.

DOCTOR

Hey, Inspector Takoyi. How are you?

INSPECTOR TAKOYI

(with a Japanese

accent)

God, doctor Raj.

DOCTOR

You have a patient within?

INSPECTOR TAKOYI

I have come to see my friend, Master Hu. I'm aware of what happened to him.

Darius and his colleagues give sigh of relief then move closer.

DOCTOR

You actually have a connection with my patient, Mr. Hu.

The doctor introduces them to the inspector.

DOCTOR (cont'd)

Hey guys. This is Inspector Takoyi, no doubt a friend of Mr. Hu's.

(to the inspector)

Mr. Hu's colleagues.

Inspector Takoyi shakes their hands, one after the other.

INSPECTOR TAKOYI

Sorry about your nasty encounter. How's my friend?

DOCTOR

Right now he's not in a position to see anybody, still unconscious.

INSPECTOR TAKOYI

It's fine, doctor. I just came to say sorry for what happened.

DOCTOR

That's thoughtful of you, Inspector.

INSPECTOR TAKOYI

Of course.

The doctor cranes his neck some distant and then turns to the guys.

DOCTOR

Seems I have a case to attend to. I'll be inside if you need me.

DARIUS

Alright, doc.

The doctor leaves.

DARIUS (cont'd)

Inspector, you said you're a friend
of Master Hu's?

INSPECTOR TAKOYI

Yeah. He is a good man loved by many but now endangered, probably because of your mission.

FRED

Our mission... How did you get to know about this?

INSPECTOR TAKOYI

I am not supposed to say or do this but I felt it was my duty to protect a friend.

DARIUS

What are you talking about, Inspector?

INSPECTOR TAKOYI

I got to the office and overheard my boss having a conversation with someone I couldn't tell and when I heard them mention the route from the Chinese Martial Arts School to the Airport and Master Hu's name, I got curious and listened to everything.

SHREE

Any clue about whoever the attackers are working for?

INSPECTOR TAKOYI

I'm not so sure but from my own point of view it could be someone within your country pulling some strings with some big fish here. Bad news is that no matter what happens to you guys here, nothing can be done about it for obvious reasons. Your safety is not guaranteed here at all. That's why someone is taking advantage of that to keep you on toes without fear of our government's intervention.

DARIUS

Thank you so much for that piece of info, Inspector.

SHREE

So what do you suggest we do, Inspector?

INSPECTOR TAKOYI

You have to leave as soon as you can because more ninjas are being assembled to come after you this night.

FRED

Those guys really mean dirty business, man.

The inspector Pats Fred's shoulder then turns to go.

INSPECTOR TAKOYI

I have to go. Take care of yourselves and the Master. Don't forget to send him my regards when he comes to.

The Inspector waves at them then wears his cap as he exits.

SHREE

We've got to think of something fast.

NICHOLAS

Sure. We have to keep our minds busy.

Darius looks at his watch.

DARIUS

Guys, time's not with us. It's past noon and we need to get home as soon as possible to save our people from becoming minions.

FRED

Yes. But we need Master Hu.

DARIUS

No doubt about that.

FRED

But he's not in a position to move around yet.

DARIUS

The doc gave us an assurance of just a few hours.

FRED

For him to gain consciousness.

DARIUS

As soon as he does that, we're good to go.

(MORE)

DARIUS (cont'd)

We must get outta this country with all of us alive. Let me try figuring out something. Will be back shortly. Stay put over there guys. No taking chances, guys.

He stealthily walks to the men's room then makes a phone call.

DARIUS (cont'd)

Afternoon, sir.

JACKSON (V.O.)

Hey Darius. Right now we are over the moon as we expect your return to solve this ugly puzzle. You guys aren't off yet?

DARIUS

It's not happening as we planned, sir.

JACKSON (V.O.)

What the... Why?

DARIUS

There's a hitch. We had a nasty encounter.

JACKSON (V.O.)

O, not at this particular time!

DARIUS

We were attacked on our way to the airport and Mr. Hu is currently in the hospital -- in a condition not so good.

JACKSON (V.O.)

That is obviously the worst news to reach anybody's ears in this country at such a time!

DARIUS

But we intend to bring him along with us no matter the situation. Perhaps we would be in need of a doctor if not doctors on standby because where we are now and the situation at hand, we are likely to get lots of injuries and maybe casualties before getting back home.

JACKSON (V.O.)

Is it that bad?

DARIUS

The bandits are really taking advantage of our vulnerability in this country to push us around.

JACKSON

Are you in any way telling me that you're engaging the Japanese in physical confrontations? You know that is not allowed, Big Man.

DARIUS

Sir, we need to defend ourselves as well as Mr. Hu together with that device. The lives of our people depend on that. In the process, some necks are unfortunately finding themselves in our itchy hands like every minute. And it seems someone up there is pulling the strings down here.

JACKSON (V.O.)

What? How's that possible?

DARIUS

Well, sir, it's happening. And the orders must be coming from the mainland because there's no way that could happen from Vinnea.

JACKSON (V.O.)

Look, Darius, I don't want to start suspecting anyone right now. Just handle the mission and once it's over we will look into that. Meanwhile, I'll try to find out the possible enemy in our midst.

DARIUS

Sir, try finding out who that is. And as you do that, send us a jet through the neutral South Korea to help us get home fast enough. We have very few hours to save the situation in Vinnea and the impending danger for the entire country and the world, if not contained.

JACKSON (V.O.)

Did you just say a few hours?

DARIUS

I'm afraid so, sir. That's what Mr. Hu told us. We have a very short time. Kinda time bomb scenario.

JACKSON (V.O.)

Okay. Okay. Let me think of how to approach this. I'll get back to you in a few.

DARIUS

Thank you, sir.

JACKSON (V.O.)

Tell the guys over there to hang on.

INT. NAGASAKI - HOSPITAL - DAY

Hu lies in the bed with his chest bare, a bandage on his left shoulder extending to part of his back. Shree is seated next to him while Fred stands next to the bed with Nicholas manning the closed door.

Darius pushes the door open, shifting everybody's attention towards that direction.

FRED

You scared the hell outta me, man.

DARIUS

(jokingly)

You should have punched me in the nose.

(to Hu)

Master, you feeling better?

Hu turns to him with a smile and nods.

DARIUS (cont'd)

That's great, sir. We're getting outta here. This place is not safe for you and not for all of us. And like you said, back home people are sitting on a time bomb.

SHREE

You found a way?

DARIUS

Kinda. I'll be waiting for a call from the Chief. Meanwhile let us put things in order and keep watch as we assemble our things.

INT. NAGASAKI - HOSPITAL - NIGHT

Darius and Nicholas support Mr. Hu on either sides as they move along one of the corridors. Shree walks quite ahead as she checks for any potential threat. Fred carefully walks behind them.

At the first turn towards the exit, Shree spots two ninjas approaching. She stops and alerts her colleagues behind. Nicholas joins her, leaving Mr. Hu with Darius and Fred.

Many more ninjas emerge from the main entrance and move in pairs along the several corridors within the large hospital. The two take a step backwards in readiness for the two ninjas coming their way.

They ambush the two and quietly render them unconscious.

DARIUS

Another ugly encounter in the offing.

SHREE

We have to make it to the exit, right away!

Along the corridor towards the exit point they encounter four others. Another nasty exchange ensues. Many more ninjas appear, leading to another long physical confrontation. Fred joins the others as Darius handles those who come to Hu's side. They eventually manage to beat all of them. Fred realizes he has a wound inflicted by one of their attackers' swords. His colleagues tie the wound in order to stop more bleeding.

Exiting through the entrance with Shree and Nicholas leading the way as Darius holds Hu and Fred holding his own wound, two police vans arrives with more than ten cops who disembark, armed with guns. Their leader shouts in Japanese as some of his colleagues approach Darius' team with handcuffs in readiness to arrest them.

Suddenly, a car emerges from the main entrance, stops and two people dressed in full ninja gear hurriedly disembark. As they all try to figure out who they are, the two ninjas attack the cops.

Shree and Nicholas join them on realizing they're on their side. One surviving cop manages to escape on foot.

The two ninjas then unveil their faces.

DARIUS

Kozuki!

SHREE

(whispers)

Inspector...!

INSPECTOR TAKOYI

Shh! You have to hurry and get out of this place now!

DARIUS

Are you gonna help us get to the airport?

INSPECTOR TAKOYI

You can never make it there. Even if you do, you'll be arrested and that is what you must avoid.

FRED

So, how is it gonna be?

INSPECTOR TAKOYI

I... I mean we have a plan.

The inspector turns to point at another car from where Roberto emerges in the company of two other guys dressed the usual ninja way.

EXT. BEACH - NIGHT

A car arrives at the harbor and stops. Two Japanese guys wearing ninja outfits come out supporting Hu on either sides, his head wearing a wig and some artificial mustache that make him look way older than he is.

Another car arrives shortly with Roberto on the wheel. He comes out and opens the trunk from where Darius emerges panting heavily.

DARIUS

I almost got boiled in there when the cops stopped the car. I thought I was never gonna see my pregnant wife ever again.

The others laugh as Kozuki leads the way towards a stationary boat tied at the shore.

FRED

Thank heavens Roberto's timely antics saved our asses.

DARIUS

I'm only sympathizing with his balls that are gonna face the crash if the cops catch up with him.

Kozuki signals them to hurry and get inside the boat.

FRED

What an unexpected early Christmas!

They hastily help Hu into the boat and get in as the two guys remain standing on the ground.

Kozuki takes his position at the driver's.

HU (SUBTITLE)

(to Kozuki in

Japanese)

Thanks, for coming to our rescue.

Kozuki smiles back as he starts the engine. Hu smiles at the other two guys remaining on the shore. They show him the sign of respect to the Master. Darius and Shree wave to the guys as they wave back.

Kozuki increases the speed.

FRED

(excitedly)

Whoa ho! Busan, here we come!

DARIUS

(to Hu)

Extend our great appreciation to your guy, master.

NICHOLAS

Of course. We almost got screwed.

FRED

That was so close, man. I saw no chance.

SHREE

The biblical God of Israel came through at the red sea moment.

DARIUS

I'm beginning to believe.

FRED

(to Darius, jokingly)
This coming Sabbath you've got to do
God Justice by presenting yourself in
his house.

Laughter ensues as the boat accelerates further.

INT. MAINLAND SECURITY HEADQUARTERS - THE NEXT DAY

PRESIDENT LUCIA, 50s, black with a medium frame and other senior government officials from Security Department together with the team from Nagasaki are all gathered.

PRESIDENT LUCIA

(to Hu)

Now that you're here we are a bit relieved that our help is nearer, even though we, I personally feel sorry for your troubles and injuries you sustained because of our problem. I assure you this gesture will not go unrewarded.

Hu strains to get up, one hand not in a position to stretch fully due to the pains from the bandaged back. Michael gives him an unfriendly look.

HU

Thank you Madam President and everyone present here. Straight to why we are here, the team that came to Nagasaki saw the demonstrations on how this whole scenario is complicated. It therefore requires quick response, proper timing and utmost keenness because any slight mistake or further delay is disastrous.

PRESIDENT LUCIA

And disaster's what we intend to avert.

BILL

Exactly. We need to save lives. Several citizens of ours are stuck in Vinnea.

(MORE)

BILL (cont'd)

But unfortunately, we have not been able to ascertain what exactly is going on over there.

HU

It's so sad that so much must have gone wrong. We have just a few hours to get in there and save the much we can.

MICHAEL

Just a few hours? How are we gonna get outta that mess within such a short time?

HU

That's why I'm here, sir. We are going to make it if certain things are put into consideration.

PRESIDENT LUCIA

Come on. Tell us these things to be put into consideration. We are ready to go to any length to rid ourselves of this horrific situation.

HU

We'd need an isolated place to be secured for our temporary station. It's dangerous but it's the only way to find our way into the island.

MICHAEL

That means you're gonna create a similar situation here?

(then)

Madam President...

PRESIDENT LUCIA

(politely)

Is that very necessary, Mr. Hu?

DARIUS

We all know that we can never gain access into Vinnea but we have to get there because our solution lies in there. Gaining access requires that Master Hu uses that device within a location under certain unfriendly conditions, if I may put it that way.

HU

Like he has said, that is very necessary, Madam President.

MICHAEL

Madam president, are you gonna allow more destruction to occur?

PRESIDENT LUCIA

Mister Murphy, he is the expert here.

Michael, obviously ashamed and furious turns his face away.

ΗU

It's true, Madam President. It is very risky and dangerous but it's the only direct way.

INSPECTOR AARON

I don't get it.

PRESIDENT LUCIA

Is there no way you can reduce the said risks, Mr. Hu?

DARIUS

That happens to be the only way out, unfortunately.

JACKSON

We have lost so much and if what the expert has said is true, then we are facing extinction. We've heard that it's just a matter of hours before we're left with nothing to salvage. Do we really have a choice, Madam President?

JUNE

Apart from material losses our people are also stuck in there alongside the Vice President is in a condition we do not know. And our armory and...

PRESIDENT LUCIA

As it stands now, we don't. We must make some critical decisions here no matter how painful and risky they are. We can't continues wasting any more time.

MICHAEL

Madam President...

PRESIDENT LUCIA

Circumstances do not allow as to continue debating over this, Mike. Time is running out. I guess it's in order and in the country's best interest that this meeting ends right at this point.

(to Hu)

Please, do what you can to make things right.

(to Jackson)

Jackson, please see into that, right away.

Jackson immediately leads the way as Hu, Inspector Aaron, Darius and other colleagues follow. They meet Alicia and other Journalists waiting outside. The journalists ask them several questions at a time but Jackson only waves at them, pointing towards the door from where the president and other officials emerge. The journalists make their way towards them. Jackson and his team drive out of the vicinity.

INT. SPECIAL ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

A similar situation to Vinnea's is visible around the small isolated building.

Jackson and his group are gathered inside the room set up with a screen on the wall, a table on which a computer rests and two seats next to it occupied by Hu and Kate. Ken stands behind Hu's seat as he concentrates on Hu's guide and demonstrations. Fred stands behind them as the others are focused on the screen on the wall.

ΗU

Once that path has been tracked and that time determined, the AKB is deactivated immediately and so is ALKADIS.

SHREE

That will be after the alert has been sent to us at the bridge.

HU

Exactly. Remember the four minutes we have.

They both nod, eyes fixed on the computer as Hu continues working on it.

HU (cont'd)

According to my path tracker here... the AKB has been operational for the past six hours and thirty-nine minutes. That means it is going to stop any time after one hour and three minutes from now.

DARIUS

Lucky us.

FRED

Did you just think we are lucky that we are gonna wait for a whopping sixty-three minutes?

SHREE

Isn't that a bit fair? I guess it's our lucky day.

HU

(to Ken and Kate)

You two have to do proper timing from here.

DARIUS

The Chief will remain here with these two guys as the rest of us move down there.

JACKSON

There's no way I'm gonna remain here. I wanna get hold of those rascals and give them real hard kicks in their asses.

Laughter ensues in the room.

DARIUS

Sir, I assure you that we're gonna capture the rascals and bring them alive for you to kick their asses as much as you desire. These guys need someone to stay with them. You can never tell.

JACKSON

Fine. Do I really have a choice?

HU

Fifteen seconds after AKB is deactivated, the alert is capable of going through. Do that immediately.

We'll be on it.

HU

Now that we have nothing to wait for, we can swing into action immediately. (to Ken and Kate)
You okay with everything?

The two guys nod.

DARIUS

(to the two)

Guys, be keen. Remember fifteen secs after deactivating the AKB, alert us.

SHREE

That means we'll be left with three minutes and a number of seconds to fight our way into the island. No mistakes, guys.

HU

Okay. Deactivate the AKB for us to get out then resume it immediately. Once you've sent us the alert, clear everything here then leave.

EXT. VINNEA BRIDGE - DAY

Darius and his team including Hu are set at Vinnea Bridge some few meters away from the marked ALKADIS zone. Behind them, Inspector Aaron and his men. The barrier and the thick smoke around and over the island are still clearly visible.

INT. MAINLAND - SPECIAL ROOM - DAY

Jackson stands while facing the big screen. Ken and Kate are glued to the computer screen, all monitoring the movement of the AKB path which approaches completion. Immediately it gets complete, Kate deactivates AKB.

JACKSON

Good. You're right on time.

Ken closely monitors the time on the computer screen which also displays on the screen in front of Jackson.

Before the end of fifteen second, Michael suddenly storms the room holding a gun and points at them, one after the other. This scares everybody as the two guys both get up and raise their hands as they tremble in fear.

JACKSON (cont'd)

(pleadingly)

Mister Minister, you know this is dangerous. Why...?

He points the gun at Jackson.

MICHAEL

Shut up, moron. You think I'm gonna waste my time and resources working on becoming a better man with great power and authority and as I'm almost actualizing it, you come from nowhere to ruin all that in the name of loyalty? No way. It's not gonna happen.

JACKSON

(pleadingly)

This is very dangerous, you know?

MICHAEL

Shut the fuck up! You think I took the loss of my presidential ticket to that woman lightly? You expect me to keep working under her as she pushes me around like some dummy, huh?

As this goes on, the clock continues ticking.

With eyes on Michael and still trembling, Ken secretly moves his hand behind his back then reaches for the gadget on the table and presses the button. Michael notices this and with the gun pointed at him, he makes slow steps towards Ken.

MICHAEL (cont'd)

(to Ken)

So you have the nerves to flaunt my order right in my presence? You son of a...

Jackson ambushes Michael, gets hold of his hand with the gun. A scuffle ensues. Ken summons courage and joins Jackson as the two struggle to overpower Michael in an attempt to prevent any gunshot.

(to Kate)

Deactivate everything and get outta here.

The two manage to overpower Michael and put him to the ground as Kate continues with the deactivation.

Once she's done, she runs out of the room as the three guys continue with the tussle.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT./EXT. VINNEA ISLAND - DAY

Immediately Hu and his team receive the alert, they rush towards the main entrance where they're met by a very large aggressive army of ninjas ready to stop them from crossing the boundary inwards.

FRED

Sure of this, Master?

Hu nods as he leads the way.

DARIUS

Let's get it done, guys. Protect Master Hu from further injuries.

A long fight scene ensues as they fight their way in to the island.

Inspector Aaron and his men pounce on the ninjas thrown outside the zone. Two of those wearing the ninja attire get struck when AKB resumes.

While inside, Darius gets hold of one ninja by the neck and drags him along as he and others beat the hell out of the others on their way to the Vinnea Hotel entrance.

Jack together with Jeff, Cynthia and the other two ninjas follow the proceedings through the screens in the manipulation room.

CYNTHIA

Master, they are getting here.

Jack laughs it off.

JACK

You afraid?

Cynthia looks at Jack with a smile of confidence.

CYNTHIA

Just an alert to get ready, Master.

JACK

Good.

(to Jeff)

We have to stop them. Now!

Jeff looks at Jack, nods in agreement with a smile then leads the way as Cynthia, Jack and the two other ninjas beside stage a uniform march out to meet their opponents.

EXT. MAINLAND - SPECIAL ROOM - DAY

Kate gets out and meets Michael's errand officer outside with a gun pointed directly at her.

COP #3

Put those things down, turn around and say your last prayers. Now!

Trembling out of fear, she puts the backpack on the ground then turns around, closes her eyes expecting to be shot. She suddenly hears a gunshot and remains frozen for some time. On turning, she sees her attacker lying on the ground stained with blood, a big wound on his back. She sees two cops approaching from the main entrance. She picks the backpack from the ground then gets into one of the cars and drives off.

Inside the room, Ken stands at the door looking confused with Michael's gun in his hand as he watches Michael and Jackson getting the better of each other as they exchange fists with a mix of wrestling.

INT. VINNEA HOTEL - DAY

Darius and his colleagues manage to push their way through the numerous soldiers fighting to keep them off Vinnea Hotel's main entrance. They proceed farther to the hall amidst fierce physical confrontations where they find Jeff, ready with a sword. Right then, Jack emerges in the company of Cynthia and his two soldiers beside him.

JACK

What a wonderful sight to behold! Hu, an ever loyal man trying to act a hero -- always. We meet again after nine years, buddy. Hu takes a few steps forward. His colleagues move with him. Jack's men draw their swords ready for a confrontation. Jack signals to them to hold on as he approaches Hu with bare hands.

JACK (cont'd)

I hear you are now a master. Congratulations. Just to let you know that I'm also advanced in many areas including your famous Kung Fu. I hope you were informed that I'm also a master.

HU

(to Jack)

You attempted to kill me when I trusted you so much that I considered you my brother. But that trust ended back there and then. It's my turn to get at you.

Jack gives a loud laughter.

JACK

Are you kidding me? You wanna challenge me with one arm broken?

Jack turns around and gestures to his two ninja soldiers to attack Hu. They hastily get into action as Darius and his colleagues also join in the fight. A great fight scene ensues in which Shree faces Cynthia, Hu gets hold of one of Jack's soldiers as Fred confronts the other. Nicholas faces Jack himself as Darius squares it with Jeff.

Hu, despite using one hand manages to beat his opponent within a very short time after which he joins Nicholas who is obviously overpowered by Jack. Fred also manages to eliminate his opponent shortly after. He then joins Shree against Cynthia as Darius and Jeff appear to be a perfect match, getting the better of each other.

After a long exchange of fists between Jeff and Darius, they get hold of each other then fall on the ground but Darius notices a sword on the ground not far away. He rolls over and grabs it. Jeff is met with the sword through his stomach as he tries to get to Darius on his lying position.

Joint effort of Shree and Fred brings to the end the life of Cynthia after a long fierce exchange of multiple martial arts techniques. At the and they both lie down in exhaustion with pain all over.

The death of his two main lieutenants infuriates Jack who becomes more lethal to both Hu and Nicholas. He gets hold of Hu's wound on the shoulder and pulls it, causing more injury to it, resulting into a fresh wound. He sends Nicholas on the ground with repeated kicks as he still holds onto Hu's painful shoulder. He grabs a nearby sword from the ground and pierces it through the same place, leaving Hu lying on the ground, wreathing in pain and bleeding profusely.

On seeing Darius approaching him, Jack takes off towards the control room. Darius follows him but he locks himself inside and does some operations as Darius struggles to open the door.

Back in the hall, Shree and Fred get to Hu who lies helpless on the ground with the bleeding wound as Nicholas struggles to get up.

The temperature starts rising within the building as well as outside all over the island. The thick cloud gradually reduces and descends lower.

FRED

You feeling that heat?

SHREE

It's getting hotter.

Hu struggles to raise his head but the pain seems to be much. The two guys notice him then struggle to get to him immediately.

HU

(struggles to speak)

We are in danger. ALKADIS has been deactivated while AKB is operational.

FRED

What?

HU

It must be corrected within twelve minutes, remember?

Hu then lies silent, getting the others worried.

They are suddenly interrupted by a great kick from Jack that sends Darius their way to the ground. Jack appears from the corridor coming after Darius.

JACK

It's either I get rid of all of you or we all die.

(MORE)

JACK (cont'd)

No one is gonna leave this hall alive. The room is getting hotter, right? The only one who can rescue you now is right there half dead. After twelve minutes, you'll have my zombie soldiers to contend with. But before that I wanna show you the stuff I'm made of.

Jack prepares himself for a serious fight against all the four guys as Hu still lies on the ground.

DARIUS

(to Shree)

Take care of the Master and see if you can reverse that mess.

Darius, Nicholas and Fred all clench their fists and approach Jack at ago. Jack gives the three a very hard time from his great martial arts skills and physical strength.

SHREE

(to Hu)

You're getting worse.

HU

(in a declining voice)
We have to get to the control room.
Time is ticking. You have to help me up.

Shree struggles to support Hu up.

Jack sees them getting up and heading towards the control room. He gets more charged, throws all the three on the ground and starts going after Hu and Shree but Darius gets hold of his leg.

DARIUS

(to Shree)

Watch your back. That way.

Shree turns to the direction pointed by Darius as she increases the pace while supporting Hu whose condition seems to be worsening.

Fred and Nicholas get up and join Darius. This time their attack on Jack becomes more severe.

Finally, Shree notices an open door leading to a room and on checking she realizes it's the right room.

SHREE

Master, here it is.

Shree helps him sit on the only chair in front of a desk holding the computer.

Hu struggles to do some operations but he collapses. Shree gets hold of him.

SHREE (cont'd)

Master!

She helps Hu lie on the ground then quickly turns to the computer and struggles through.

All this while, Jack still gives the three guys a very hard time in the hall as they vandalize several things in the process.

After some time, the screen in front of Shree displays 'SUCCESS'.

The heat starts reducing within the building and all over the island. The smoke over the island gradually gets back to the previous position.

The fight between Jack against the other three guys goes on for some time as Shree continues attending to Hu, who seems to have completely passed out while bleeding profusely.

The fierce fight eventually subsides as the three guys overpower Jack, beating him until he gets weaker and unable to stand straight with Darius holding him from the back as the other guys land blows and kicks on him mercilessly.

DARIUS

Enough guys. He is finished. Let's tie him up.

Shree storms out of the control room towards the hall where she meets Fred and Darius along the corridor. They return back together and find Hu lying on the floor, still bleeding profusely.

SHREE

We need to find him immediate help.

DARIUS

But we can't get outta here unless we deactivate that AKB of a thing.

SHREE

I can do that.

DARIUS

Then what are we waiting for?

FRED

You forgetting, man. You wanna leave our people in that zombie state?

SHREE

O, no!

FRED

(to Shree)

You got a clue on how to go about it?

SHREE

Master Hu never guided us through that.

Darius gets restless.

DARIUS

What are we gonna do? His condition is worsening here. He needs to be taken outta here immediately.

FRED

Unfortunately we can't get outta here before restoring our people's sanity.

SHREE

We have to solve it here right now.

FRED

Anyone got a damn clue?

DARIUS

You guys can't remember the neutralizer? Search for BTZ-AL-DA or something like that.

Shree gets into action immediately. Fred joins her as Darius continues attending to Hu.

SHREE

Can't seem to get it right.

FRED

Keep searching.

Shree struggles to search for it and eventually finds it. The screen showcases the flow of the gas as they watch.

SHREE

There it goes.

After some time the activation succeeds.

Watching the occurrences of the island through the screen within the room, they get scared when they see several people, including those wearing ninja attires collapse while those lying down seem to have lost consciousness.

FRED

Did we just kill them?

This attracts the attention of Darius. He joins them.

SHREE

(fearfully)

What's going on?

Tension rises in the room as they feel sorry for everyone and themselves. They try consoling each other by embracing in a hug. This is interrupted when Nicholas notices the same people getting up and kinda coughing.

FRED

Jeez! Guys, guys...

They all disengage from each other and focus on the screen, excitement written all over their faces,

FRED (cont'd)

You did it, girl!

DARIUS

(excitedly)

Amazing! Now deactivate AKB, we're taking the master outta here now.

SHREE

Okay. Get going. I'm right on it.

Darius and Fred get hold of Hu and hurriedly take him out of the hall as Shree gets to deactivating ALKABUTON 96.

After a short while, the rays start disappearing gradually. Vehicles start moving as other machines start operating as before. Things get back to normal.

Occurrences outside draw the attention of those who had locked themselves indoors. They then walk out of their confinements. The Vice President gets up from the ground looking confused on seeing everyone around him in the same ninja attire.

Doctors meet Darius and Fred carrying Hu at the main entrance and help him into an ambulance after which they're whisked away.

Shree and Nicholas emerge from behind thereafter, looking messed up and exhausted amidst cheers by those outside. One vehicle from the N-SES department makes a stop right in front of them. The door is opened for them to get inside while Jack is forcefully bundled inside under very tight security.

EXT. MAINLAND SECURITY HEADQUARTERS - DAY

President Lucia, other senior government officials and journalists are gathered, eyes directed towards the main entrance. Jackson's official car makes its way into the vicinity, followed by two other official cars. Everyone's attention shifts to them as Jackson disembarks and turns to the car behind his. Michael emerges with both hands cuffed behind him. Two officers get hold of him on both sides as Jackson leads them towards the President.

Shortly after, the Vice President's official vehicle emerges from the main entrance followed by others belonging to the N-SES and cops from Vinnea. The VP waves at the journalists then joins the President and other officials where they are seen exchanging pleasantries.

Shree and her colleagues disembark form the vehicle, followed by Jack whose hands are also tied behind him, under tight security. The President and the other officials look at the two suspects in disbelief and disgust.

PRESIDENT LUCIA

(to Michael)

Really?

(then, to the cops)
Bundle them outta my sight.

She shakes her head in dismay as the security personnel whisk the two away.

Journalists try reaching Michael to get any word from him but he looks at them harshly and gets into the vehicle without saying a word.

Jackson and his N-SES team members smile at each other as the vehicles leave. He then turns to the president, who also turns to him with a smile of satisfaction.