



Djinn 3: Le Tatouage

(Djinn 3: The Tattoo)

by Jean Dufaux & Ana Miralles

<http://comixinflux.com/influx/show/25>

Contributors

pikayev

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[1:1] I'm looking for a woman. // [1:2] And for what I represent, for the name that I bear, there is no greater humiliation. // [1:3] A Sultan doesn't search. He takes. // [1:4] I've listened to you Mr Goldman because I remain persuaded... // [1:5] ...that you will not require much time to retrieve my favourite. Jade.

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[2:1] Your highness, it's the Englishman. He took me by surprise. I ignored his little schemes. He didn't seem set on anything other than retrieving his wife. I don't understand it. // [2:2] Youssouf. // [2:3] You have three days to retrieve Jade. // [2:4] Do not delay. I will accompany you to take your head. If you don't believe me, ask around about Youssouf. // [2:5] Youssouf Sarki. // [2:6] You... Youssouf Sarki. // [2:7] Sarki...

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[3:1] Ebu Sarki? // [3:2] That's me. Enter without fear. // [3:3] You're beautiful. Asherdan already told me that. He attempted to describe you, but his words don't do you justice. // [3:4] Kim: Asherdan was too occupied with counting to describe me. // Ebu: What was he counting. // [3:5] 30 tiny bells. Here you see the last. I've achieved the rite. The one that finally allows me to speak with you. // [3:6] Thirty little bells. Thirty men who had you. At their pleasure according to their pleasure. // [3:7] It's done. It was their pleasure, not mine. // [3:8] You talk like a genie. A genie who should be nude talking to her master in this way.

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[4:1] Like this? // [4:2] I've come to ask a favour. A man is imprisoned in your cells. SApre his life and I'll do anything you desire. // [4:3] Thjis man, do you love him? // [4:4] I believe a genie incapable of love. // [4:5] Ebu Sarki: You're already prepared as you've proved by the bells. // Kim: Prepared for what? // [4:6] To receive my guests. To satify them as they wish. You will abandon all insolence, genie.

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[5:1] Why did he call me a genie? I'm not a genie. // [5:2] I'll speak with him... after... satisfy his guests. since that's what he calls them. // [5:3] Satisfy his guests. I'm talking like a prostitute now. // [5:4] A prostitute. Is that what I've become? // [5:6] No, my destiny's not among them. // [5:7] It's her. It's truly her. // [5:8] Ebu: The woman I've waited such a time for. // Asherdan: Do you want to make her your favourite? No other person should touch her. // [5:9] No. Because she's achieved the rite. She has penetrated the heart of the harem.

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[6:2] That bastard has kidnapped the Sultan's favourite. And I risk my head if I don't return her quickly. You've got to help me Mustapha. // [6:3] Mustapha: It's strange. We cultivate Lord Nelson to compromise himself for his wife, and he leaves with another. The least we can say is that wasn't predicted. Had he met Jade before? // Samuel: Yes, but... // [6:4] Jade is very beautiful. Who knows what occurs in an Englishman's heart? He seems uninterested to us, but in reality... desire bites. // [6:5] We'll go back to the wife. Why did she desert her husband? Why is she taking refuge in the Sultan's harem? Because she's in love. In love with Jade. // [6:6] Mustapha: Also, let me give you some advice. Watch the English woman. She'll lead you to the oriental woman. Brown skin commands white skin. Take this gun. You'll find it useful. // Samuel: Useful for what? // [6:7] To get rid of the Englishman. The insult to the Sultan must be avenged. // [6:8] That vermin, addressing me like that. But his advise was good. I'll get you back Jade, wherever you are.

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[7:1] Where am I? // [7:2] Nowhere. // [7:3] Jade: Every place has a name. I'll find the name, and the road that brought me here. // Lord Nelson: The roads are short around here. And to warn you... // [7:4] Lord Nelson: If you're tempted to try escaping, I'll break your head. // Jade: You'll never see your wife again. The Sultan will have her executed. // [7:5] What makes you think I want to see her again? Nothing can compensate for the humiliation I've endured. Nothing except... // [7:6] ...indifference. // [7:7] This dress sticks to my skin.

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[8:1] I'm going to bathe. If that's not forbidden. // [8:2] Don't leave my eyesight. // [8:7] This will be easy. // [8:8] She believes this will be easy. // [pp;9] // [9:1] A fire? Don't you think that will attract attention? // [9:2] Lord Nelson: No-one comes here. It's an isolated place. Wild // Jade: Enough to deter travellers? Some of them are quite adventurous. // [9:3] Lord Nelson: I've a gun. I won't hesitate to use it on them. // Jade: And how long will we remain here? // [9:4] Lord Nelson: Until Lady Nelson collects us. Only she knows this place. She'll come. // Jade: So be it. I understand for now. // [9:5] She'll come. For you. Not for me. // [9:6] And so you achieve two victories. You recover your wife and revenge yourself on the whore. // [9:7] Like I told you, I don't know if I want to recover her... // [9:8] but the Sultan will experience the stench of humiliation as I have.

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[10:1] The Sultan will have your head. And your hands and feet. The rest he'll throw on the fire. // [10:2] In my arms your wife learned pleasures she couldn't have contemplated before. I can reveal them to you. Traded for my freedom. Consider it, if you want to save your life. // [10:3] The slut! // [10:4] In a way we could be equal. // [10:5] Sir Hawkins, equality is a delusion. // [10:6] It bothers certain of your contemporaries, but look around us. No-one pretends equality with his neighbour. There is as much pride in humiliation as in control. // [pp;11] // [11:1] The laws of the harem, I fear they reflect you your excellency. // [11:2] These laws, one of your compatriots had no hesitation in breaking them. // [11:3] If your excellency refers to Lord Nelson, I can assure you department disapproves of his actions. Anyway, Lord Nelson has resigned from the embassy. He doesn't work for us any more. // [11:4] Sultan: So where can I find him? // Hawkins: I don't know your excellency. // [11:5] Hawkins: These... these cobras... aren't they dangerous? // Sultan: Yes. Why? // [11:6] Let me assure you Raz Felu keeps them calm with his pipes. But were he to stop playing... well... // [11:7] I shall say no more. // [11:8] Let us return to Lord Nelson. If by chance... I say by good chance, you happen to come across him, tell him that his gesture could poison our relations considerably. There is, among the people gathered here, a man who doesn't like you.

[12:1] And to whom I must sometimes listen. It's Enver Pacha. He's an old military attache from Berlin. He swears by Kaiser Wilhelm. // [12:2] An ardent Germanophile who dreams of becoming Minister of War. Who knows? Perhaps one day he will be. These young Turks are ambitious. They dream of possibility. To them I'm an old man. A man of the past, without a future. // [12:3] Sultan: And the future is war, new alliances. I asked Raz Felu to recall his snakes. They seem to make you uncomfortable. // Hawkins: Nothing to worry about your excellency. // [12:4] We were talking about equality between your two countries, Britain and Germany. I still hesitate about where to take the first step forward. The ally for my country, Lord Nelson has brought trouble all over. Germany gives, Britain takes. That's unfortunate. // [12:5] Hawkins: "Germany gives". Those were his exact words. // We're not wholly at fault.

[14:1] Jade: Usually I find no pleasure in men. // Lord Nelson: Not even the Sultan? // [14:2] The Sultan is my master. I don't count him. He's the only one who satisfies me. // [14:3] Jade: But... // Lord Nelson: But... // [14:4] With you it's different. Your hands are soft, as is your look. You give. That's unusual for a man. // Lord Nelson: And your conclusion is? // [14:5] Again. // [14:6] Again. // [14:7] You drink too much my dear. You risk indisposing yourself. // Kim: It's when I'm sober that I feel indisposed, sir. // [14:8] Or should I say dear Customer?

[18:1] I'm thick skinned lard-arse. // [18:2] Zito? // [18:3] Zito's chewing the dust. // [18:4] The keys. I need the keys. // [18:5] Result! // [18:6] It's because of that I find myself trapped. They'll torture him to death if I don't obey them. // [18:7] Amin: That's all? // Kim: What do you mean that's all? // Amin: You didn't submit only to save this man. // [18:8] No, you have a precise goal. A goal worth many sacrifices. A treasure, for example.

[20:1] I know. // [20:2] Lord Nelson: What do you know? // Jade: The main thing. // [20:3] The rhythm of your heart when you approach. Come, I need you. // [20:4] I found a box of henna. // [20:5] You can choose a place on my body to write your name. // [20:6] Jade: We'll see if the charm works. // Lord Nelson: What charm? // Jade: Wait. // [20:9] The letters! They disappeared.

[13:1] The Austrian and German capitals are rich. The biggest hotel in the town, the Péra Palace, is over-run with their engineers and German financiers. It's down to them that we have the construction of the railway to Baghdad. // [13:2] It's true. This opening in the Arab-Persian Gulf is dangerous. London sees it as menacing the route to the Indies. Our esteemed Rudyard Kipling is writing an article on the matter. // [13:3] We could really do without this folly. Kidnapping the Sultan's favourite! What was he playing at? // [13:4] Would you like to talk about Jade? It appears she's a genie. She poisons mens' hearts then leads them to their doom. // [13:5] Hawkins: Do you believe in this rubbish? // I've never had the pleasure of meeting Jade. It's Lord Nelson you should ask. // [13:6] Lord Nelson, yes, but who knows where he's hidden himself. // [13:7] That's strange.

[15:1] The real customers have already retired to their bedrooms and they've summoned their companions. I was surprised that of all of them you were not selected. // Kim: Oh, I'm not as professional as I seem. That's how it feels. // [15:2] Ebu: You allow this? // Man: I'm asking you. // [15:4] Miss Nelson, one of guests has asked for you. In the rosette room. // [15:5] The Rosette room? // [15:6] A new recruit? She's superb. // Ebu: And intact. // [15:7] Whatever happens to him she will remain undamaged. // [pp:16] // [16:1] Come in. // [16:2] You!! // [16:3] Small world, isn't it? Coffee or tea? // [16:4] I've paid a fortune to get you into this room. I hope I won't regret it. // [16:5] Kim: Bastard. You know I'm at your mercy. // Amin: I've learned certain things. // [16:6] A prisoner festers in the jails of Morta Sala. It seems you love him mand his life depends on your docility. Have I been misled? // [16:7] Now, stay and prove this or learn the meaning of sacrifice. Up to sharing the bed of a man you despise? // [16:8] Let's get this over with.

[17:1] You've paid. How would you like it? // [17:2] She's loving. Or has the genie taken over? // [17:3] Get dressed again. Never forget I have a taste for luxury. I don't like women who give without pleasure or desire. Anything else encumbers me. // [17:4] Tell me more about this prisosner of whom you are so fond. Is it this young man who saved you at Thesos? // [17:5] Kim: Malek. His name is Ibram Malek. // Guard: Hey, wake up. // [17:6] Damn. He's not moving. // [17:7] He can't already be... // [17:8] Dead? No. Not yet.

[19:1] I'll return your notebook. I found the name Ebu Sarki there. What role does he play in this story? // [19:2] Ask him that question. // [19:3] No, you'll have more chances with me. A woman here can achieve a certain power. Play on. I'll support you by voicing my satisfaction. // [19:4] Amin: So, friends? // Kim: That depends on what you're proposing. // Amin: 50/50. That seems a fair split. Not that you have any choice. // [19:5] Kim: I'll not forget your generosity. It's spared a humiliation that would have dragged me too far down. I accept, but I have a condition. // Amin: Which is? // [19:6] Kim: SAve Malek. He can leave with you. // Amin: If he has no claim of a share, I see no disadvantage. // [19:7] Amin: One last thing. // Amin: Yes // [19:8] You have no desire for me? // [19:7] You're a woman of breeding Kim Nelson. A woman of breeding never asks that type of question. She knows.

[21:1] So rapidly. That's strange. Only at the moment the name of my master has evaporated. // [21:2] You are under my skin now. Your smell raises my blood, moves my flesh. Everything is alive. And you're forcing it. Don't stop enforcing it. // [21:3] Stop. // [21:7] Jade. // [21:8] I'm here.

[22:1] Jade: It seems the situation has turned to my advantage. I only have to pull the trigger and... // Lord Nelson: And? // [22:2] Don't answer. Pull. // [22:4] The letters of your name haven't stopped moving. They've caught my heart. // [22:5] Someone's coming. Your wife, I believe. // [22:6] The henna's pretty. How long does it last? // [22:7] Servant: Not long. I can paint your entire body if you'd like. // Kim: I like the thought of it. // [22:8] Good idea. I've a client who likes to lose himself among arabesques on the skin.

[24:3] My country sometimes has certain bewitchings. Perhaps you'll know how to listen to them. // [24:6] Bewitchings? What bewitchings?

[26:2] I... I hear. // [26:3] By the wishes of the master, move back and abstain yourself. // [26:5] Follow me. // [26:7] The blood of our empire. A genie transformed according to his whims.

[28:1] Kim: It's fabulous, but all these reptiles. // Sultan: A last whim of the genie, but it should not scare you. // [28:2] If the invocation is spoken correctly there is no risk. // [28:3] By the wishes of the master, move back and abstain yourself. // [28:4] Perfect. You are definitely the one I awaited. // [28:5] Selim Im: Master // Ebu: You may leave Selmi Im. I'm happy with you. // [28:6] What a strange feeling. It was me, but at the same time I was someone else. // [28:7] Ebu: Jade. Her blood courses through your veins. She wants you know, to learn. // Kim: Learn what? // [28:8] What became of the treasure.

[30:1] Kim: Yes, and we can use him, but wait until tonight. // Ibram: Why? // [30:2] Kim: Because tonight Ebu Sarki's going to reveal his secrets to me. I mirage appeared to me Malek. I'm not myself any more, I'm her. // Ibram: Who? // [30:3] Jade. // [30:4] Jade, answer me. // [30:5] It's her you're looking for. I don't mean anything to you now? // [30:6] Lady Nelson: Harold, I knew I would find you here. // Lord Nelson: We had a lot of good times in the past. For now though... // [30:7] Lord Nelson: ...we'll very our pleasures. // Lady Nelson: 'Our' pleasures. // [30:8] Ours.

[32:1] Ebu: One time a woman attempted to hide these documents. I strangled her with my own hands. // Kim: I know your reputation as an assassin. The notebook reveals it. // [32:2] Do you accept this gift? It comes from your grandmother. // [32:4] The favourite has the right to recite the sacred words that open the doors. The favourite had the right to know the way, the way that leads to the treasure. // [32:5] Ebu: The favourite betrayed the sultan. The treasure never arrived in the German coffers. // Kim: How did it happen? // [32:6] The heart of the favourite was stolen. The horns of the genie left her soul. She became capable of love. // [32:7] My final bell. // [32:8] Come...

[34:1] I'm going to be able to rectify a shaky situation. With all the big cards in my hand, it's not a big gamble. // [34:2] I trump you. // [34:3] Youssouf. // [34:4] Second round. // [34:5] Your husband is brave. // [34:6] You can kill the Englishman. // [34:7] No!

[23:1] Ebu: I congratulate you. One of my guests declared his satisfaction with your services. He's thinking of prolonging his stay at Morta Sala. // [23:2] Ebu: He's asked for exclusive use of your body. // Kim: And you accepted? // [23:3] Ebu: I refused. // Kim: Why? // Ebu: I'm going to grant you a big favour. // [23:4] I want you to become my favourite. Before that, though, I need to make sure of something. // [23:5] Fetch Selim Im. I want him to dance for us. // [23:6] Don't leave Selim Im's sight. He'll lead you into the heart of the harem. We shall see if you find your place there.

[25:3] He's showing me the way. // [25:4] Jade, come here. // [25:5] I'm not Jade. My name is Nelson, Kim Nelson. // [25:6] Let me prove the faith I place in you. // [25:7] Behind this door you'll find the treasure destined for our future allies. Listen well.

[27:1] The blood of Fazil Ahmet Pacha. // [27:2] The blood became gold, rubies, opals... // [27:3] The blood of Hyreddin Pacha. // [27:4] The blood of Bayezid I. // [27:5] The blood of Sulieman I.

[29:1] Malek. Do you remember? I am researching my grandmother. // [29:2] I found her. She wasn't far. // [29:3] Apologies... // [29:4] ...for interrupting another quiet dream. // [29:5] Kim: Oh Malek, Malek. // Ibram: Not so loud. // [29:6] Ibram: managed to escape, but they weren't slow in raising the alarm. I need to leave here as soon as possible. // Kim: But, how? // [29:7] Ibram: All the exits are watched except one. // Kim: Which? // Ibram: The roof. I've noticed a helicopter on one of the exterior paths. It's not guarded. // [29:8] Kim: The helicopter belongs to Amin Doman. // Ibram: He's here?

[31:1] Mustapha was right. Follow the woman and you won't be disappointed. // [31:2] Tonight I'll mount a raid. // [31:3] Tonight the harem will reveal its mysteries to you. // [31:4] Kim: What have you put in my glass? // Ebu: A recipe of your grandmother's. She perfumed certain things. // [31:5] It acts as a powerful aphrodisiac. The Sultan particularly appreciated it. // [31:6] Kim: You're the Sultan at the moment. Everything becomes more democratic. // Ebu: That's how I can permit you to become my favourite. // [31:7] The only one to whom I can deliver the secrets I've been confided.

[33:1] Do you remember? Naked bodies cannot cheat. // [33:4] What a charming scene. It seems our morals are slipping. // [33:5] Samuel: I didn't expect so many big fish in my net. // Lord Nelson: You! // [33:6] I don't know why, but I sense my fortune is made. // [33:7] Samuel: Hassan, take them to the felouque. I'll have a quick look around the rest of the house. // Lord Nelson: Wait. // [33:8] Lord Nelson: Who sent you? Hawkins? The Sultan? // Samuel: We're talking the highest bidder. It's a matter for negotiation.

[35:1] I'm busy with him. You can wait for me outside. // [35:2] Youssouf hesitated. A moment was decisive. In giving him that order Jade made him choose between two masters, the Sultan or herself. // [35:3] And my grandfather bowed. // Youssouf: As you say mistress. // [35:4] Lord Nelson: Jade... // Jade: No, I must go. // [35:5] I know a place where you can hide. No-one will find you. When the time comes, I'll send you a signal. You must be quick. // [35:6] Jade: You know I'll never break my word. And you also know why. // Lord Nelson: I... // [35:7] A pact was sealed. Jade rejoined Youssouf. Lord Nelson was seen through the eyes of the genie with a new brightness, a spark of tenderness. That tenderness would remain hidden for now...

[36:1] ...from the Sultan. // Sultan: And the Englishman, Lord Nelson? // [36:2] The Englishman... // [36:4] The white woman, Lady Nelson, she surprised everyone, her husband and Jade. She was armed. She fired. The Englishman collapsed. I was concerned for my mistress. I drew my sword... // [36:5] And the English heads rolled to my feet. Their bleached corpses are now beneath the desert sands. // [36:6] So, I can believe your mission was successful? // [36:7] Out of love for you the husband and wife killed each other. Desire leads to madness. And without the intervention of Youssouf, my favourite would also be dead. // [36:8] No-one dares contradict Jade's words, the Sultan's chosen.

[38:1] Sultan: Jade. // Jade: Yes. // [38:2] Sultan: Your body's burning in this spot. I feel something moving under my hand. // Jade: It was the Englishman. He beat me savagely. // [38:3] Sultan: That's strange, it doesn't seem like a bruise. // Jade: There's pain nonetheless. // [38:4] Pain, yes, it's there. // [38:5] Sultan: Jade, I've made my decision. I've chosen the allies most suitable for our country. Enver Pacha advised that the British stammer, the Germans promise. // Jade: If the English stammer it's thanks to you, my master. // [38:6] Sultan: Praise Allah, I hope no-one's deceived me. You help Von Henzig to find the treasure. Open the big door for him. He can have the first room. This is the last mission I'll confer on you. // Jade: The last? Why? // [38:7] Too much pain. Too much beauty. One should never fall in love with a genie.

[40:2] Did you hear that? // [40:3] Go no further, go no further. // [40:4] They won't let you any further. If you carry on... // [40:5] Von Henzig: Who is this scarecrow? // Jade: An Englishman. I know him. He spies for the Sultan, my master. // [40:6] Von Henzig: Really? // Samuel: I fell into a trap. They took me with their... I managed to escape them. // [40:7] They were looking out for you. It's a trap. She prevented them...

[42:1] Ebu: ...it disappeared, as if by magic. Slaves, soldiers, riders, nothing was found of that imposing caravan led by Von Henzig. // Kim: What happened to it? // [42:2] Ebu: The answer awaits you at the place indicated on the map. // Kim: The place where the treasure is found? // Ebu: The first room will open for you. Only the first room. // [42:3] Kim: And Jade? // Ebu: Your grandmother // [42:4] Time passed. The Sultan was overthrown by Enver Pacha who headed the young Turks. The women of the harem were evicted or returned to their families. A world collapsed. Powder came to replace perfumes. // [42:5] During this disorder, this collapse, a three-sail took Jade to the British Isles. It seems the favourite hadn't succumbed to the desert. On the contrary, she had scooped new powers. // [42:6] She never left an English couple, a Lord and his wife with eyes that burned like sand. Their nights became confused with mornings, and they came when the Lord deposited pieces of gold on the Captain's tablecloth. The world belongs to adventurers, if they survive.

[44:1] No-one. // [44:2] This time I'm taking my chance. // [44:3] Doman, open up it's me. // [44:4] Amin: Enter, my dear. Have you obtained what you wanted? // [44:5] Ibram: Sorry Kim. You told me we could trust him. I was too trusting. // [44:6] The treasure map. It's what you were waiting for. // [44:7] I believed we were partners. // [44:8] I don't need any more partners than this piece of paper.

[46:2] Master, they succeeded in taking off. // [46:3] Good. They don't suspect anything? // [46:4] How could they know master? // [46:5] Goodbye Morta Sala. // [46:6] Until later, Genie. // [46:7] Asherdan: You're letting them go? // Ebu: Their going to accomplish their destiny ASherdan. Becoming the favourite didn't satisfy her. She's chosen another path. // [46:8] Just like Jade, her grandmother.

[37:1] The scandal echoed throughout the British colonies. At the end of the day, my doors are closed to Sir Hawkins. // Hawkins: I don't believe it. // [37:2] Hawkins: And still no news of Nelson? // It's been three weeks since we started out investigations, sir, without much success we must confess. // [37:3] We finally discovered Lord Nelson had a small house near Kandilli. We searched there and... // Hawkins: And? // [37:4] It was rather eloquent. Furniture thrown around, dinnerware smashed, blood on the curtains, and this. // [37:5] "I love Jade. I never enjoyed my husband's touch. My family should ignore this carry on." // [37:6] Hawkins: And the author? // We've identified the handwriting sir, it's Lady Nelson's. // [37:7] It only remains to find the bodies. We're working on it.

[39:1] Kim: He didn't trust her any more? // Ebu: Who knows? Perhaps he sensed death was coming. // [39:2] It it had Jade's eyes. // [39:3] What he did intensified the politics between the Sultan's court and the Berlin government. Wilhelm II visited Jerusalem to proclaim himself a friend of the Muslims, and it was the German Liman Von Sanders who reorganised the Turkish army. The British retreated entangled by contradiction. This turnaround, and the scandal wanted by the Sultan. // [39:4] In accordance with his wishes, a long column set off into the desert, led by his favourite and Von Henzig.

[41:1] I don't understand any of this gibberish. So... // [41:2] I don't understand any English. // [41:4] So the caravan continued. Bad luck to those who didn't stop to listen to the mirages, the voice of the desert. Because it's not a question of comprehension, but of faith. // [41:5] And the body of Samuel Goldman was enveloped by the sand. Everything becomes sand, grain, whiteness, non-existence. // [41:6] And when the column arrived at its destination. // Jade: There.

[43:1] They survived. Jade's stomach ballooned. In time they took possession of their new place, a manor house in Wiltshire. It was Lady Nelson who carried the infant in her arms. // [43:2] Kim: That child, was it my mother? // Ebu: She took the name Nelson. Jade was content there. // [43:3] Master, Master. // [43:4] Ebu: Who dares disturb me? // Asherdan: Pardon me, master, But it's important. The prisoner has escaped. // [43:5] Ah! // [43:6] Kim: What is it? // Ebu: Something urgent. I'll have to leave you. // [43:7] It's time.

[45:1] You'll need something else to open the doors, and I know that incantation. // [45:2] Ah! // [45:3] You wouldn't have wanted me not to try! // [45:4] Bastard. // [45:4] I'll... // [45:6] Wait. Do you know how to pilot a helicopter? // [45:7] Me, I know. // [45:8] We're wasting time. Come on.