

ON ASPHALT BONES

EPISODE 5: HEAD TRAUMA

By Scarlett Foster

Cast:

- Sivan Raz as The Speaker/Cult Leader
- Devin McLaughlin as The Soldier
- Megan Scarlau as The Inquisitor

Content Warnings:

- Cults
- Gore (SFX and description)
- Loss of life (e.g. death)
- Description of mass death/genocide
- Insanity
- Interpersonal conflict between main characters

EPISODE 3A - DOTINGS ON ZEALOTRY

INT. BROADCAST ROOM - MORNING

Audio captured by UNCREDITED from Radio.

A man in his fifties operates a low-fidelity FM radio.

We'll call him the SPEAKER.

These are limited by line-of-sight so the receiver is likely somewhere nearby: they are probably spying/keeping tabs... just in case that crops up ;)

Also, the SPEAKER appears to be the leader of the cult. He does not associate with the congregation, however, as he quickly dropped from 100 to 0 - if, of course, he was ever a 100.

SPEAKER

(tap, tap) Test, test.

(whispering) Was that alright?

Could you hear that? How do I

No, I know I speak into the mic,
but - it's broadcasting? Right,
good.

Greetings, Children of the Eye!

We, in our holiness and purity
of score, have seen fit to use
this F. M. device of the old
world to bring the good word of
the Eye to all you folks at the
compound! Of Course, we can't be
letting any members of the
congregation sully their scores

with electronics, so you won't hear this... it's just a bit of a shame, really - but this sermon won't be wasted! Just know that our praises are being cast out into the great unknown, drawing in those who have heard and who seek the word and the praise and the glory of the Eye! Behold, then, great Eye, O Judgement, as we declare your might - praises to thee be!

Now, praises being said, I must turn my own Eye to the glaring issues within our own community: there are, of course, those who would reject the Eye and its Judgement - these sort of folk tend to keep their distance and we, knowing they are beyond saving, would keep ours.

However, it has come to my attention that there are those within this community who would seek to harbour such heathens, allowing in their toxic ideals to poison the minds of those around us. This will NOT be tolerated. We will find anybody who has been ferrying these...

these... *heretics* and there will be consequences for all involved: for those who report such activity, for example, I'm sure the Eye shall gaze upon you with its resplendent favour - what prize can I offer that is greater than the adoration of the one true *God*? Than the promise of an ever-increasing score?

Now. There has been distrust spread amongst certain members of the community, who - for now - I shall leave unnamed, for hope that they may reconsider their decision to... act out. Why, you may ask, do I decline to show myself, perfect though I may be, second only to the Eye - our *God*, the true and only *God*. The answer, my friends, is simple: I have convened with the Eye! I have seen its light and it has addressed me and me alone, and has sworn to aid us in spreading its word if we follow its command.

Note: I think he truly believes this, or has at least convinced himself of such.

I do not fear those who would
conspire against us, but it is
in our best interests that I
remain here, under protection,
to ensure that the Eye can
impart its divine wisdom, and I
can further realise and enact
its will!

Join me, friends, in
celebration, and offer up your
worldly possessions to the Eye,
to feed its divine hunger and
enable it to bless us with its
wisdom furthermore! We welcome
you to this

The radio trails off in the last paragraph
(don't worry about preserving the words)
as signal noise takes over. Then into the
intro, followed by 3b.

EPIISODE 3B - FRANKLY DELUSIONAL
INT. AN UNDISCLOSED HOLDING SITE (AS IN
EPIISODE 1C). SMALL ROOM. TIME UNKNOWN.

Recording starts.

SOLDIER

(continually) No. No. No. No.
No. No. No. No.

INQUISITOR

(coughs) Hello?

SOLDIER continues.

Duck soldier volume a bit when the INQUISITOR speaks,
and leave a minor pause between sections of dialogue filled
with normal-volume "no"s.

Right... Well, I'm going to ask a
few follow-up questions about
the Judgement.

SOLDIER continues.

Hello? Mr/Ms/Mrs [SOLDIER's
surname]? The Judgement? More
questions?

SOLDIER continues.

The Eye? The Judgement?

SOLDIER continues.

(stammering)The big...

(confidently) The Eye in the Sky?

SOLDIER continues.

Hmm... I wonder if...

Ineffable.

SOLDIER instantly stops.

Use the same reverb etc. effects from Episode 2B.

(mumbling to self) I should
probably avoid that. Well, works
for now. (speaking normally)
Anyway, are you with me now?
Hello?

SOLDIER

(spits) Welcome back. Prick.

INQUISITOR

Come on now, is that any way to
greet an old friend?

SOLDIER

Sorry, didn't realise friends
left friends to rot.

INQUISITOR

Yes, well... Difficult times and
all.

SOLDIER

Whatever. Get to the point.

INQUISITOR

RIght. This won't take too long,
don't wo

SOLDIER

I. Don't. Care.

INQUISITOR

Sure. Well then - what did you
see when you looked into it, the
Judgement?

SOLDIER

When I looked into the
Judgement... No. No, I won't do
that. I *can't* do that. I don't
want to. Don't make me do that!
Please don't!

INQUISITOR

Hey, uhh calm- calm down.

The SOLDIER's voice becomes distorted (redux)
and he/they/she/etc. speaks in a shouted monotone.

SOLDIER (overtaken)

EIGHT BILLION CORPSES,
CONGLOMERATED INTO A WRITHING
MASS THAT SEEKS ONLY TO KILL - A
WORLD UNITED AGAINST THE EYE. A
WORLD FROM WHICH NOBODY ESCAPES
- NOT EVEN THE EYE. EIGHT
BILLION AND ONE CORPSES.

HOPELESS. WE TRY TO FIGHT THE
EYE AND IT REDUCES US TO

INQUISITOR

(during) This again? For god's
sake.

Ineffable.

SOLDIER

(seething but no longer
possessed) Don't say the bloody
name.

INQUISITOR

Do you have a better
alternative? This seems to be
working well enough.

SOLDIER

That's beside the point, you
idiot! What if... (whispering)
What if you cause it?

INQUISITOR

No, no, it... doesn't quite work
like that, not that I've seen.
I'd still rather not use it,
though. Leaves quite a bad taste
in the mouth. Anyway, where were
we?
Right: Would you please describe
the Eye?

SOLDIER

It's a bit late to ask that now.

INQUISITOR

And why would that be?

SOLDIER

Were you not listening? Didn't you hear what just came out of my mouth? I said it all - all you're getting, anyway.

INQUISITOR

You saw... *that*... in the Judgement?

SOLDIER

I saw everything - no, the Eye sees everything. And if I stop thinking about it for even a moment, it's going to - it's going to kill me.

INQUISITOR

What exactly do you think will kill you? Your thoughts? The Judgement? The Inef- the other one?

The SOLDIER gains a renewed sense of confidence from this intellectual high-ground.

SOLDIER

All the above, buddy. It's all

connected. (whispered) Hey, hey,
hey, listen close.

Closer.

A llllltttle closer.

Perfect.

Wanna see? I'm gonna stop
thinking in 3... 2... 1...

A loud noise - a human head exploding - is heard. The INQUISITOR cries out in horror and falls to the floor. The door is flung open and footsteps heard as a guard enters the room. The INQUISITOR backs away, panting.

GUARD

What the-... What happened? What
the hell did you do?!

Recording ends.

EPISODE 3C - HEAD TRAUMA

Closely following 3b - Frankly Delusional, in which the SOLDIER commits semi-suicide by allowing the Judgement to obliterate them. The INQUISITOR is still frantic, hyperventilating and sound generally fraught.

INQUISITOR

It... kills people. Of course it does! It's a- a- a monster!

What, a huge Eye appears in the Sky and it's all tea and biscuits? How could I... Why did I think it would be any different?

There's got to be something in what [The Soldier] said. The Guard did let me go pretty quickly, I don't think... I don't think they cared that much. I've been noticing that (pause) that people don't ask many questions when I'm around, they just... let me ask my questions. Is that... some sort of power? It's not quite the strength of 8-billion hellbound souls, (small, humourless chuckle) but... Perhaps it's something.

[The Soldier] is dead. That definitely happened, and I was *powerless* to stop it. To stop

my... my patron, I suppose. The source of what little power I have. The reason I exist, even.

I wonder, was it even to do with [The Soldier]? Was it retaliation for the attacks, or... even worse, was it just entropy? Random chance? To what extent did the Eye decide to do that, or does it *decide* anything at all? A consequence of hubris, perhaps, or some inherent defence mechanism, the fulfilment of some arbitrary urge or... perhaps it wasn't the Judgement at all... The Inef- The Other seems capable enough of murder.

God damn it, I need answers. There's got to be more out there - I was put here to find... *something* out, and that one thing seems to elude me at every turn. What is my purpose, if I... have one at all? To aid the Eye? To stop the Other? Does the Other have agents, too - people just like me? Or is it different to the Judgement entirely? I. Just. Don't. Know.

[The INQUISITOR slows their breathing, calming somewhat.]

I think I'm going to go to
sleep. Lest I... *(laughs coarsely)*
lose my head.

[Recording ends.]