

THE RAPE OF TAJ AND GREAT BUDDHAS AT BAMIIYAN, © 2001

FADE IN:

.
EXT: "UNESCO" BIPLANE FLIES IN CLEAR BLUE SKY -DAY:

The blue and white biplane has the name "Vincent" painted on the nose and has reproductions of Van Gogh paintings all over the fuselage, wings and tail. It is a very "artsy" looking biplane with the UN logo on the tail.

Music blares above the hum of the plane's motor. The pilot is singing with the music in the open cockpit of the biplane. In the second seat another man sits and looks at the valley and excitedly points.

KHALEEL

(Pointing excitedly)

Mr. ROB! Mr. ROB! The Great
Buddhas, the Great Buddhas!

ROB looks at the great Buddhas.

EXT: BAMIIYAN VALLEY, TWO GREAT BUDDHAS IN DISTANCE -DAY:

ROB, the pilot looks at Great Buddhas. The music is turned off. The biplane circles for a closer look. The pilot's shouts of astonishment and awe can be heard as he reacts to the awesome sight of the great Buddhas. Encamped near the site of the Great Buddhas is a large military force of Taliban soldiers with battle tanks and artillery.

ROB

(Looking at Buddhas)

I have never! No! Never! Se-
een anyyything so awwesome!
They are magnificeemiento!

ROB flies biplane playfully upside down and looks at statues. Afghan soldiers on ground look up and admire his flying. They point at his plane and talk in Afghani. KHALEEL'S eyes are wide.

INT: UNESCO COMPOUND KABUL, AFGHANISTAN (OUTSKIRTS)- DAY:

TAJ, with tears in her eyes, is shaping bread dough with other women in the UNESCO bakery TAJ flashes back to a

previous point in time when she was with her twin sister, Safiya (Best friend), in the city of Mazar-e-Sharif during the massacre. TAJ and SAFIYA run with crowds of people from mortar shell explosions in the flashback.

INT: KABUL (OUTSKIRTS), UNESCO COMPOUND-

DAY:

While TAJ flashes back, she is shaping traditional round flat bread with other women in the UNESCO bakery. They hear a biplane motor, then see the biplane as it circles the UNESCO compound. They watch it land with curiosity. The pilot cuts a dashing figure wearing leathers and a white silk scarf as he steps out of the plane and walks toward bakery. His passenger (Interpreter), KHALEEL, is more conservatively dressed, like an Afghani man in robes.

ROB

(waves at women)

Good afternoon ladies. I'm Robert Blake and this is KHALEEL, my interpreter. Who is in charge here?

None of the ladies react, except with smiles (they don't speak English, which ROB does not seem to realize) They continue making bread.

INT: UNESCO BAKERY

-- DAY:

TAJ, smiling, steps forth.

TAJ

(wiping flour, extends hand)

Good afternoon, Mr. Blake I am TAJ PARZULI. We have been looking forward to your visit. How was your trip?

ROB handshakes and gazes with stunned interest on TAJ's beauty.

ROB

(Smiles, but is stunned & distracted by TAJ's beauty)

It was ... spectacular! We flew by the Buddhas at Bamiyan before coming here

TAJ

(TAJ looks at ROB She is likewise attracted to him)
They are just amazing, aren't they?

ROB

(Gestures toward KHALEEL)
I said the same thing to KHALEEL while we flew over. I have never seen any art so awesome as the Great Buddhas at Bamiyan. I do hope we can persuade the Taliban not to destroy them.

TAJ

(Gestures)
I wish you success. But, I'm afraid the Taliban are going to be difficult. I will show you gentlemen to your rooms. Would you like some coffee, first?

ROB

Yes, thank you, TAJ.

ROB & KHALEEL follow TAJ to the kitchen.

TAJ

Mr Blake, these ladies are the bakery staff This is Widad, Lateefa, Tarooob, Salma, and Rafa.

ROB

(Greets the bakery ladies)
Glad to know you, ladies

INT: UNESCO BAKERY, LATER, SAME CONVERSATIONN -- DAY:

TAJ

The Taliban have already smashed many of the ancient clay Buddhas and Greek marble statues in the Kabul museum. The Greek statues were so alive and beautiful.

ROB

Yes. I know. The beautiful winged Psyche of Milos was smashed yesterday. The UN sanctions against Afghanistan for its refusal surrender the terrorist, Ussama Bin Ladin, is who started all this statue smashing.

TAJ

Perhaps, But, the Mullah say all statues, ancient Greek in museums, even Great Buddha statues of Bamiyan are an offense; and, scripture says they must be destroyed. Even television sets are outlawed.

KHALEEL

(Shakes head)

A verry big shame.

INT: UNESCO, KITCHEN LATER IN SAME CONVERSATION -- DAY:

ROB

You quit your job as a co-pilot with Skylane airlines and took this position with UNESCO World food relief because it gave you a way to return to Afghanistan, help the starving Afghanis, and look for your twin sister, Safiya.

TAJ

(Nods)

Safiya's name means "best friend," like Khaleel's means "friend." We did find each other for a short while but became lost after the fighting in Mazar-e-Sharif last year. I feel in my heart SAFIYA is here. But, Kabul has a million people.

ROB

Why do you think she would become a prostitute in a Kabul Bordello?

TAJ

She has children to feed. Women and children are homeless and dying from starvation all over Afghanistan because of Taliban laws prohibiting women from work. Begging and prostitution are the only ways for women to make money!

ROB

I do not mean to imply that you exaggerate, but this prohibition of women from any sort of work or employment which drives them to prostitution or starvation is astonishing to my ears.

TAJ

(Surprised and defensive at male
ignorance and is emotional)

Why?! Safiya's husband was
killed by the Taliban when a
rocket blew-up their home. She
lost her teacher's job when
all schools for girls were
closed. She was driven by
starvation to begging and
prostitution to feed her
children.

ROB

(Chagrined, but attitudinal)

I would like to know more about
all this.

TAJ

(Defensively)

It's simple. Women are barred
from working and studying and
must cover their heads, faces
and bodies when they walk the
streets. They must beg or be
prostitutes for food. What
more do you need to know?

ROB

(Caught off guard)

Um . . . It is astonishing
that the Taliban could be so
indifferent to the suffering
of women that they would allow
them to starve in the streets
of Afghanistan.

TAJ

(Frustrated)

Just because you never saw an
atrocit,y, does not mean it did
not happen! Women and children
are homeless and dying from
starvation all over
Afghanistan from Taliban laws
prohibiting women to work!

TAJ is feeling the universal frustration which women recognize
is the consequence of male ignorance.

ROB

(Chagrined)

I'm just trying to know what is
going on!

TAJ

(Eyes wet. Takes Lateefa's hand)

Lateefa's husband died in the
war, last year. Lateefa was
suddenly alone, without money
to feed her four children. She
defied the Taliban's work ban
and washed clothing for the
more fortunate. It wasn't
enough. Her children,
suffering malnutrition, lost
ability to walk. One died.
Last month, Lateefa started
work here. She receives five
loaves of bread and one
dollar, each day.

Lateefa's eyes wet with tears

ROB

(Uncomfortable)

Oh, I ... Um, I'm sorry to hear
this.

TAJ
(Her frustration is barely
visible, yet is apparent)
Tomorrow, I will take you into
Kabul while I distribute
bread. One in every eight
families is headed by a widow.
You will see thirty-thousand
starving women and children
beg for food with your own
eyes.

TAJ gets up from the table she is sharing with ROB and
KHALEEL.

TAJ
(Cool annoyance)
Excuse me I must help these
ladies bake the bread we
deliver to Kabul, tommorrow.

ROB and KHALEEL look at each other, raise eyebrows slightly,
and say nothing.

INT: KABUL BORDELLO, SAFIYA WITH SICK CHILD.-- TWILIGHT:

A woman who is recognizable as TAJ's twin sister, Safiya,
is in a run-down Afghani Bordello, crying over her child
on a ragged bed. There is banging on the room door.

Bordello Madam
Now! You come now! Do not keep
customers waiting! Or, I throw
you out!

SAFIYA puts the child on the bed, next to another child who
is asleep. She leaves the room and enters the Bordello living
room. Like TAJ, SAFIYA is beautiful. The rough life has taken
its toll. But, she is still beautiful. Taliban soldiers and
Kabul men are gathered in the sparse Bordello main reception
room and several stare at her worn beauty.

The Bordello Madam takes her arm and guides her to sit in a
chair next to a well dressed man who sits with some Taliban
soldiers. The well-dressed man gestures to her and she gets
coffee for him and the soldiers.

Soldiers eye her with lust. She sends the young five year old
errand boy (Tariq) for coffee. He returns with the coffee and

serves it to them. The well-dressed man grabs SAFIYA and pulls her to him. He fondles her. She is passive and listless as if spiritually depressed.

EXT: UNESCO TRUCK IN KABUL, TAJ IS DRIVING -- DAY:

TAJ wears a traditional Burka and veil. Children are living on the streets. They wander the city, hands outstretched asking for money. Near parked cars and outside stores, small children ask passerbys for food.

TAJ

The street children don't get enough to eat. Most are homeless. The religious groups drove the Marxists from power. Then they turned their guns on each other. Now, in Kabul, fifty thousand dead, thousands maimed, and starvation.

Warning signs are frequently posted. Some areas are cordoned off with barbed wire. Small red flags are planted. Occasionally an unexploded six foot long rocket dud can be seen lying in the street with barbed wire and flags around it. Some unexploded rockets are simply marked with red or white paint warnings painted on the ground nearby. Charred and war ruined buildings are everywhere. Bullet riddled car wrecks and an occasional blasted military vehicle are seen.

ROB

What do the red flags mean?

TAJ

Landmines. Never drive or walk in the areas where you see red flags or barbed wire.

EXT: KABUL, AFGHANISTAN'S CAPITOL CITY, NETHERWORLD -DAY:

ROB's group passes by broken video and audio cassettes and smashed Television sets hanging in trees, which evoke a surrealistic landscape on almost every street corner. Entire neighborhoods are littered with land mines and unexploded rockets and artillery shells. Fly-covered bodies lay in groups of three and more in a row or in piles.

Some hang rotting from trees or lamp posts. Bones show through on some bodies that have decayed extensively.

The flies buzz around ROB's and TAJ's and KHALEEL's faces inside the truck. TAJ passes out handkerchiefs to tie around their noses and mouths to block the stench. They tie the handkerchiefs.

EXT: NEAR FIRKAUF, CENTRAL JAIL IN KABUL -- DAY:

On the way they pass the 11th Houza (Police station) In front of the main gate of the police station a few Taliban with long hair and beards, while leaning their rifles against the wall, are lounging on the chairs they have brought out of the offices, and are watching the people with their blood red eyes.

EXT: POSTER WALL, KABUL TAJ PASTES CIRCULARS -- DAY:

ROB

TAJ, why don't you just put a photo of yourself on the poster, so anyone who sees your twin sister will recognize her from your photo?

TAJ

I already tried that. Images are prohibited, ROB. The morality police from the Department of Virtue tore them all down.

EXT: TAJ RE-ENTERS UNESCO TRUCK -- DAY:

EXT: KABUL ALLEY, GARBAGE, BOYS KNEEL MUDDY CARPET -DAY:

ROB, TAJ, and ROB's interpretor, KHALEEL, drive in the UNESCO truck to an alley in Kabul to distribute bread to some boys who are known to TAJ. The boys work in a muddy garbage filled alley with flies. They kneel on a muddy wet carpet, weaving strand after strand of wool, their feet wrapped in rags and mud-caked shoes. TAJ passes out the bread to the boys while they talk.

TAJ

BAASIM is from the TAJikistan people and can not read or write proficiently. He was in school about three years when the Communists were in power.

ROB
(Shakes hands)
Hello BAASIM

TAJ
AYMAN wants to be a doctor.

ROB
(Shakes hands)
Hello AYMAN.

TAJ
(kisses TARIQ)
This is TARIQ. Look at his hands, they are raw. He has been working 15 days and can only be paid when the rug dealer pays BAASIM. Tariq says he would like to stop working and go to school, but his father was killed and he must support his mother who is too old and too sick to work.

ROB
(Shakes hands)
Hello TARIQ.

BAASIM (Smiling)
"This country is always at war.

ROB
How long have you been in the carpet business?

BAASIM
(WEAVING)
Three years. I started when I was eight. My father taught me, but he was killed by the Hazara.

TAJ

(EXPLAINING)

BAASIM earns 290,000 Afghanis for every yard of carpet his men weave. About \$10 per yard From that he pays the weavers They can weave about one yard every two days.

EXT:UNESCO TRUCK IN KABUL DISTRIBUTING BREAD -- DAY:

ROB, TAJ, and KHALEEL, drive in the UNESCO truck to an abandoned girls school in Kabul to distribute bread. They pass out the bread to starving women and children, mostly.

A patrol of Taliban from the Department of Virtue silently watches the bread distribution with red eyes.

TAJ

(handing out bread)

The Taliban shut the schools after they seized Kabul because they were not in keeping with strict religious teaching. They allowed some schools for boys to reopen. But, girls are banished from school and women teachers have been forced off the job.

ROB

(SHAKING HEAD)

Things are much worse than I have heard.

TAJ

(NODDING HEAD)

At least thirty thousand children are living on the streets of Kabul. In the middle of civil war, they try to make a living, but can't get enough to eat The children are malnourished, weak, catch pneumonia and die.

Some distance away, in the school courtyard from TAJ and ROB passing-out bread to the starving Afghanis, is KHALEEL, who kneels & prays.

EXT: IN DISTANCE SEVERAL MEN PRAY ON SMALL RUGS- DAY:

Only men are praying. Further away, over a public loudspeaker, a prayer chant plays, but mostly audible static noise is heard.

EXT: TAJ RE-ENTERS TRUCK, EXPLOSION ONE BLOCK AWAY -DAY:

ROB
(VERY ALERT)
That might have been a rocket!

TAJ
(Shaking head)
Landmine! I've heard so many. I
know the sound.

TAJ is driving in direction of the explosion. They round a corner and a small group of children come into view. A small badly blasted child, missing a leg, lies on the dirt road semi-conscious. Another child, riddled with shrapnel, trembles and whimpers, nearby. Other children stand back some distance and watch, fearful to tread near the two injured children. Children shout and wave at the UNESCO truck. TAJ stops some distance from the injured as if momentarily deciding.

ROB
(VERY INTENSE)
TAJ, You and KHALEEL can get out
here. Let me drive in and pick
them up.

TAJ
(Drives toward injured children)
I will drive, You and KHALEEL
can pick them up.

TAJ parks next to one injured child. ROB picks him up and KHALEEL places him in the back of the truck and tries to

stop the horrific spurting blood from the child's missing leg stump.

TAJ
(Eyes cry, recognizes Tariq)
Ohhh, TARIQ! Ohhhh!

TAJ, sobbing, manuevers and parks next to the second child and ROB repeats the rescue. TAJ reverses at high speed and stops momentarily by the other children while she and ROB scrutinize them quickly for injuries.

TAJ
(Eyes looking wildly)

ROB
(TENSE)
Is anyone else hurt?

TAJ
(Sobs and drives)
Ohhhh!

EXT: KABUL HOSPITAL, UNESCO TRUCK ARRIVES FAST -DAY:

Dr. Labeeb, a good Afghani doctor at the Hospital in Kabul, who is a friend of TAJ, sees the UNESCO truck, realizes it is urgent, and runs toward UNESCO truck.

Dr Labeeb
(Emotional)
TAJ! What has happened?

TAJ
(Points at the injured boys)
They stepped on a landmine!

Dr Labeeb
(Opens Truck door)
Ohhhh!

ROB
(Helping remove injured)
They stepped on a land mine.

The injured children are removed from the UNESCO truck and given medical care. TAJ runs to TARIQ. Dr. Labeeb works over him.

TAJ
(Distraught)
Will he live, Labeeb?

Dr. Labeeb
(Stressed)
TAJ, I am very concerned for
Tariq. I, . . . I

Dr Labeeb
(Stressed)
TARIQ has no pulse, TAJ. I am
sorry. He's dead.

TAJ
(Sobbing)
He has no pulse? We had just
given him bread for his
family! Please check him,
again, LABEEB!

Dr. Labeeb
(Stressed Checking again)
TARIQ has absolutely no pulse,
TAJ, He has lost too much blood.
I am sorry; he is dead. I am
sorry, TAJ.

Dr. Labeeb pulls sheet over TARIQ's torn body and turns to help
Dr. William North at next table.

DR. WILLIAM NORTH
(Checking vitals of child)
I am sorry. This child is dead.

Dr. Labeeb checks vitals of child.

Dr. Labeeb
(Stressed. Checking again)
He is dead.

Dr. Labeeb walks into next room and explains to TAJ and ROB.

Dr Labeeb

(Stressed)

I am doubtful that we could have saved them. We simply do not have enough medical supplies. Death, perhaps, was merciful for them. Do you know how to find their families?

TAJ

(Looks distraught)

No. I know some of their friends, who will find their families.

EXT: UNESCO TRUCK IN KABUL ALLEY, TAJ DRIVING -- DAY:

Baasim's alley rug weaving business comes into view TAJ parks truck and gets out with ROB. Out of earshot of audience, TAJ informs Baasim. He then hurriedly collects his loom and takes it inside a small apartment. He then enters the UNESCO truck with TAJ and ROB. TAJ drives away.

EXT: UNESCO TRUCK IN KABUL, TAJ DRIVES -- DAY:

A poor and rundown neighborhood comes into view. Baasim taps TAJ on the shoulder and points to a woman, TARIQ's mother, hanging clothes on a clothesline. TAJ parks and exits truck with Baasim. They approach the woman. ROB and KHALEEL stand by the truck and try not to stare at TARIQ's mother who has stopped hanging clothes and is hesitantly walking toward BAASIM and TAJ. They are out of earshot. BAASIM gestures toward TAJ and speaks, then he bursts into tears and both he and TAJ speak to TARIQ's mother. She screams and sinks to her knees crying. TAJ and Baasim hold her and try to comfort her.

INT: UNESCO COMPOUND, KABUL OUTSKIRTS, BAKERY -- DAY:

TAJ

(SITS AT TABLE, tired, wipes a tear)

We must try to find the family of the dead boy tomorrow. More bread to pass out. I am so tired. Do you gentlemen want to come with me in the morning?

ROB
(LOOKS AT TAJ)
Yes. Of course we do. We want to help all that we can.

TAJ
The Buddhas?

ROB
(GRIMACES)
The Buddhas, we will negotiate about the Buddhas after we find the boy's family.

TAJ
(LOOKS INTENSELY AT ROB)
You are kind. I will see you in the morning. Good night.

Everyone heads for his room

INT: UNESCO COMPOUND, KABUL BAKERY -- MORNING:

ROB and KHALEEL assist TAJ and the ladies as they load bread on the UNESCO truck.

TAJ
(LOADING BREAD. EMOTIONAL VOICE)
When we arrive in Kabul, we must find the mother of Najm Udeen before we do anything else.

ROB
(LOADING BREAD)
Was that the name of the other dead boy?

TAJ
(LOADING BREAD)
Yes, Najm Udeen means "Star of the Faith."

ROB
(LOADING BREAD)
It is the law that he be buried within twenty four hours of death?

TAJ
(LOADING BREAD. EMOTIONAL)
Yes.

ROB
(LOADING BREAD)
Are you member of a religion,
TAJ?

TAJ
(LOADING BREAD)
No. I am not a member of any
religion because Mullahs and
priests build religion-walls
between people and God. It's
simple: I love God and God
loves everybody.

ROB
(Smiling)
I agree. The biggest question
is what religion does God call
himself?

TAJ
(Smiling)
We share the same opinions. But,
be careful what you say to
Taliban. Blasphemy is punishable
by death if the Taliban don't
like what you say.

ROB
(LOADING BREAD)
Some say if you speak against the
Taliban, they will accuse you of
Blasphemy.

TAJ
(LOADING BREAD)
Afghanistan is at war with many
enemies who want control.

ROB
(LOADING BREAD)
Ussama Bin Ladin's Nuclear
Landmines can be placed
anywhere to (cont'd)

protect Afghanistan This is
why Afghanistan will not
surrender Bin Ladin.

TAJ

I do not think in terms of
politics like you But, what
you say sounds logical.

ROB

I did not realize that you
bake so much bread here, TAJ.

TAJ

(LOADING BREAD)

The United States donates five
hundred tons of wheat per month
to Afghanistan. We receive
fifteen tons, which we bake into
bread for the starving of Kabul.
Two thousand loaves per day.

ROB

(MOVES BREAD)

This is "good" work, TAJ

TAJ

(MOVES BREAD)

More satisfaction than being a
commercial airline pilot.

ROB

(Smiles)

I'm sure When you work from
the heart, it is usually very
rewarding. But, even so, "All
work and no play makes for a
dull life." What do you do for
recreation around here?

TAJ

(SMILING)

I will fly your Vincent Van Gogh
if you let me.

ROB
(Laughs)
Of course you can fly my Vincent
Van Gogh, anytime you want. Did
you ever fly a biplane?

TAJ
(EXPLAINING)
I have flown almost every biplane
ever made -- Like your WACO, and
Stardusters, Pitts, and Spads.
Etcetera.

ROB
(EYEBROWS RAISED ADMIRINGLY)
That's a few more than I've
flown. I'm going to take you to
dinner in my biplane, sometime;
and, you'll show me what you can
do.

TAJ
(SMILES)
I like that plan.

EXT: DOWNTOWN KABUL, ROB DRIVES UNESCO TRUCK -- DAY:

ROB, TAJ, and ROB's interpreter, KHALEEL, drive in the UNESCO
truck to the surreal landscape of downtown Kabul. Searching the
neighborhood where Najm Udeen ("Star of the Faith") was killed
by the landmine. TAJ speaks with some children and their
parents, then explains to ROB.

TAJ
(GESTURING AHEAD)
Najm Udeen's mother has been
informed of his death. She lives
on the next street.

EXT: ROB DRIVES TRUCK TO HOUSE OF NAJM'S MOTHER -- DAY:

He parks TAJ exits and knocks on house door, out of earshot.
Najm's mother opens door. TAJ speaks. Najm's mother cries. TAJ
comforts her for a time. They walk to the UNESCO truck and
enter together.

EXT: ROB DRIVES TRUCK IN KABUL HOSPITAL ENTRANCE -- DAY:

INT: KABUL HOSPITAL, NAJM'S MOTHER CRIES OVER NAJM - DAY:

In another room, ROB & TAJ and Doctors North & Labeeb converse.

TAJ

(teary eyed)

Children are dying, who should not be dying for lack of food and medicine.

Dr. Labeeb

(weary)

We see as many as seven to eight children die each day. Babies die because we have no working incubators or oxygen. Our broken incubators were bought from England more than thirty years ago.

ROB

(MATTER-OF-FACTLY)

One of your big problems is lack of money.

DR. LABEEB

(PESSIMISTIC)

Depression has reached emergency levels among women. Mrs. ZAHIR, the mother of TARIQ, was brought in this morning because she has had a nervous collapse. Perhaps you could say a few words to her.

TAJ

Oh, of course I will.

Dr Labeeb
(Hands white smock to ROB)
I would like you to observe
Mr. BLAKE. You must wear this
and please say nothing. We
will visit the woman's wing
escorted by Doctor NASIHA.

Dr knocks on office door It is opened by Doctor NASIHA
wearing a white burka.

DR. LABEEB
(GREETING)
Good morning, Dr. Nashia, This
is ROBERT Blake and TAJ
Parzuli from UNESCO to visit
Aadab ZAHIR.

Doctor NASIHA
(Smiles and nods)
Pleasure to meet you Mr. BLAKE.
Hello again, TAJ. I hope
everything at the wonderful
UNESCO bakery is well.

TAJ
As well as can be expected,
NASIHA. Nice to see you again

ROB
(looking in silence)

Doctor NASIHA
(SYMPATHETIC)
Every day, I treat at least four
or five women who attempt
suicide. Those who cannot find
proper medication and treatment
for severe depression and illness
would rather take their lives
than live in such conditions The
suicide rate among women must be
extraordinarily high in Kabul.

Women are lying motionless on their beds, wrapped in their burka. They are silent and unwilling to speak, they refuse food, and many appear to be listless and slowly wasting away. A few of the women appear to have gone mad and are crouching and rocking back and forth in corners. Many cry and sob quietly. Lifeless sobbing bodies.

TAJ has found Aadab ZAHIR, TARIQ'S mother, sitting in a corner, and is attempting to comfort her. ROB continues to walk the ward with Doctor NASIHA.

EXT: DOWNTOWN KABUL, ROB DRIVES UNESCO TRUCK -- DAY:

TAJ

Every day people step on the landmines, mostly children. This hospital is filled with children missing legs.

EXT: SURREALISTIC KABUL, MARIAM HIGH SCHOOL - DAY:

As ROB, TAJ, and KHALEEL, drive in the UNESCO truck, they see starving children and women scavenging garbage heaps in Kabul. They stop and pass-out bread to the scavengers. Mariam high school is nearby; broken video and audio cassettes and televisions are hanging from trees.

TAJ

(Tired voice)

All schools for girls older than eight years old have been closed. This girls high school was closed by the Taliban and is now the busiest market in the city, where women and girls go for their shopping.

In the market of Mariam high school an ice cream seller is seen selling ice cream to women and girls. Suddenly, several soldiers from the Department of Virtue, driving by, see this transaction, and then beat the Ice Cream vendor for selling ice cream to women and girls. His ice cream operation is smashed. The Department of Virtue soldiers then whip and beat the girls who drop their ice cream and run screaming.

EXT: DOWNTOWN KABUL, ROB DRIVES UNESCO TRUCK -- DAY:

TAJ
(PUZZLED)

It is now forbidden by Taliban to eat ice crème, but no one knows why. It was not forbidden before the Taliban came. One is not arrested for this offense, simply beaten on the spot by the soldiers from The Department of Virtue.

EXT: Taliban patrol in military trucks -- DAY:

Taliban with long hair and beards, carrying rifles patrol in military trucks and with their reddened eyes watch the people.

EXT: NEAR DISTANCE, SEVERAL TALIBAN PRAY ON SMALL RUGS- DAY:

Only men are praying. Further away, over a public loudspeaker, a prayer chant plays with audible static noise .

EXT: ROB, TAJ, AND KHALEEL, DRIVE IN UNESCO TRUCK -DAY:

They drive by bodies of fly-covered dead men laying in groups of four or five on the street or in vacant lots with signs erected nearby. Cockroaches feed. Vultures sit on roof tops. Occasionally, they pass by a corpse of a man or woman hanging from a lightpost or tree with a placard attached explaining the crime of the deceased "criminal." TAJ explains they were shot by the soldiers for Treason and other crimes. Several times, they pass by a man who was "skinned." His skin "hide" is next to him.

TAJ
(points at hanging bodies)
Those men were hanged for treason and sedition against Afghanistan. That man was skinned. They are Hazara and Tajik.

KHALEEL
(Very emotional & terrified)
It is wrong to hang men or skin them because they are Hazara or Tajiks. In this, the Pashtuns and Uzbeks, as majority in (cont'd)

Afghanistan, are very wrong. I must say.

EXT: ROB, TAJ, and KHALEEL, HALTED IN UNESCO TRUCK -DAY:

They are "halted" near a mosque by the Mosque "Roll Caller." The public loudspeaker plays a prayer chant with audible static noise.

MOSQUE ROLL CALLER
(Holding Roll Book with pen)
If any of you live within four kilometres of this Mosque, I must write your presence at this Mosque in this roll book, five times each day for prayer. I must have your names and see identification cards.

TAJ
(Gestures to bread loaves)
We work for the United Nations World Food program to give bread to the hungry in Kabul. United Nations workers are not required to pray at Mosques.

ROB's group shows their UNESCO identification and passports
MOSQUE ROLL CALLER, holding Roll Book with pen, examines cards and truck, sees bread.

MOSQUE ROLL CALLER
(Looks at bread and at truck)
Ah yes! UNESCO! Very good to give bread. (Waves them to pass) You pass. Pass!

EXT: KABUL, A HOUSE

-- DAY:

Decomposing bodies covered with flies are in a yard outside a house. The public loudspeaker plays a prayer chant with audible static noise. In distance, men pray on rugs.

EXT: KABUL, STREET. WOMEN-CHILDREN EAT FROM GARBAGE DUMPS DAY:

Women and children accost TAJ & ROB and beg, making gestures toward their mouths. TAJ, ROB and KHALEEL pass out bread. The public loudspeaker plays a prayer chant with static noise.

EXT: ROB, TAJ, AND KHALEEL, IN UNESCO TRUCK - TWILIGHT:

ROB
(To KHALEEL)
KHALEEL, you can drive this truck Correct?

KHALEEL
(To ROB)
Oh yes, most correct, Mr ROB. I can drive many lorries

ROB
(To KHALEEL)
Perfectisimo, KHALEEL! Tomorrow, you drive the bread route. You can tell BAASIM, I will hire him to be your help for the day. TAJ and I are going flying tomorrow.

KHALEEL
(To ROB)
Very good, very good

EXT: "UNESCO" BLUE BIPLANE FLIES IN BLUE SKY -- DAY:

Music heard above the hum of the plane motor. TAJ & ROB are together. TAJ pilots the biplane and ROB sits in the seat behind her. We can hear them singing to music in the open cockpit of the biplane. They laugh and joke.

ROB
(POINTING to mountain meadow)
Look TAJ, another meadow. Lots of room to land and take off. Let's have dinner.

ROB glides in and lands biplane in high, remote mountain meadow. No civilization and enchanted, only they, alone, share it with each other. They marvel at the Van Gogh paintings on the WACO biplane and share bread and champagne as they picnic near a stream. TAJ sheds her Burka and, nude, swims with ROB in a quiet pool of water. Later, they kiss and make passionate love.

EXT: KABUL, TAJ & ROB AT MUSEUM OF ART BACK YARD DAY:

A beautiful ANCIENT white marble Greek statue is seen standing in the courtyard. A large sledge hammer suddenly impacts the face and shatters it into pieces. Another blow shatters the torso of the Greek marble. Ancient Greek statues are placed all over the courtyard, awaiting the same fate. TAJ and ROB watch while ROB attempts to negotiate with the Kabul museum curator, ABUL KHAYR.

ROB
(To TAJ)
What is his name again, TAJ?

TAJ
(Smiling)
ABUL KHAYR It means "One who
does good."

ROB: Stares at TAJ as if in disbelief Then speaks to ABUL KHAYR.

ROB
Mr. KHAYR, We could have paid the government of Afghanistan more than one million dollars for that beautiful twenty-three-hundred year old Greek statue which the Taliban just now smashed. How many people would one million dollars feed?

ABUL KHAYR
(STRESSED AT STATUE RUBBLE)
Mr. Blake I have relayed your offers to the Mullah Abdul-Raafi' and to the Minister of Virtue, Qudratullah Jamal. They have said that to sell the statues is a violation of the will of Allah, rather than to smash them. They emphasize the scripture is very clear. They must be smashed, not sold. "Smashed," Mr. Blake.
"Smashed!"

While KHAYR speaks, Taliban "Volunteers" smash ancient Greek vases by the hundreds.

ROB
(DISGUSTED)
Well, Mr. KHAYR, Allah's will shall be done! Good afternoon, Sir!

ROB leaves museum with TAJ. They step over rubble of smashed Greek marbles in museum rooms on way out. Dented and battered Bronze Greek statues lay on the floors.

ROB
(To TAJ)
Did you hear him? "A violation of the will of Allah." They all presume to speak for Allah!

TAJ
(Puts finger to her lips)
Shhhh!

EXT: KABUL, DEPARTMENT OF VIRTUE, NEWS CONFERENCE -- DAY:

High ranking Afghani men and News reporters are assembled in the ministry palace briefing room. ROB and TAJ are mingling in with the news correspondent crowd to hear what is the verdict. Taliban Information and Culture Minister Qudratullah Jamal tells Reuters News Service that it has not been easy to demolish the two giant Buddha statues at Bamiyan.

Qudratullah Jamal
(Smiling and nodding)
"The destruction work is not as easy as people would think. You can't knock down the Buddha statues by dynamite or shelling as both of them have been carved in a cliff; they are firmly attached to the mountain.

INDIA REPORTER #1

(Matter-of-Factly)

Is the 'real' reason the Taliban want to destroy the Buddhas at Bamiyan because the UN has imposed sanctions against Afghanistan for harboring Ussama Bin Ladin who is accused of bombing the U.S. Embassies in Kenya and Tanzania?

INDIA REPORTER #2

(EXCITEDLY)

Is Ussama Bin Ladin reputed to have his stolen Russian Nuclear weapons stored on Afghani soil and Afghanistan is being paid to allow Bin Ladin to stay in Afghanistan?

Qudratullah Jamal

(Smiling and shaking head)

This fantasy, no doubt, was manufactured by the enemies of Afghanistan to attack the government here, a government the courageous Taliban soldiers have given their lives to defend..

BRITISH REPORTER #2

(writing fast)

Mr. JAMAL, Did Ussama Bin Ladin have a dream of the Great Buddhas walking across the valley toward Kabul; and, Did this dream influence the decision to destroy all the ancient statues in Afghanistan?

Qudratullah Jamal
(Laughs and shakes head)
The decision to smash the statues
in Afghanistan is based on the
teachings from the Scripture. We
cannot rewrite the Scripture.
And, we must heed its mandate to
smash the statues.

INDIA REPORTER
(Politely)
Can you tell us of the other
statues in the Kabul museum?

Qudratullah Jamal
(Smiling and nodding)
The breaking of the statues in
the Kabul museum and elsewhere in
Afghanistan is proceeding as
planned. We've smashed almost all
the Greek marble statues, pottery
and vases. The ancient Greek
bronzes from the time of
Alexander have been difficult to
destroy, but we are almost
finished flattening them as
well. Thank you for your
consideration, gentlemen.

Minister Qudratullah Jamal turns to leave. More journalists try
to ask questions; but, he leaves. ROB looks at TAJ.

ROB
(Sarcastically)
Bad day for art. I don't think
the Taliban admire the same kind
of art as the rest of us.

TAJ
(Matter-of-factly)
A bad day for Art and UNESCO.
I have just been told the
UNESCO wheat shipment has been
seized for taxes and is held
by the warlord, ABDUL-WADOOD,
at Bamiyan.

EXT: ROB, TAJ, AND KHALEEL, DRIVE IN TRUCK -- TWILIGHT:

As they round a corner, they see a crowd watching a woman pour gasoline on herself. ROB stops the truck and runs to stop her, but is too late. She burns herself to death in a fiery suicide.

.
EXT: ROB, TAJ, AND KHALEEL, IN UNESCO TRUCK - TWILIGHT:

TAJ bends over and turns her head. KHALEEL turns away. ROB avoids looking and drives away from the scene. They are all stunned and shaken. The smoke cloud atmosphere is surreal.

TAJ
(EMOTIONNAL TREMBLING VOICE)
Every day, a woman burns herself
in fire suicide to protest the
Taliban government oppression of
women in Afghanistan. Every day!

ROB
(Soft voice)
How tragic.

TAJ
(STARES AS IF SAD)
I must deliver bread to BAASIM,
my rug weaver. I'm told he has a
message for me.

EXT: BAASIM'S HOME, TAJ DRIVES UNESCO TRUCK IN ALLEY -DAY:

TAJ & ROB exit truck, deliver bread to BAASIM and talk with him.

BAASIM
(WEAVING)
Only one hour before he was
killed by the landmine, Tariq
told me that he was very
confused because you appeared
as if you were two women. I
laughed and thought nothing of
it.

EXT: BAASIM'S HOME, TAJ SPEAKS TO BAASIM IN ALLEY -DAY:

TAJ
(PUZZLED)
Two women?

BAASIM
(WEAVING)
Yes, TARIQ said that he sometimes worked in a place called KOKO's where he delivered coffee and food. And, he said that he did not know how TAJ could be in two places at the same time. On the same day, he saw you at KoKo's and later saw you here giving the bread.

BAASIM's report of TARIQ's comments electrifies TAJ. She senses that TARIQ saw her sister, SAFIYA, and TAJ becomes very emotional. She puts her hand on BAASIM's shoulder.

TAJ
(EMOTIONALLY)
Oh BAASIM! BAASIM! What is this place KoKo's? Did Tariq tell you where?

BAASIM
(INTENSE)
I do not know, TAJ. I am explaining, now, because I read your poster on the public wall last night; and, I have thought that possibly TARIQ described your sister.

TAJ
(IN TEARS)
Yes! BAASIM! YES!

BAASIM
(STANDS)
I do not know of this KoKo's place, TAJ. TARIQ said it is a place where men and women visit together; and, the women dance for the men. But, it (cont'd)

cannot be too far from the home
of TARIQ I will help you find
it.

TAJ
(SMILING IN TEARS)
Yes! BAASIM! I agree Please
guide us. I will pay you.

BAASIM
(SMILING)
I am most happy to guide you
without pay, TAJ.

EXT: TAJ, ROB, BAASIM IN UNESCO TRUCK, -- DAY:
TAJ, ROB, KHALEEL, BAASIM drive through TARIQ's
neighborhood. They stop and ask pedestrians, but have no
luck. BAASIM sees several young boys in a group. BAASIM
motions to TAJ to stop. BAASIM gets out of truck. He
converses with the boys and one of them follows BAASIM to
the truck.

BAASIM
(Gestures toward the boy)
Mahdy will take us to KoKo's.

EXT: TAJ, ROB, KHALEEL IN UNESCO TRUCK - DAY:

TAJ
(Places some Afghani currency
into Mahdy's hand Opens door for
him to enter truck)
Thank you Mahdy.

EXT: UNESCO TRUCK, MAHDY GUIDES TO KoKo's BORDELLO -DAY:
The UNESCO truck arrives at KoKo's Bordello. Mahdy exits
truck, bids farewell, and departs.

ROB
(TO BAASIM)
BAASIM I suggest that you go
inside and ask for SAFIYA as
if you are her brother and TAJ
is waiting outside. TAJ and I
will wait here around the
corner.

INT: KoKo's MAIN PARLOR ROOM

- DAY:

BAASIM walks around corner to KoKo's & enters. He is greeted by, NU'MAN, the fat male Afghani owner of KoKo's.

NU'MAN:

(STARES)

Do you look for a woman?

BAASIM:

(LOOKS ERNEST)

Yes, I seek my sister, SAFIYA.
My sister TAJ and I bring food
for her and her children.

NU'MAN, KoKo's OWNER

(MOTIONS TO ERRAND BOY)

Tell SAFIYA that her brother
and sister, TAJ, are here with
food.

ERRAND BOY runs to SAFIYA's room. He knocks on her door and explains. SAFIYA gives a cry of surprise, grabs her children, and follows the errand boy toward BAASIM. She looks at BAASIM and before she can say anything, BAASIM hugs her and whispers TAJ's name in her ear.

BAASIM

(WHISPERS IN SAFIYA'S EAR)

TAJ is outside. I am BAASIM. Hug
me like I am your brother.

SAFIYA

(THEY HUG)

BAASIM, my brother! Oh! I am
happy to see you. Where is TAJ?

SAFIYA runs back to her room and brings her children

EXT: STREET IN FRONT OF KoKo's

-- DAY:

BAASIM takes SAFIYA's arm and leads her outside. NU'MAN, KoKo's owner follows as if SAFIYA is his property. He watches. BAASIM leads SAFIYA around corner and she and TAJ see each other, simultaneously. They scream and run to each other and embrace in tears. NU'MAN watches from the front of KoKo's. When TAJ leads SAFIYA into the UNESCO

truck with her children, he shouts and runs after the truck as ROB drives away with TAJ, BAASIM, KHALEEL, SAFIYA and her children. NU'MAN is angered as if he has just been robbed of a piece of his coveted property. He runs furiously for some distance in a very great rage before he is too exhausted to continue. He is furious.

NU'MAN, KoKo's owner
(SHOUTS IN RAGE)
Stop! She owes me money! Stop!

EXT: UNESCO COMPOUND, BAKERY LATER. -- DAY:

TAJ AND SAFIYA and SAFIYA's children sit at a table and talk. ROB and KHALEEL work on the biplane.

SAFIYA
(SPEAKING TO TAJ & HOLDING HER
YOUNG CHILDREN)
Omar coughs too much. I am
concerned he is not well.
Fortunately, Basma is not ill.

They all hug. Safiya and taj dab tears from their eyes and embrace, again.

TAJ
(TOUCHING SAFIYA'S FACE)
SAFIYA, you and the children
will live with me, here, at
the UNESCO compound. There is
no more Bordello in your life.
(THEY EMBRACE AGAIN IN TEARS).

The children embrace them both. Much embracing.

EXT: UNESCO COMPOUND, NU'MAN, KoKo's OWNER SHOUTS. DAY:
NU'MAN, KoKo's OWNER, drives into the UNESCO compound
and demands SAFIYA be returned to him.

NU'MAN, KoKo's OWNER
(SHOUTS ANGRILY AT TAJ)
If she refuses to return to
me, the Department of Virtue
will arrest your sister and
hang her with the other
Whores.

NU'MAN, KoKo's OWNER, puts his car in gear and angrily drives away.

ROB
(WALKS OVER TO TAJ)
He actually believes he owns Safiya, like she is a farm animal.

INT: UNESCO BAKERY, LATER, -- DAY:
ROB, TAJ, KHALEEL, and SAFIYA sit at a Bakery table.

ROB
(To TAJ)
I must fulfill my promise to the museums to try to persuade the warlord, ABDUL-WADOOD, at Bamiyan, to sell the Buddhas to the museum association. While I offer on the Great Buddhas, I can try to negotiate the return of the UNESCO wheat shipment.

TAJ
(Puts arms around ROB)
I want to come with you to negotiate with the warlord, WADOOD, about the UNESCO wheat shipment. People will starve to death here if the wheat is not delivered soon. I also want to see the Buddhas with you.

ROB
(Looks at TAJ)
No! I don't know how safe it is in Bamiyan for a woman.

TAJ
(Looks at ROB)
It is pROBably one thousand times safer in Bamiyan than in KABUL. I am safer with you than here in Kabul, by myself.

EXT: BIPLANE, TAJ PILOTS, PASSENGERS ROB & KHALEEL - DAY:

They circle the Great Buddhas of Bamiyan. Below are Taliban soldiers with artillery and tanks They look up at the biplane

TAJ
(Operating controls)
It handles beautifully.

ROB
Because the beautiful pilot flies
beautifully.

TAJ
(Smiles and flies)

TAJ performs a few loops and aerobatic rolls The Taliban below watch with binoculars and exclaim in amazement as if they are witnessing the impossible.

EXT: Some Tanks and Artillery guns shoot Buddhas - DAY:

The artillery shells seem to only gouge shallow holes in the hard stone surfaces of the great Buddhas The damage seems small and is progressing at a slow rate.

TALIBAN #1
(In amazed tones)
It is a woman pilot!

Several Taliban are gathered in a group and very animatedly converse about the fact that the biplane is being flown by a woman.

TALIBAN #2
(Grabs binoculars, looks in
amazed tones)
It is a woman pilot! On my life!
It is a woman or a man wearing a
veil! On my life!

TALIBAN #2
(Grabs binoculars, looks on and
exclaims in amazed tones)
It is indeed a woman pilot!

TALIBAN GROUP
(Looking at plane)
Ahuuunnhh!

TAJ levels off and lands on the flat dry lake bed in front of the Great Buddhas where the Taliban are assembled with tanks and artillery. Their eyes follow TAJ as she gets out of the biplane very carefully to not expose herself.

KHALEEL
(ASKING TALIBAN)
We seek an audience with Abdul-
Wadood

Meanwhile, Some Tanks and Artillery guns shoot Buddhas and inflict pock-mark damage. One of the legs is damaged extensively.

TALIBAN #1
(Amid a group of Taliban)
Why do you wish to speak with
him?

KHALEEL
My friend, ROBERT BLAKE, is
prepared to pay Abdul-Wadood
and the nation of Afghanistan
a great sum of money to buy
the great Buddhas and remove
them from Afghanistan.

TALIBAN #1
(Amid a group of Taliban)
The Buddhas are to be
destroyed. But, we will inform
Abdul-Wadood that you wish to
buy them.

EXT: Tanks and Artillery guns traverse barrel aim - DAY:

The Tanks and Artillery guns suddenly stop firing at the Buddhas and they traverse barrels, aim, and correct for elevation and azimuth on a distant target, miles away. Several guns open fire. Their crews communicate by radio to forward "spotters," miles away.

Suddenly, in the distance is Col. Sayf Udeen, in a very big hurry. He walks fast and also jogs toward ROB, TAJ, and KHALEEL. Col.. Sayf Udeen ("Sword of Faith") walks to ROB.

Col.. Sayf Udeen
(Wears a large sword)
My name is Col. Sayf Udeen
You will fly my man in your
plane over the Hazara military
convoy North of here. Your
friends will be our guests
until you return (Introduces
Taliban soldier while pointing
skyward) This is Abdul-Salaam,
Servant of Peace. You take him
up, now. Fly now. Please.

ROB
(Salutes in casual military
style)
Yes Sir! "Fly now, pay later "

COL. SAYF UDEEN
(Col. "Sword of the Faith"
Points up impatiently)
Now!

COL. SAYF UDEEN shows map & points to location.

COL. SAYF UDEEN
You fly seven miles, North.

ROB communicates with TAJ while he climbs aboard the Biplane.

ROB
(Puzzled)
What does this guy's name mean?

TAJ

(Looks at ROB with concern)
The Colonel's name means "Sword
of the Faith" The soldier's name
means "Servant of Peace "

ROB

(TRYING TO BE LIGHTHEARTED)
Oh! TAJ! "I shall return." I love
you, TAJ.

ROB enters biplane with Abdul-Salaam, Servant of Peace. They mutually consult maps. ROB, then, takes off, becoming airborne very quickly.

EXT: TAJ AND KHALEEL SIGHTSEE NEAR THE BUDDHAS - DAY:

After the biplane is out of sight, TAJ and KHALEEL wander over to the Buddhas. They sightsee. TAJ walks close to the Buddhas and looks up.

EXT: IN DISTANCE, SEVERAL TALIBAN PRAY ON SMALL RUGS- DAY:
Some static noise is heard.

KHALEEL walks on the road toward the second Buddha, some distance from TAJ by himself. He sees a military knife and military transceiver radio package laying in the road dust. He pretends not to notice but as he walks near he quickly dips down and picks up the package in a swift furtive movement. He is being watched by Taliban using binoculars and who see him pick up the knife and military transceiver radio pack. The Taliban note KHALEEL's move.

Taliban #2

(LOOKING WITH BINOCULARS)
Ahhhh! The Hazara is a thief!

Taliban #3

(LOOKING WITH BINOCULARS)
The Hazara must pay hand AND foot
for his crime.

EXT: BIPLANE, ROB & Abdul-Salaam, Servant of Peace - DAY:

ROB
(Singing in biplane, cassette
plays music)
I shall return,... shall
return... Bella Mio
(reconciles his satellite GPS
with his map & with Abdul-
Salaam's map.)

EXT: BIPLANE, ROB & Abdul-Salaam, Servant of Peace - DAY:

ROB
Hey Abdul-Salaam, Servant of
Peace. Hazara? (Points down
makes cut motion on throat)
Hazara? (then to self) Gotta
save TAJ.

Abdul-Salaam
(Nods in agreement)
Yes! Yes!

ROB motions for Abdul's map. Abdul hands map.

ROB
(Looks at Abdul's map)
This is a U.S. Military Grid-co-
ordinate map You "Berry-Berry
luckee," Abdul! (starts singing
again) "I shall return, . . .
shall return. Bella Mio"
(ROB sees the Hazara convoy in
distance, starts climbing) No
takee chancee! Climb away from
"stingers " No die today Abdul,
you very lucky. I was Marine
pilot. Know this boom-boom by
heart (Puts on Oxygen mask and
shows ABDUL how)

ABDUL dons oxygen mask as they climb

EXT: BUDDHAS AT BAMIIYAN, TALIBAN SOLDIER GROUP -DAY:

Taliban #2 soldier notifies other Taliban soldiers that
KHALEEL is a thief. He has observed the "Hazara" steal the

bayonet and military transceiver radio pack and hide it under his robe.

TALIBAN SOLDIERS
(stand up and gather)
The "Hazara" thief has stolen
property on the open road!

TALIBAN #3
(Points out KHALEEL walking)
The Hazara thief must pay for his
crime.

The Taliban soldiers see KHALEEL. As they begin to fan out and walk toward KHALEEL, TALIBAN #2 and TALIBAN #3 commence running toward the Buddhas. At first KHALEEL does not quite understand they might be after him because they are running toward Buddhas. Suddenly, KHALEEL realizes that the Taliban may intend to be after him and he remembers the bayonet and radio transceiver pack under his ROBE. A look of mortal terror crosses KHALEEL's face because he knows the penalty is loss of one hand and one foot for theft on the open road. He frantically begins to reach under his robe to produce the bayonet and military transceiver radio pack. But, it is too late.

TALIBAN #2
(Points & shouts at KHALEEL)
Thief! Thief! Thief!

TALIBAN #3
(Points & shouts at KHALEEL)
Thief! Thief! Thief!

TALIBAN SOLDIERS
(stand up and gather)
Theft on the open road!
(Chanting) Thief! Thief! Thief!

In terror, KHALEEL has frantically pulled the bayonet and military transceiver radio pack from under his robe and desperately holds it forth toward the soldiers. His gesture is too late. The soldiers are upon him, convinced of his guilt.

KHALEEL: Holds forth the pack in abject terror & points at ground near Buddhas.

KHALEEL
No! I found this in the dust! I
found this! I did not steal this!
You are very wrong! Very wrong!

TALIBAN SOLDIERS grab KHALEEL and seize the bayonet and military transceiver radio pack from his offering hand.

TALIBAN SOLDIERS

(Beat KHALEEL)

You know the penalty for theft on the open road, Hazara? (They beat him)

KHALEEL

(GASPS & SHAKES IN TERROR)

Allah! Allah!

TALIBAN SOLDIERS

(Beat KHALEEL)

Allah will not save you, Hazara!

EXT: IN DISTANCE, SEVERAL TALIBAN PRAY ON SMALL RUGS- DAY:
Some static noise is heard.

EXT: BUDDHAS AT BAMIIYAN, TALIBAN SOLDIER GROUP -DAY:

The Taliban soldiers drag KHALEEL toward COL. SAYF UDEEN, who walks toward a camp table and chair where he sits. The soldiers place the bayonet and military transceiver radio pack "evidence" on the table. COL. SAYF UDEEN Points at several Taliban soldiers to join him as jurists. The several Taliban soldiers grab camp stools and sit at the table. Col. Sayf Udeen motions KHALEEL must sit in a chair. The soldiers provide a chair and push KHALEEL down into it.

COL. SAYF UDEEN

(ORDERS SCRIBES TO RECORD)

Make a record of this court trial.

COL. SAYF UDEEN

(writes on paper)

State your name and your home for the record.

KHALEEL

(TREMBLING)

I am KHALEEL, son of Ghafaar. My home is in Sheberghan. I am of the Hazara people.

Col. Sayf Udeen
(picks up bayonet and military
transceiver radio pack. Looks at
KHALEEL)

We know you are Hazara from your
speech and your look. Is this
your property?

KHALEEL

(FEAR IN VOICE)

No sir! Oh! No sir! It is a very
big mistake. I found this
property and was on my way to
show it to your soldiers, when
they accused me. This accusation
is very wrong. Very wrong! I am
not a thief!

Col. Sayf Udeen

(LEANS BACK IN CHAIR)

Why did you conceal this property
in your robe if you intended to
show it to my soldiers?

KHALEEL

(TREMBLING)

Please Sir! I only put it in my
robe to carry it. I did not put
it in my robe to conceal it.

COL. SAYF UDEEN

(LEANS FORWARD IN CHAIR)

If you did not mean to conceal it
in your robe, why did you not
just leave this property lying in
the dust and report it to my
soldiers? It was not necessary
for you to even touch it. But,
you coveted this property for
yourself!

KHALEEL

(TREMBLING)

Ohh no! No! I did not covet this.
I intended to return it. Ohh,
Please! ALLAH! ALLAH!

Col. Sayf Udeen
(LEANS BACK IN CHAIR)
In addition to being a thief, are
you also a spy for the Hazara?

KHALEEL
(TREMBLING & ROCKING)
Ohh no! No sir! Please! I am not
a spy. I work for UNESCO! I am an
interpreter for Mr. ROB BLAKE of
UNESCO!

Col. Sayf Udeen
(LEANS BACK IN CHAIR)
Ummm!

TAJ
(Stands nearby in fear)
May I testify for the accused?

COL. SAYF UDEEN
(PICKS UP BAYONET AND MILITARY
TRANSCIEVER RADIO PACK. LOOKS AT
TAJ)
Speak!

TAJ
(TREMBLING)
I am TAJ PARZULI OF the Pashtune
people. I am an American citizen
and manage the UNESCO bakery in
Kabul, and saw this man, KHALEEL,
arrive with Mr. ROBERT BLAKE,
three days ago, in the UNESCO
biplane which Mr. BLAKE now flies
for you. KHALEEL works as Mr
Blake's interpreter.

Col. Sayf Udeen picks up bayonet and military transceiver
radio pack, looks at TAJ & KHALEEL

Col. Sayf Udeen
At exactly this moment we are
at war with the Hazara. We have
before us a liar and a thief.
We have caught this Hazara with
our military property, (cont'd)

which does not belong to
him. In fact, it belongs to my
soldier Abdul Azeem, Servant of
the Mighty.

TAJ
(TREMBLING)
KHALEEL works as Mr Blake's
interpreter. He is not a spy!

Col. Sayf Udeen
(LEANS FORWARD PUSHES BLANK PAPER
& PEN AT KHALEEL)
Let me see how you write your
name.

KHALEEL takes the pen in his right hand and writes his name.

COL. SAYF UDEEN
(LEANS FORWARD , LOOKS AT
KHALEEL'S RIGHT HAND)
Do you have anything else to say,
Hazara?

KHALEEL
(TREMBLING)
Please! I am not a spy I work
for UNESCO! I am an interpreter
for Mr. ROB of UNESCO!

EXT: IN DISTANCE, SEVERAL TALIBAN PRAY ON SMALL RUGS- DAY:
Some static noise is heard.

EXT: BUDDHAS AT BAMIIYAN, TALIBAN COURT TRIAL GROUP -DAY:

COL. SAYF UDEEN
(LEANS FORWARD WITH PAPER & PEN)
We have heard enough. I have
decided to be merciful and not
try you as a spy. And, I will
submit this information with my
report of this trial to Kabul.
However, I do find you guilty of
theft on the public road.

KHALEEL
(TREMBLING)
.Ohh Please! Mercy! Ohh!

Turns to taliban soldiers who are jurors and collects their votes on paper. Reads their votes aloud.

COL. SAYF UDEEN
Vote is "guilty," "guilty," is "guilty." The sentence for theft on the public road is you forfeit your right hand and your left foot. You lied, therefore, your right hand will be cut off.

KHALEEL
(ABJECT TERROR)
Mercy! I beg for mercy!

Col. Sayf Udeen
(LEANS, COMMANDS SOLDIERS)
Carry out the sentence, now.

KHALEEL
(ABJECT TERROR)
Mercy! Please! Mercy

Col. Sayf Udeen
(LEANS FORWARD)
I have shown you mercy! I did not skin you. I take only one hand and one foot. (To his soldiers) First, show him the traitor we have skinned and let him see I have been merciful. Carry out the sentence, now.

EXT: IN DISTANCE, SEVERAL TALIBAN PRAY ON SMALL RUGS- DAY:
Some static noise is heard.

EXT: BUDDHAS AT BAMIIYAN, TALIBAN COURT TRIAL GROUP -DAY:

The Taliban soldiers drag the struggling KHALEEL to a rock outcrop and show him a pile of fly covered bodies.

One of the bodies is a man who has been skinned. His skin, like an animal hide, lays on the ground nearby.

The fly covered skinned man is still alive and writhes in agony. He makes inhuman squeaking noises and crawls over his skin hide, in the dust, and reaches toward the Taliban.

SKINNED MAN:
(Reaches in horrific agony)
Eeeii, eeeii uhhs

KHALEEL.
(ABJECT TERROR)
Allah! Please! Mercy!

TALIBAN #2 sharpens his bayonet. The soldiers bring some burning logs from the cooking fire over to the rock outcrop. KHALEEL'S left foot is forced down against the rock while KHALEEL stares at it in terror. He struggles.

TALIBAN #2
(Points & shouts at KHALEEL)
Now Hazara! The same knife,
which you have stolen, will
cut off your evil parts.
Thief!

TALIBAN #2 commences to start cutting off KHALEEL'S left foot.

KHALEEL
(STRUGGLES & CRIES IN TERROR)
Allah! (mumbles prayers
hysterically) Allah! (mumbles
prayers hysterically) Allah!

EXT: BIPLANE, ROB & Abdul-Salaam, Servant of Peace - DAY:
Hazara convoy is in the distance

ROB
(Pats biplane)
ROB'S Van Gogh biplane has
everything, ABDUL. Turbo motor
and high altitude oxygen. No
Stinger missiles, today. We
too high (points up) "Sempre
Fi," Abdul "Sempre Fi!" Too-
ooo-ooo high.

ROB points to Hazara convoy and writes grid co-ordinate numbers on a paper. ROB points to location of Hazara convoy on

map and emphasizes numbers, which Abdul immediately understands and relays to the artillery fire base at Bamiyan.

Abdul radios grid co-ordinates to Taliban artillery battery at Bamiyan.

ABDUL
(On radio in Afghani)
two 24537 61773

A missile speeds up from the convoy toward the biplane. ROB takes evasive action and the missile streaks by, closely missing the biplane. They look down and see flashes and then tracer bullets whiz by the biplane. ABDUL is terrified as ROB does rolls and loops to escape the Stingers and tracer incendiary bullets.

EXT: BUDDHAS AT BAMIIAN TALIBAN SHOOT ARTILLERY - DAY:

The battery and tanks open fire at the Hazara convoy column miles away. TALIBAN cut KHALEEL's foot off and stuff it in his robe pocket. They cauterize the stump of his leg with a flaming fire log and start cutting his right hand off. KHALEEL struggles in abject terror while they cut.

EXT: HAZARA CONVOY COLUMN AS ARTILLERY DESTROYS IT - DAY:

ROB
(FLYS EVASIVELY AS ANOTHER
MISSILE STREAKS BY)
Stinger missiles have improved
range We're not too high
(points up). "Sempre Fi,"
Abdul. We fly more high.

ROB points to Hazara convoy as it is blasted by the Taliban artillery firing from Bamiyan.

EXT: HAZARA CONVOY COLUMN AS ARTILLERY DESTROYS IT - DAY:

ROB
(FLYS EVASIVELY AS ANOTHER
MISSILE STREAKS BY)
Not too-ooo-ooo high.

ROB points to Hazara convoy which has been badly damaged.

EXT: HAZARA CONVOY COLUMN AS ARTILLERY DESTROYS IT - DAY:

EXT: BIPLANE, ROB & Abdul-Salaam, Servant of Peace - DAY:
Hazara convoy is in the distance as smoking wreckage.

ROB
(FLYS EVASIVELY AS ANOTHER
MISSILE STREAKS BY)
Bamiyan? We go home, now?
Bamiyan?

ROB points to Hazara convoy which has been badly damaged and stopped.

ABDUL nods enthusiastically and speaks in Afghani on his radio to base camp.

ABDUL:
(In Afghani)
Bamiyan? We go home,
now? Bamiyan?

EXT: BUDDHAS AT BAMIIYAN, TALIBAN SOLDIER CAMP, TAJ - DAY:

TAJ
(SCREAMS AS SHE SEES KHALEEL)
Mercy! Mercy!

Taliban soldiers grab her and force her into a jeep, then drive her to the further reaches of the camp where she cannot hear KHALEEL, but can still see him struggle as he is cut.

COL. SAYF UDEEN
The Hazara is lucky to escape
with his life. I could have
him skinned.

EXT: BIPLANE, ROB & ABDUL-SALAAM, Servant of Peace - DAY:

ROB lands biplane at Buddhas of Bamiyan Taliban soldier camp. ROB sees KHALEEL laying on the ground trying to bandage his charred leg and arm stumps. His severed foot and hand lay next to him. TAJ is at the far end of the camp, obviously held hostage by WARLORD ABDUL-WADOOD.

EXT: IN DISTANCE, SEVERAL TALIBAN PRAY ON SMALL RUGS- DAY:

EXT: BIPLANE, ROB & ABDUL-SALAAM, Servant of Peace - DAY:

The spotter, ABDUL-SALAAM, exits biplane, explains to ABDUL-WADOOD apparently crediting ROB with the success in calculating the artillery fire which destroyed the Hazara convoy. ABDUL-WADOOD appears grateful for ROB's success in the artillery bombardment & ROB appears to have acquired more favor than before.

EXT: BIPLANE, ROB TRYING TO HELP KHALEEL - DAY:

ROB
(Runs to help KHALEEL)
KHALEEL, I will take you to
Kabul hospital. (Quickly
wraps KHALEEL's stump leg and
runs to biplane).

KHALEEL
(IN DELERIOUS VOICE)
I am not a thief. I am not a
thief!

EXT: IN DISTANCE, SEVERAL TALIBAN PRAY ON SMALL RUGS- DAY:

EXT: BIPLANE, ROB LEAVES KHALEEL TO GO TO TAJ - DAY:

ROB Jumps in biplane and taxis it to TAJ and WARLORD ABDUL-WADOOD

ROB
TAJ, are you alright?

TAJ
(tearfully)
Yes, ROB They have cut dear
KHALEEL to pieces and
hold our grain trucks for
ransom.

ROB
(EXITS BIPLANE)
ABDUL-WADOOD, how much money
do you want? (TAJ translates)

TAJ
(FRIGHTENED)
He wants to know, "How much
money can you get?"

ROB
(stressed)
I must "borrow" the money
from the special UNESCO funds
I shall try to get as much as
I possibly. . . .

ABDUL-WADOOD interrupts & explains to TAJ how much ransom
he wants by raising five fingers

TAJ
(Looks at fingers)
He wants five hundred
thousand U.S. dollars for TAJ
and the grain trucks which
feed the starving in Kabul
(TAJ points to the UNESCO
wheat grain trucks)

ROB
(LOOKS AT TAJ)
TAJ, please explain I must
fly to Kabul and to get the
money from the bank I must
wait on the bank's time
table.

TAJ
(explains to ABDUL-WADOOD)
He says return quickly with
the money. Also, he says take
KHALEEL with you, now, before
the Taliban cut off more of
his parts.

ROB
(CLIMBS INTO BIPLANE)
Please explain I will return
quickly. I will be back as fast
as I can, TAJ.

ROB taxis biplane to KHALEEL and helps him inside. ROB takes
off for Kabul. KHALEEL languishes in back seat. His severed
hand and foot lay on the ground. COL. SAYF UDEEN and some of
his "Officers" arrive in a jeep to the place where TAJ is
standing.

COL. SAYF UDEEN
(MOTIONS TAJ TO GET INTO JEEP)
Get in.

EXT: RAPE OF TAJ, at Bamiyan, COL. SAYF UDEEN'S TENT -DAY:

COL. SAYF UDEEN drives TAJ to his opulent tent, where TAJ is led inside with his men. Several carry musical instruments. They turn on a tape player and play accompaniment music while they sit in a circle around TAJ. They eye her.

Col. Sayf Udeen
(GRABS her veil)
Remove your burka and dance
for my men.

TAJ Removes her veil and burka and is wearing only scanty panties and bra. The men are aroused by her curvacious and well-shaped body. They play belly dance music. TAJ belly-dances in fear. The men sweat and become even more aroused. Col. Sayf Udeen becomes aroused at TAJ's beauty. He lusts and wants her. He gestures to his men to leave the tent. They leave.

INT: RAPE OF TAJ, at Bamiyan, COL. SAYF UDEEN'S TENT -DAY:

COL. SAYF UDEEN
(GRABS TAJ AND BENDS HER OVER A
TABLE, TEARS OFF HER PANTIES &
COMMENCES TO RAPE)
You will stay with me.

TAJ sobs and gasps as she is raped by COL. SAYF UDEEN.

TAJ
(GASPS OUT WORDS COL. SAYF SLAMS
& RAPES HER)
I will kill myself if I must
stay with you. Kill me now!

EXT: IN DISTANCE, SEVERAL TALIBAN PRAY ON SMALL RUGS- DAY:

INT: RAPE OF TAJ, at Bamiyan, COL. SAYF UDEEN'S TENT -DAY:

COL. SAYF UDEEN
(CONTINUES TO RAPE TAJ UNTIL HE
IS GRATIFIED)
You are a whore for the
American! But, now, you are my
whore (He slaps and beats TAJ
brutally). My men will pay
money for you, American whore!

COL. SAYF UDEEN opens the tent and tells one of his
"officers" that TAJ is for sale.

COL. SAYF UDEEN
(Shouts to his men in Afghani)
The American whore is for sale!

EXT: IN DISTANCE, SEVERAL TALIBAN PRAY ON SMALL RUGS- DAY:

EXT: Bamiyan, COL. SAYF UDEEN'S TENT -DAY:

COL. SAYF UDEEN collects a sum of money for TAJ. The "officer"
enters the tent and commences to repeat the rape. TAJ is abused
and almost unconscious as she is repeatedly gang-raped by a
succession of COL. SAYF UDEEN's "Officers," who each pay
COL. SAYF UDEEN before entering the tent to rape TAJ. The line
of soldiers is long and rough looking. TAJ suffers in silent
semi-comatose hysteria as the brutal pummeling and abusive
rapes go on and on.

INT: KABUL HOSPITAL, UNESCO TRUCK ARRIVES FAST -NIGHT:

Dr. Labeeb, puzzled, sees the UNESCO truck.

Dr. Labeeb
ROB! What has happened?

ROB
(Points at KHALEEL)
The Taliban cut off his hand and
foot!

Dr. Labeeb
(Opens Truck door)
Ohhhh! KHALEEL!

KHALEEL is feverish and holds forth his stumps.

KHALEEL
(in a soaking sweat)
The pain is most severe Labeeb.

Dr. Labeeb
(Opens Truck door)
I have morphine, KHALEEL.

They help KHALEEL to a bed. Dr. Labeeb injects KHALEEL with Morphine and he passes out into a deep sleep.

ROB
(INTENSE)
TAJ needs our help. The Taliban hold her and the UNESCO wheat shipment for ransom at Bamiyan.

Dr. Labeeb
Ransom?

ROB
(INTENSE)
The statues are smashed and the money won't save them. So, I am going to spend the statue ransom money to save lives instead of saving statues which can't be saved anyway.

Dr. Labeeb
I am willing to help. But, I still do not understand what I can do here.

ROB
I must take five hundred thousand dollars from the bank of Kabul, tomorrow, to pay the ransom for her release and the wheat. I need your help to withdraw the money and drive the UNESCO truck to my plane because the Taliban will grab the money after I take walk out the front of the bank.

EXT: BAMIIAN MILITIA FIRE ARTILLERY INTO BUDDHAS, -DAY:

Taliban fire tank projectiles directly into the Buddhas several times as if making war against the Buddhas. The BAMIYAN BUDDHAS are damaged as the Taliban Department of Virtue police supervise the attack.

INT: RAPE OF TAJ, at Bamiyan, COL. SAYF UDEEN'S TENT -DAY:

TAJ is abused and almost unconscious as she is repeatedly gang-raped by a succession of COL. SAYF UDEEN's "Officers" who pay COL. SAYF UDEEN before entering the tent to rape her.

Taliban Officer Grabs taj and bends her over the table & commences to rape.

TALIBAN "OFFICER"
(In broken English and
Afghani).

How does it feel to have a
Taliban man? Tell me! American
whore!

TAJ sobs and gasps as she is raped.

EXT: IN DISTANCE, SEVERAL TALIBAN PRAY ON SMALL RUGS- DAY:

EXT: KABUL BANK, MONEY WIRE DEPARTMENT -DAY:
ROB and HAASHIM, a bank officer, sit at desk.

ROB
(INTENSELY IN FRUSTRATION)
Two to three days? HAASHIM, it
is very important that I
receive the money today, not
two to three days!

HAASHIM
(POLITELY)
Mr. Blake, the United States
Federal reserve Bank in New York
usually takes one day to clear
all wired money from the U.S.

ROB

(EDGY)

How can we get it wired in less time?

Haashim

We cannot.

ROB picks up phone on Haashim's desk

ROB

(Holding phone)

I need to call New York.

Haashim

Be my guest.

ROB

(TALKING ON PHONE)

JOHN BAKER, please. ROB
BLAKE JOHN? How are you?
Good! Negotiating Yes! They
want \$500 K by today They
have pledged one year time
for you to remove the
statues. Yes, Bank of
Kabul. They want the money
today! Thank you John!

ROB

(ROB HANGS-UP PHONE AND
SPEAKS) TO HAASHIM)

They have promised to have the
money wired into Afghanistan
before eleven this morning. In
three hours.

HAASHIM

We cannot promise for
certain. But I might be able
to get it into your hands
before noon if it arrives
then.

ROB writes a check for five thousand to HAASHIM

ROB

DR. LABEEB has my instructions to give this check for five thousand to you if you can get the money into our hands in a reasonable time, preferably before twelve, noon.

INT: GOVERNMENT PALACE, KABUL - NEWS CONFERENCE -DAY:

ROB and Dr LABEEB attend this news conference. They mingle with the crowd of news reporters.

MULLA AHMAD MUTAWWAKIL

(Emotion in his voice)

The Taliban government of Afghanistan rejects, out-of-hand, the United Nations report that has accused Taliban of violating women's rights with unabated severity. We question the methods used to arrive at such conclusions.

INDIA NEWS REPORTER

(POLITLY)

Mr. MUTAWWAKIL. Can you please tell us why the very well respected UN reporter, Mr. Jawad Nabeeh would write such a critical article if he, himself, is also a member of the same faith he is accused of criticizing?

INT: RAPE OF TAJ, AT BAMBIYAN, COL. SAYF UDEEN'S TENT -DAY:

TAJ is abused and almost unconscious as she is repeatedly gang-raped by a succession of COL.SAYF UDEEN's paying "Officers." She breaks down and chokes out a sob.

EXT: IN DISTANCE, SEVERAL TALIBAN PRAY ON SMALL RUGS- DAY:

INT: GOVERNMENT PALACE, KABUL - NEWS CONFERENCE -DAY:

MULLA AHMAD MUTAWWAKIL
(SIMMERING MAD)

The UN reporter, Mr. Jawad Nabeeh, who compiled this exaggerated report, is "obviously an ignorant and incompetent man who writes more for money than truth."

ROB and Dr. LABEEB mingle with the crowd of news reporters. As ROB turns to speak to Dr. LABEEB, a man hands ROB a note.

ROB
(UNFOLDS NOTE AS HE COMMENTS)

LABEEB, I think we need to ask why the Taliban hold the head of the UNESCO food mission in Bamiyan.

ROB reads note and looks grim and motions to LABEEB that it is time to leave. ROB walks outside the Palace with Dr. LABEEB. ROB stops and points to note, which he puts in LABEEB's hand.

ROB
(FRUSTRATED)

Obviously, if we protest that TAJ is being held hostage, then we won't see her again.

Dr LABEEB
(LOOKING AT NOTE, READS)

The note is very clear on that point.

They enter the UNESCO truck and drive away.

EXT: UNESCO COMPOUND, LANDING STRIP AND BIPLANE -DAY:

ROB (Continuous) is getting into biplane and handing five thousand check to LABEEB.

ROB

(HANDS OVER CHECK)

HAASHIM who knows us both very well has my instructions to turn the money over to you, preferably before or close to twelve, noon. If he can do it, please give him his incentive money.

Dr LABEEB

(Nods)

Let me see if I understand:
After I get the money, I am to drive like hell one block, around the corner to North on Herat Avenue. You land the biplane ahead of me. I drive alongside the biplane, jump in the biplane with the money briefcase in the second or third seat and you take off.

ROB

Yes, Now, please drive the truck on the right side of the biplane and let's rehearse the move.

Dr. LABEEB smiles and drives to right of biplane. LABEEB goes through motions of pretending the newspaper is a briefcase and dumps it into seat behind ROB and climbs into biplane behind ROB.

ROB

We will just leave the truck in Kabul and fly with the money back here to UNESCO to pick up the drivers for the wheat trucks in Bamiyan.

Dr. LABEEB

(SMILES at ROB)

This plan will work.

EXT: KABUL BANK, MONEY WIRE DEPARTMENT

-DAY:

HAASHIM looks at clock while he speaks on phone to Bank of Afghanistan central money clearing office.

HAASHIM

(Looks at clock on wall)

Before twelve, ABDUL. Two hundred for you. Four hundred for me. Yes! In your hands today! Another hundred for your manager? Aaiieeee, (whining) Agreed. I also feed a family. The check is in front of me! Ah! ABDUL! You are a gentleman! Excellent!

The time is eleven thirty. HAASHIM hangs up the phone, walks to back of bank, converses with management. Management looks at Dr. LABEEB and waves, smiles. Shortly later, HAASHIM emerges with briefcase and motions to Dr. LABEEB to come to the back office. They fan the money in the briefcase to make a cursory check that it is all present.

Dr. LABEEB signs papers for money and gives five thousand dollar check to HAASHIM & takes money briefcase with \$500K)

Dr. LABEEB

Thank you HAASHIM.

Dr. LABEEB leaves Kabul bank for Kabul street. One of the dishonest bank clerks telephones the Militia thieves who are waiting for the phone call notification to steal the money in an ambush.

LABEEB sprints to the UNESCO truck and drives like crazy for a long wide street just a block from the bank. He keeps checking his watch. The Militia is not far behind him as he careens around a corner.

ROB is flying his biplane in a landing approach to the long and wide street. ROB lands and LABEEB abandons the UNESCO utility truck as planned, runs & jumps in the moving biplane with the money and they roar down the street with Militia in hot pursuit.

Further down the street, a donkey-pulled cart slowly begins to cross their takeoff path. ROB, at the last moment, takes off momentarily and they hop over the donkey cart and touch down on the other side and still trying to gain enough speed for take off.

The militia truck is gaining. But, ROB manages to take off at the last breathless moment and they escape with the money.

EXT: "UNESCO" BLUE BIPLANE FLIES IN CLEAR BLUE SKY -DAY:

ROB
(FLYING, TALKS TO DR LABEEB)
The drivers for the grain
trucks are waiting at the
UNESCO compound. We'll be
there in five minutes.

EXT: "UNESCO" BLUE BIPLANE LANDS AT UNESCO COMPOUND -DAY:

The biplane lands and picks up three more men. (Wheat Truck Drivers) at UNESCO Compound. One stands on each bottom wing and holds struts. Another sits in last seat Biplane struggles down runway and takes off for Bamiyan. ROB plays the radio, English language broadcast.

.
EXT: "UNESCO" BLUE BIPLANE FLIES IN CLEAR BLUE SKY -DAY:

BIPLANE RADIO
". . .Mutawakil said 'the
human rights issue had been
turned into a business by the
people like Mr. Jawad Nabeeh.
This man hasn't taken the
trouble to verify facts, or
seek the Taliban version
regarding allegations against
them."

EXT: BAMIIYAN, IN DISTANCE, TALIBAN PRAY ON SMALL RUGS-DAY:

INT: RAPE OF TAJ, at Bamiyan, COL. SAYF UDEEN'S TENT -DAY:

Rape of Taj continues. She is abused and almost unconscious as she is repeatedly raped by Taliban.

TAJ
(GASPS OUT BARELY AUDIBLE WORDS)
No. . No! . .Uhh!

EXT: "UNESCO" BLUE BIPLANE FLIES IN CLEAR BLUE SKY -DAY:

BIPLANE RADIO

Mutawwakil claimed "Mr. Jawad Nabeeh lacks experience to write about human rights issues and has published exaggerations against the Taliban, created by their opponents.

INT: RAPE OF TAJ, at Bamiyan, COL. SAYF UDEEN'S TENT -DAY:

Rape of Taj continues. She screams out as she is repeatedly gang-raped by a succession of COL. SAYF UDEEN's paying "Officers."

TALIBAN "OFFICER"

(GRABS TAJ AND BENDS HER OVER THE TABLE & COMMENCES TO RAPE AND BEAT HER)

TAJ

(SCREAMS OUT)

Stop. . Stop! . Stop!!Uhh!

EXT: "UNESCO" BLUE BIPLANE FLIES IN CLEAR BLUE SKY -DAY:

BIPLANE RADIO

Mulla Mutawwakil has asked: "Where is the proof that Taliban have abducted women or forced them into prostitution? Mr. Jawad Nabeeh has made irresponsible statements and the UN has lost credibility by publicizing such groundless reports."

INT: RAPE OF TAJ, at Bamiyan, COL. SAYF UDEEN'S TENT -DAY:

The rape of Taj continues.

TAJ

(SCREAMS OUT. STRUGGLES)

No!. Wait!. Please stop! . Stop!!Uhh!

Taj struggles to fend off her attacker

TAJ
(STRUGGLES)
No!. Wait!. Please stop! .
Stop!!. Oh God! Kill me! Kill
me!

TALIBAN "OFFICER"
(FORCES HER OVER TABLE, RAPES,
BEATS HER & SHOUTS ANGRILY)
You wish Al Queda death?
Whore! I peel-off all your
skin and death takes many
days.

Taliban draws knife from sheath, grabs Taj by her hair, and
throws her to ground. He moves his knife down toward her
stomach.

TALIBAN "OFFICER".
(Knife tip cuts slowly on Taj's
stomach)
Al Queda death is no skin! No
skin! I will peel you.

Taliban drags Taj from tent past line of Taliban men. They
follow.

TALIBAN "OFFICER".
(Drags Taj, viciously. Laughs)
I skin you. No skin! No skin!

EXT: BAMIIYAN, IN DISTANCE, TALIBAN PRAY ON SMALL RUGS-DAY:

EXT: RAPE OF TAJ, at Bamiyan, COL. SAYF UDEEN'S TENT -DAY:

The Taliban soldiers help drag the struggling Taj to
the rock outcrop: Fly covered bodies. A severed hand and
foot are on the ground. The fly covered skinned man is
still alive and writhes in agony. He makes inhuman noises
and touches his skin hide, in the dust, and reaches toward
the Taj and Taliban.

SKINNED MAN:
(Reaches in horrific agony)
Eeeii, uhhh. . . Allah! Allah!

TAJ.
(IN Horror)
.Kill me! Kill me!

TALIBAN
(Chant in Afghani & broken
English)
Skin the Whore! Skin the whore!

EXT: BAMIIYAN, DISTANCE, TALIBAN STAND BY SMALL RUGS-DAY:

The praying TALIBAN notice TAJ screaming and stand to watch

EXT: "UNESCO" BLUE BIPLANE FLIES IN CLEAR BLUE SKY -DAY:

RADIO ANNOUNCER,
BIPLANE RADIO
Mr. Jawad Nabeeh, is the
Former government minister of
Bangladesh. He published his
refugee investigation
after surveying camps in
Pakistan and Afghanistan last
year.

EXT: THE TALIBAN HOLD TAJ DOWN NEAR SKINNED MAN -DAY:

She looks at them in silence. The skinned man reaches toward
Taj. The Taliban savagely kick him many times.

TALIBAN "OFFICER".
(Poises knife to cut Taj, and
sneers with satisfaction)
Uuhhmmmmmm

EXT: IN DISTANCE, WARLORD ABDUL-WADOOD RUNS TO TAJ -DAY:
He is shouting. The Taliban hesitate and look at him. The
skinned man gasps.

ABDUL-WADOOD
(Shouts angrily at Taliban
holding Taj)
Stop! She is for ransom!.

EXT: "UNESCO" BLUE BIPLANE FLIES IN CLEAR BLUE SKY -DAY:

BIPLANE RADIO
Mr. Nabeeh's report will be
presented to the UN Commission
on Human Rights on March
twenty. Nabeeh's investigation
reveals Taliban human rights
abuses have denied women
education, health, and
employment. Thereby, making
them prisoners of the Taliban
government of Afghanistan.

EXT: BAMIIAN, "VINCENT" BIPLANE, LANDING -DAY:
There are explosions on the surfaces of the Great Buddhas as
the Taliban occasionally shoot them with artillery.

ROB
(Lands biplane)
I don't see TAJ.

EXT: WARLORD ABDUL-WADOOD & SAYF UDEEN AWAIT MONEY -DAY:

ROB taxis biplane nearby and stops.

ROB
ABDUL-WADOOD! I have the money
and am most anxious to know where
is TAJ Parzuli?

ABDUL-WADOOD
(LOOKS ANGRILY AT COL.SAYF UDEEN)
Mr. Blake, your friend, TAJ,
is in the tent. (POINTS TO
COL.SAYF UDEEN'S TENT WHERE
TAJ EMERGES ESCORTED BY
TALIBAN). She has been abused
without my knowledge. You may
remove one hundred thousand to
pay for her suffering with my
deepest apologies.

ROB
(Immediately opens suitcase,
counts \$100K, and hands \$400K
over to ABDUL-WADOOD)
Here is four hundred thousand,
General WADOOD.

General WADOOD orders a Taliban to bring TAJ. While they await arrival of TAJ, General WADOOD takes the suitcase with the money and puts the keys for the wheat trucks into ROB's hands.

ABDUL-WADOOD
(LOOKS AT ROB)
Take the wheat trucks and your
woman. You have ransomed them.
The Great Buddhas cannot be
rescued.

EXT: Taliban walk from COL. SAYF UDEEN'S tent DAY:

The Taliban walk from COL. SAYF UDEEN'S tent, holding TAJ's forearm as she walks unsteadily. Obviously, she is distraught.

She sees ROB and DR. LABEEB and tries to smile, but cries instead. Her face is bruised.

Both ROB and LABEEB run to TAJ. They sense that she has been raped. (Continuous)

ROB: gently touches her bruised face, and wipes small stomach cut, then assists her toward the biplane.

ROB:
Ohhh TAJ! They mistreated you.
You cannot fly in this
condition!

TAJ:
(STOPS AND INTERRUPTS)
The Taliban have skinned a
man. We must stop his
suffering!

EXT: Taj grabs LABEEB & ROB & leads toward rock pile DAY:

(Continuous) In the distance is a small village in front of the Buddhas. A small boy runs shouting toward a woman and small girl gathering firewood. The woman puts down her bundle and

hurries toward the area where the Taliban are gathered near the tent and the skinned man. As she comes nearer, she stops and hesitates with her small children. They stare at the skinned man.

The Taliban are also looking. They all look at the horribly pathetic sight of the skinned man.

EXT: Tears run down the skinned man's face. He sobs DAY:

(Continuous)The skinned man reaches his hand toward the woman and small boy.

SKINNED MAN:
Ohhh Allah! Allah! Allah!

The small boy grabs the woman's arm and points to the skinned man while shouting in a sob-choked voice. The woman - suddenly shrieks in recognition that the skinned man is her husband. She screams accusingly at the Taliban while the children also scream and cry.

The skinned man turns his head and looks at them as his family screams in sobs and runs toward him. He hoarsely speaks to them and holds his hand toward them. Tears run down his face.

Before anyone can react, LABEEB shouts and gestures at Rob to intercept the woman and children. At the same time, Dr. LABEEB grabs ROB'S pistol from its holster and runs toward to the moaning skinned man.

Rob intercepts the screaming wife and children of the skinned man. Taj grabs the small children and hugs them to her as she prevents them from watching their father suffer. Rob embraces the wife and turns her away from watching Dr. Labeeb. The Taliban look on. Labeeb is trembling violently as he tries to aim and then shoots, but misses the skinned man. Labeeb kneels to get closer and says something softly to the skinned man that none can hear.

The skinned man reaches up and holds Labeeb's hand steady to assist while guiding the muzzle of the pistol to his forehead and with the skinned man's trembling thumb on the trigger. As the muzzle points at the skinned man's head, he shoots himself in the forehead and is knocked back by the blast, dead.

Labeeb stands, walks back to ROB, and puts the pistol back in ROB'S holster. Dr. LABEEB is badly trembling and speechless for a short time as he looks into TAJ's battered face.

The wife of the skinned man breaks free of ROB's arms, screams, runs to the dead skinned man, falls to her knees and embraces him.

The wife screams and kisses her dead husband. The children run to their mother & dead father while they sob and wail.

EXT: WIFE OF THE SKINNED MAN KNEELS NEXT TO HIM -DAY:

WIFE OF THE SKINNED MAN:
(Bloody and trembling screams at
the Taliban)
Assassins! Assassins!

SON OF THE SKINNED MAN:
(shouting)
Why did you hurt my father?

Daughter OF THE SKINNED MAN.
(CRYS & POINTS ACCUSINGLY AT TALIBAN)
My Papa, My Papa, My Papa

.
WIFE OF THE SKINNED MAN.
(trembling, sobs at the sky)
Allah! Allah! (Sobs)

The wife screams and kisses her dead husband

EXT: BUDDHAS, DISTANCE, TALIBAN HOLD PRAYER RUGS & LOOK ON-Day:

Taliban do nothing. Some Taliban turn away as if realizing their crime, they cannot look at what they have done.

Taj puts her arm up around LABEEB'S trembling shoulder and holds as if trying to comfort him. She looks at ROB. Labeeb turns away, sobs and chokes. Tears run down his cheeks. Tears run down Taj's cheeks. Robs eyes fill with tears as he looks at the tragic sight of the skinned man and his family.

TAJ .
(Tears and trembling)
I can fly the biplane back to
Kabul, myself. If you and
LABEEB do not drive the wheat
trucks to KABUL, people will
die of starvation.

ROB
(softly)
TAJ, I am worried that . . .

TAJ
(INTERRUPTS)
ROB, if you want me to feel better, you will allow me to fly back to Kabul, by myself. And, you and LABEEB will drive the wheat trucks. Otherwise, I shall become ill. (smiles in tears, briefly)

Dr. LABEEB looks into TAJ's battered face and is shaken by what he sees. He reaches into the biplane and takes out his Doctor's bag.

DR LABEEB
(Checks TAJ's blood pressure)
TAJ, your blood pressure is not normal. You have suffered a terrible assault. I can see the signs.

TAJ
(Pushes LABEEB)
LABEEB! I know that I am well enough to fly! Thank you both for your concern. Please, I prefer not to discuss my condition further. I shall fly the plane if you and ROB will drive the wheat trucks to KABUL!

The volunteer wheat truck drivers stand by. ROB passes the truck keys out to the volunteer Afghani drivers and to LABEEB. Both he and LABEEB assist TAJ to climb into the Biplane.

DR LABEEB
(On Biplane footstep)
TAJ, promise me you will see Doctor NASIHA immediately when you arrive in Kabul

TAJ
(Reaches and squeezes LABEEB'S
hand)
I promise and thank you for
your consideration, LABEEB.

ROB
(ON BIPLANE FOOTSTEP)
TAJ, You will be in Kabul
within the hour. Please get
medical attention General
WADOOD paid you a hundred
thousand because his men
attacked you. Your money is
under your front seat.

TAJ
(REACHES UNDER FRONT SEAT, PULLS
OUT SUITCASE & OPENS IT IT IS
STUFFED WITH \$100K)
Well, at least General WADOOD
appears to think that I am not
a "cheap" whore

ROB
(Smiles & steps down)
TAJ, you still have your sense of
humor! We'll have the wheat in
Kabul, tomorrow.

TAJ starts the biplane motor and taxis biplane.

EXT: TALIBAN WATCH TAJ TAKE OFF IN BIPLANE - DAY:

The Taliban watch in envy. She revs the motor and moves down
the runway, then takes off. The Taliban stare enviously.

EXT: ROB, LABEEB, WHEAT DRIVERS ENTER WHEAT TRUCKS - DAY:

ROB and LABEEB with the wheat-truck-driver-volunteers enter
the wheat trucks and drive toward the mountain pass leading to
Kabul.

EXT: BIPLANE FLOWN BY TAJ, ALONE, CLEAR BLUE SKY -- DAY:

TAJ, by herself, listens to music while she flies the biplane back to UNESCO Compound in Kabul to await ROB's arrival with the wheat trucks. She lands at UNESCO. ROB communicates with TAJ by radio from the trucks to the biplane radio.

ROB
(DRIVING TRUCK)

We are just now entering the Hindu Kush mountains which you flew in an hour. It'll take us two days to drive it.

EXT: KABUL, UNESCO COMPOUND, TAJ ON BIPLANE RADIO - DAY:

TAJ
(HOLDING RADIO MIKE)

I miss you already. So, Please drive safely.

ROB
I promise to drive safely if you promise to get medical attention for your injuries, as soon as possible.

TAJ
(HOLDING MICROPHONE)
I plan to visit the doctor within the hour.

The radio begins to crackle with static and both TAJ and ROB hear static.

ROB
TAJ, too much static. Can't hear you! TAJ, I will call later!

ROB hangs up radio mike.

EXT: KABUL, UNESCO COMPOUND, TAJ HANGS-UP RADIO - DAY:

EXT: AFGHAN MOUNTAIN RD., TALIBAN LAY IN AMBUSH - DAY:

ROB, LABEEB & the starving Afghans drive trucks toward UNESCO in Kabul. They are attacked in the mountains by other Warlord TALIBAN; and, two of the food trucks are damaged -

ROB's and a second truck, whose driver is killed. Dr. LABEEB escapes in his truck. The other remaining drivers in the wheat

convoy escape and follow Dr. Labeeb. They all drive on to KABUL. ROB runs from his bullet riddled truck & is on foot, alone, in hostile TALIBAN territory.

EXT: KABUL, UNESCO COMPOUND, WHEAT CONVOY ARRIVES - DAY:

Wheat convoy drives into UNESCO compound. DR. LABEEB parks truck. TAJ runs out of bakery looking for ROB. She asks LABEEB for ROB. He explains. She cries.

LABEEB

(GENTLY)

We were ambushed by TALIBAN in the mountains ROB's truck and Rafee's truck were damaged and they had to abandon their trucks and run into the desert to escape. We could not stop for them. I can only suggest that we look for them with the biplane.

TAJ

(IN TEARS WALKING TO BIPLANE)

Are you coming to look with me?

DR. LABEEB

(Grabs water containers)

Let's go look! I will show you where we were ambushed.

EXT: UNESCO COMPOUND, TAJ & LABEEB IN BIPLANE - LATE NOON:

TAJ and LABEEB take off in the biplane and fly over the road, retracing the wheat convoy route back toward HINDU KUSH mountains. They locate the wrecked trucks in the area of the ambush and use binoculars to observe TALIBAN, far below, unloading wheat from the two damaged trucks TAJ circles for a very long time as light fades from the sky. No ROB to be seen. TAJ continues to fly as it becomes dark.

EXT: - ROB SITS IN TRACKLESS WASTELAND & LOOKS UP -NIGHT:

ROB is sitting on a rock outcrop looking at the sky. He can see the biplane's running lights and silhouette.

ROB
(SMILES LOOKING UP)
My beautiful TAJ. Come back
tomorrow. You will find me.

EXT: TAJ FLIES BIPLANE, DR LABEEB IS PASSENGER NIGHT:

DR LABEEB
(LOOKS AT FUEL GAUGE)
TAJ, we are low on fuel and
even if we see a light, we
cannot land out here in the
dark. I must get back to the
hospital.

TAJ turns the plane toward KABUL and the UNESCO compound.

EXT: TAJ FLIES BIPLANE & LANDS AT UNESCO COMPOUND -NIGHT:

DR. LABEEB assists TAJ from biplane.

DR. LABEEB
(COMPASSIONATELY)
TAJ, we can start at sunrise
and find him, tomorrow. I
will be here at six in the
morning unless I must be at
the hospital.

TAJ hugs DR LABEEB and kisses his cheek

TAJ
LABEEB, I know you have
patients who need you at the
hospital. I now have my sister
to help me.

EXT: TRACKLESS WASTELAND OF AFGHANISTAN -- DAY - MORNING:

ROB, wanders in the trackless wasteland of Afghanistan looking
for food and water. The sun glares.

ROB
(STAGGERING ON A VAST OPEN
EXPANSE, TALKING TO SELF)
Oh, TAJ. I know you can find me.

EXT: TAJ REFUELS BIPLANE AT UNESCO COMPOUND -MORNING:

TAJ, with SAFIYA refuels biplane, loads supplies.

TAJ
(LOVINGLY)
SAFIYA, You have two children
who need you here and not in
this airplane. You can help by
taking my place in the bakery.
I can look for ROB myself.

EXT: TAJ FLIES BIPLANE OVER TRACKLESS WASTELAND -MORNING:

TAJ flies the biplane across the trackless wastes again and
again looking for ROB. TAJ scans the ground with binoculars.
She flies from morning to dark, but no luck. She cannot see ROB
anywhere.

EXT: TALIBAN WATCH TAJ FLY BIPLANE OVER WASTELAND -MORNING:

Nearby ROB's location, with binoculars, TALIBAN watch TAJ fly
the biplane.

EXT: ROB SEES TALIBAN & HIDES IN TRACKLESS WASTELAND-MORNING

TAJ
(LOOKING THROUGH BINOCULARS)
Oh, yes. I do love him very much.

EXT: ROB IN TRACKLESS WASTELAND -- DAY:

ROB, suffering from sun & thirst, staggers through the vast
expanse of the arid Afghan plains looking for water. ROB walks,
but does not see biplane.

EXT: TAJ FLIES BIPLANE OVER TRACKLESS WASTELAND-TWILIGHT:

ROB
(walking on a vast open expanse,
talking to self)
Oh, TAJ. I know you can find me.

EXT: TAJ FLIES BIPLANE, SEES TALIBAN AT UNESCO - NIGHT:

During landing, TAJ sees the Taliban loading a truck with her bakery workers. With wooden rod whips, the Taliban beat SAFIYA and the female workers, LATEEFA, SALMA, RAFA, TAROOB, who stumble as they climb into the truck. SAFIYA'S children scream as SAFIYA is hauled away by the Taliban.

SAFIYA
(Crying from the whips)
TAJ! TAJ! The Taliban police
have arrested us for working!

SAFIYA is thrashed by Taliban. LATEEFA, SALMA, RAFA, are all crying. They cry-out to TAJ

EXT: TALIBAN AT UNESCO COMPOUND -NIGHT:

SAFIYA
(Shouting)
Please, TAJ, take care of my
children!

TAJ rushes from biplane to her friends and to SAFIYA, running alongside the truck, she grasps their hands as the Taliban drive them away.

TAJ
(Nods her head in affirmative)
SAFIYA, I will find a lawyer
for you. I will help.

INT: TAJ UNESCO COMPOUND BAKERY -NIGHT:

TAJ walks back to the quiet bakery, empty of people, sits at a table and bursts into tears for a moment. WIDAD appears from the tunnel at the back of the pantry room where she was hiding. TAJ looks up and sees WIDAD. They embrace in tears.

TAJ
(stops crying)
WIDAD, go hide in the
pantry until I return.

TAJ wipes her own tears and walks to the UNESCO bread truck.
She enters and drives toward KABUL.

EXT: ROB WALKS IN TRACKLESS WASTELAND -- NIGHT:

ROB, suffering from thirst, staggers through the vast expanse
of the arid Afghan plains looking for water.

ROB
(CHECKS COMPASS-almost delirious)
TAJ, I am really thirsty!
When you find me, please have
lots of water (Yells); I need
a water! (Laughs deliriously).
Beer. Ohh, a gallon of beer!
(Shouts at sky) TAJ, bring
beer! (Then, more quietly:)
Cold beer would be nice.

EXT: KABUL. TAJ DRIVES UNESCO BREAD TRUCK -NIGHT:

TAJ drives to BAASIM's alley house and knocks on the door. An
old lady (BAASIM'S mother) answers. TAJ has a brief word and is
invited in.

INT: BAASIM'S HOME - A ONE ROOM HOVEL -NIGHT:
BAASIM enters room and TAJ explains she needs manpower for
the bakery tonight.

TAJ
The Taliban have arrested my
sister, SAFIYA, and my workers,
BAASIM. I need to hire your
friends and yourself to work at
the UNESCO bakery until I can
free my workers.

BAASIM

TAJ, how much may I tell my
friends they will be paid?

TAJ

One dollar and five loaves of
bread each day.

BAASIM is motivated - almost electrified. He runs to put on
his sandals and hurriedly explains to TAJ

BAASIM

TAJ, I will have the workers here
for you in one hour. (TAJ hugs
him).

TAJ

(TO BAASIM AS SHE LEAVES AND
ENTERS UNESCO TRUCK)

I will meet you here in one hour
BAASIM.

INT: KABUL HOSPITAL, TAJ LOOKS FOR DR LABEEB -- NIGHT:

DR LABEEB, walking out of a ward room, sees TAJ.

DR. LABEEB

(SURPRISED)

TAJ, what brings you here?

LABEEB gently takes TAJ's hand.

TAJ

(STRESSED VOICE)

I need a lawyer to defend my
sister, SAFIYA, and my UNESCO
employees in court tomorrow.

DR. LABEEB
What has happened?

LABEEB holding TAJ's hand

TAJ
(stressed)
The Taliban arrested them at
the UNESCO bakery on violation
of the law which prohibits
women from working.

Dr. LABEEB
Your workers were unemployed
homeless women on the streets
before you gave them work,
salary, and food to eat. Now,
the Taliban arrest them for
working and not starving.

TAJ
(LOOKS AT LABEEB)
Can you find a lawyer tonight?

Dr. LABEEB
(REACHING FOR PHONE)
Yes! Now! (LABEEB speaks on
phone) TAAMIR! This is LABEEB.
Yes, good. I have five women
for you to defend in a charge
of violating the work law.
Yes, TAJ, the manager of the
UNESCO bakery will pay your
fee. Four o'clock, Department
of Virtue.

EXT: KABUL, TAJ DRIVES UNESCO BREAD TRUCK

-NIGHT:

TAJ drives to BAASIM's alley house. Her new work crew is a
group of five boys. All are about nine to ten years old, except
BAASIM, who is eleven. They enter truck and TAJ drives away.

INT: UNESCO BAKERY, TAJ AND WIDAD TEACH BAKING -MORNING:

Everyone is busy at the UNESCO Bakery while TAJ and WIDAD show the boys what must be done. BAASIM teaches WIDAD how to drive the UNESCO truck around the compound. WIDAD continues the teaching and baking while TAJ prepares the biplane for another search flight to look for ROB.

BAASIM drives the truck and teaches WIDAD again.

BAASIM
(DRIVING TRUCK WITH EXPERTISE &
ASSURANCE)

WIDAD, my father taught me how
to drive before he died. I am
expert! I can drive anything!

WIDAD takes wheel from BASIM, drives the truck, and stops it by the bakery building where TAJ is preparing maps and supplies for her planned flight in the biplane.

TAJ
WIDAD, Please continue to show
the boys how to bake the bread. I
must look for ROB, now.

WIDAD
ALLAH be with you, TAJ

EXT: TAJ REFUELS BIPLANE AT UNESCO COMPOUND -MORNING:

TAJ loads supplies. She climbs into biplane and takes off.
The boys watch with keen interest from the bakery.

EXT: TAJ FLIES BIPLANE OVER TRACKLESS WASTELAND -MORNING:

TAJ is desperate to find ROB. She flies the biplane across the trackless wastes again and again looking for him. While she flies, TAJ scans the ground with binoculars, but no luck. Nearby ROB's location, with binoculars, TALIBAN watch TAJ fly the biplane. She cannot see ROB anywhere.

ROB sees the TALIBAN and hides. Eventually, the TALIBAN decide they have wasted enough time and they drive away.

EXT: ROB IN TRACKLESS WASTELAND -- - MORNING:

ROB, suffering from thirst, staggers through the vast expanse of the arid Afghan plains looking for water. He collapses and remains sprawled on the ground. The sun glares. Suddenly, he

hears the biplane. He looks desperately. Sun glares. The biplane cannot be seen.

EXT: TAJ FLIES BIPLANE OVER TRACKLESS WASTELAND -MORNING:

TAJ, desperate to find ROB, begins sobbing. She flies the biplane and scans with binoculars. She stops crying as she sees a figure on the ground through her binoculars. TAJ swoops lower for a closer look. The TALIBAN slow their jeep and watch the biplane. TAJ sees the TALIBAN. She looks at the figure

EXT: TALIBAN IN JEEP WATCH BIPLANE SWOOP LOW -MORNING:

TALIBAN stop their jeep.

TALIBAN
(Gestures toward biplane)
She is going to land.

EXT: TAJ FLIES LOW, SCREAMS IN RECOGNITION -MORNING:

EXT: ROB sprawled ON TRACKLESS WASTELAND -- DAY:

ROB, raises head and sees TAJ. TAJ sees him. They wave frantically at each other.

EXT: TAJ FLIES LOW, SCREAMS IN RECOGNITION -MORNING:

As she passes low over ROB, she drops a canteen of water near him ROB crawls and staggers, grabs it and drinks feverishly while TAJ turns into a landing approach on the flat expanse.

TAJ
(FRANTIC WITH JOY)
ROB! I'm coming

EXT: TALIBAN IN JEEP WATCH BIPLANE SWOOP LOW -MORNING:

TALIBAN swerve their jeep around and head in the direction of the landing biplane. They are almost within rifle range. The TALIBAN in the front passenger seat readies his Kalishnikov assault rifle as the jeep speeds across the flat expanse toward TAJ and ROB.

EXT: TAJ LANDS BIPLANE, SCREAMS JOYFULLY -MORNING:

TAJ taxis biplane near ROB. They see the dust cloud of the TALIBAN jeep closing toward them. TAJ jumps out of the biplane, embraces, and kisses ROB as she helps him climb into the biplane. TAJ then hurriedly climbs into the pilot's seat, reves

the engine and starts to roll toward take-off, slowly gathering momentum.

EXT: TALIBAN IN JEEP GAIN ON BIPLANE

-MORNING:

TALIBAN shoots burst from his automatic rifle at Biplane. The bullets kick dust walking toward the biplane, but, do not quite reach. He fires another burst This time they walk much closer. Another burst; and, they walk closer, yet.

..

EXT: TAJ GUNS BIPLANE APPROACHING TAKE OFF SPEED-MORNING:

Bullets kick dust behind biplane. Biplane lifts off and is airborne. Biplane gathers more and more speed as TAJ flies it in a low angle fast climb. The TALIBAN fall behind, still shooting. Soon, TALIBAN are no longer a threat as biplane gains speed and TAJ and ROB escape. TAJ looks back at ROB, who is still drinking water, laughing, and shouting love to TAJ.

.

EXT: TAJ FLIES BIPLANE, LANDING AT UNESCO COMPOUND-MORNING:

They exit biplane and greet Widad and the boys. TAJ explains to ROB about the arrests of her staff.

TAJ

The Taliban arrested them for working here in violation of the MULLAH law prohibiting women from working.

ROB

The Taliban knew that the women also lived in their home, here, at the bakery. Technically, the women were working out of their home, therefore, were not violating the law.

TAJ

I have retained a lawyer through LABEEB. The Taliban court will hear their case at four this afternoon.

ROB
I can testify that they live here. I'm going to Kabul to visit KHALEEL and will also attend the court hearing.

EXT: KABUL HOSPITAL, ROB, TAJ, SPEAK WITH DR LABEEB DAY:

Dr. LABEEB
KHALEEL is sleeping. The wounds are healing; and, He can leave the hospital in three days.

EXT: KABUL, DEPARTMENT OF VIRTUE COURT BUILDING -DAY:

ROB enters courthouse with TAJ who is trembling because she knows the penalty for prostitution can be death. LATEEFA, RAFA, TAROOB, and SAFIYA huddle in terror as they sit in some chairs under guard by Taliban. TAAMIR DAWOUD, the lawyer hired by TAJ to defend the Bakery women is seated at small lawyer table Seated next to him is his co-counsel, LAWYER FAWAZ UDEEN. They see TAJ and ROB and introduce themselves.

LAWYER TAAMIR DAWOUD
(Extends his hand)
Ah, TAJ PARZULI and you are Mr ROB BLAKE, the museum representative. I am TAAMIR DAWOUD, and this is my partner, FAWAZ UDEEN. We are pleased to represent this work-law matter to the court for your friends.

They all shake hands. TAAMIR DAWOUD shuffles papers.

ROB
(TO LAWYER TAAMIR DAWOUD)
All the workers live at the UNESCO compound. This fact should exonerate them from the "no-work" rule. It provides proof that they cannot be involved in prostitution because they work and (cont'd)

live at the UNESCO compound,
far outside of Kabul.

LAWYER TAAMIR DAWOUD

You are quite correct, Mr.
BLAKE. This will be my
defense. This should be
sufficient to free the
workers. But, the Mullahs may
find reason to punish the
women workers for other
unwritten violations. There
are no solid defenses in these
matters.

EXT: KABUL HOSPITAL, TALIBAN SPEAK WITH DR. LABEEB DAY:
KHALEEL stares in terror from his hospital bed.

DR LABEEB

My patient, KHALEEL, is very
ill. His wounds are not
healing; and, He will become
very ill if he must leave the
hospital.

The Taliban laugh, ignore LABEEB, and drag KHALEEL from his
bed. DR. LABEEB hands KHALEEL a crutch as the Taliban take him
away.

EXT: KABUL, DEPARTMENT OF VIRTUE COURT BUILDING -DAY:

LAWYER TAAMIR DAWOUD

(TO ROB AND TAJ)

The judges are entering. I
will tell them that you wish
to address the court.

EXT: KHALEEL SITS IN DEPARTMENT OF VIRTUE COURT#23 -DAY:

KHALEEL is addressing a group of MULLAH Judges in
another courtroom, part of the DEPARTMENT OF VIRTUE COURT
compound. He sweats and is very afraid. KHALEEL projects
the air of an innocent man who knows he is wrongly accused
and in mortal danger as he faces a court with the odds
against him. Yet, he makes every effort to seek
understanding and justice, in his naive belief that he
will be deemed innocent by his explanation of the truth.

KHALEEL

(SWEATS AND EXPLAINS SINCERELY)

No! No! I do not know how to turn on a Military transceiver. If the radio was on when I found it, I did not notice. I am not a spy.

MULLAH JUDGE #1

(LEANS OVER)

Do you expect us to believe that you were not paying any attention to the transceiver the entire time it was on?

KHALEEL

(SINCERELY)

No! No! If the radio was on when I found it, I did not notice.

MULLAH JUDGE #1

(LEANS OVER)

You concealed the transceiver in your robe. Do you expect us to believe that you were not paying any attention to the transceiver the entire time it was turned on and concealed in your robes?

.
EXT: KABUL, DEPARTMENT OF VIRTUE COURT#1 BUILDING -DAY:
SAFIYA, LATEEFA, RAFA, and TAROOB are huddled in some chairs under guard by several Taliban. TAAMIR DAWOUD, the lawyer hired by TAJ to defend the Bakery women is seated at a small lawyer table from where he has been speaking to the assembled MULLAH JUDGES.

LAWYER TAAMIR DAWOUD
(Stands and Addresses the MULLAH
JUDGES)

Prior to living at the UNESCO compound for the past seven months, each of these women was living on the streets of Kabul, starving and eating garbage with their children to stay alive. These women are widows of Taliban soldiers who died for Afghanistan.

The MULLAH Judges converse briefly among themselves

ROB
(To TAJ)
What are they doing?

TAJ
(CONCERNED)
They are planning and the girls will be punished, one way or another.

MULLAH JUDGE#1
The women who worked at the UNESCO bakery were in violation of the work laws of Afghanistan. We view the UNESCO compound as their temporary shelter, same as a hotel, which does not qualify as a "home," under the law.

LAWYER TAAMIR DAWOUD
(ADDRESSES THE MULLAH JUDGES)
The landlords took the houses from these women and threw them and their children on the streets after their husbands were killed. The UNESCO bakery is the only home of these women because they had no home and lived on the streets before their arrival at the UNESCO compound near Kabul.

MULLAH #1

(Looks at TAAMIR DAWOUD)

The women, SAFIYA PARZULI, and RAFA SAMAD have been examined and must be circumcised before they are released.

TAJ is shocked

ROB

I knew it They are determined to apply technical language, rather than justice. But, they want to appear fair. The MULLAH-priests are politicians more than they are holy men.

LAWYER TAAMIR DAWOUD

(NERVOUS)

These women were offered a home and food at the UNESCO bakery by TAJ Parzuli, manager of the UNESCO mission. Each woman bakes bread, which is given free of cost to the starving of KABUL. If these women cannot work, there is no bread for the starving. . . .

LAWYER TAAMIR DAWOUD sweats as he presents his case before the Mullah Judges.

MULLAH #1

(Looks at LAWYER TAAMIR DAWOUD)

The women, SAFIYA PARZULI, LATEEFA HALEEM, and TAROOB JAMAAL are charged with prostitution. Have them stand and answer the charges.

SAFIYA, LATEEFA, and TAROOB stand at the docket

LAWYER TAAMIR DAWOUD
The women, SAFIYA PARZULI,
LATEEFA HALEEM, and TAROOB JAMAAL
plead "not guilty" to
prostitution.

EXT: DEPARTMENT OF VIRTUE, ROB & NU'MAN DISCUS BRIBE -DAY:

NU'MAN, KoKo's OWNER, and ROB stand outside the Department
of Virtue in conversation.

ROB
How much do you want for SAFIYA,
NU'MAN?

NU'MAN
She promised to work if I gave
her a room. I have been in the
United States. You have similar
"Health Club" contracts which
your courts enforce in the United
States, same as our Taliban law.
A person agrees to pay for
membership in a health club. If
they leave the club before the
contract expires, they owe the
club money - same as Taliban law.

ROB
Your Whore House is a Health
club? You provide her a filthy
Bordello room to sleep with men;
and, this gives you ownership of
her for life?

NU'MAN
She was very fortunate that she
looks so good, so I gave her a
room and chance to make money.
Our contract was that she
promised to work. She cheated by
leaving and must pay her contract
promise. I cannot afford to give
rooms to all the trash who beg
for the opportunity.

ROB

She was lucky "trash" that you gave her so much. How much money do you want for this "Trash?"

NU'MAN

The price to buy a woman to be your wife in Afghanistan is eighteen hundred dollars. But, SAFIYA could have made me much more money than this.

ROB

How much for this "Trash"?

NU'MAN

(RUBBING HIS FINGERS)

I want five thousand.

ROB

(WRITES CHECK FOR \$5K)

Here is the check for five thousand, unsigned. When the Mullah Judge drops the charge of prostitution against her in-court and releases her, I will sign this check in court, or put the cash in your hands, today, according to your preference.

NU'MAN

(TAKES CHECK)

I will inform the procurator, now, that I have dropped the charges.

ROB

How much to release the other women LATEEFA HALEEM, and TAROOB JAMAAL from the charges of prostitution? And, how much will it cost to release the others from their violation of the work laws?

NU'MAN

I did not make any charges against the other women. The Taliban charged them with prostitutions of other times and places. I can do nothing.

.
INT: DEPARTMENT OF VIRTUE, MULLAH COURT, TAJ & ROB -DAY:

LAWYER TAAMIR DAWOUD

My client, TAJ PARZULI, sister of the woman, Safiya Parzuli, and employer of the women, and RAFA Samad, claims her right to be heard as a witness on behalf of the accused.

Judge Mullah #1

Let her step forth and be heard.

TAJ

(EXTREMELY & VISIBLY UPSET)

Everyday, we see starving women and children on the streets in Kabul. Their husbands, brothers, or sons were Taliban soldiers who were killed fighting for Afghanistan.

MULLAH JUDGE

What do you mean?

.TAJ.

You starve Women of Afghani soldiers killed fighting for Afghanistan. Women are prohibited from work and driven to starvation and prostitution, to eat garbage like street dogs.

Why are women of Pakistani Taliban not refused work and do not starve like garbage-eating dogs.

MULLAH

(GLANCES AT MULLAHS & shouts)

You speak too freely!

TAJ

My sister and my employees are charged with crimes of Prostitution, for which the penalty is death. You have informed us that they all have been examined and will also be circumcised. The situation requires I speak freely to seek justice for them.

MULLAH JUDGE #1

Information presented to this court indicates these women have been associated with prostitution which breeds venereal and AIDS disease.

TAJ

Genital mutilation of women is done by Mullahs who see women as lower life forms than men. "Circumcision" of the female is like tearing off a priest penis with pliers. Never in the history of Afghanistan has a man suffered amputation of his penis in the way Mullahs cut off the clitoris of women.

MULLAH JUDGE #2

Circumcising woman at infancy removes pleasure of prostitution and reduces spread of venereal AIDS disease. If circumcision was not done at infancy, then it must be done to the adult.

TAJ

Taliban Mullahs are not interested in stopping violence against women and children. We need only look at the streets and graveyards of Afghanistan to see that starving women and children eat garbage with dogs. This is the work of Taliban and *not* the work of Allah.

MULLAH JUDGE #2

(shouts)

You have said enough! Step down!

TAJ steps down from the witness dock

INT: DEPARTMENT OF VIRTUE COURT# 1

-- DAY:

MULLAH JUDGE #1

The charges against the woman, Safiya Parzuli, have been dropped. She will be released after she is circumcised.

The woman, RAFA Samad, violated work laws and will be given seven lashes. Each must be circumcised before release.

Trial of LATEEFA HALEEM, and TAROOB JAMAAL, is continued to third day of this month at this same time. Court is adjourned.

The Mullahs arise and leave. TAJ stands near witness dock

LAWYER TAAMIR DAWOUD

(POLITELY ADDRESSES COURT)

My client, TAJ PARZULI, sister of the woman, Safiya Parzuli, and employer of the woman RAFA Samad will return to this court as required.

INT: DEPARTMENT OF VIRTUE COURTROOM -- DAY:

SAFIYA & other women are led from the Department Of Virtue Courtroom. SAFIYA cries out and TAJ screams for her sister and tries to embrace her. The Taliban roughly push and lash their whips at TAJ and SAFIYA and drag SAFIYA away.

SAFIYA

(SCREAMING)

TAJ! TAJ! TAJ!

TAJ
(REACHING TOWARD SAFIYA)
OOOHH!

ROB
(HOLDS TAJ UP & CARRIES HER)
Come on TAJ.

LAWYER TAAMIR DAWOUD
(TO TAJ AND ROB)
Please! It will be best if you
leave now and return to the
UNESCO bakery. There is nothing
we can do. I will keep you
informed.

ROB leaves Department of Virtue with TAJ.

INT: UNESCO BAKERY KITCHEN, TAJ ANXIOUS ON PHONE -- DAY:
The recently hired boys work and bake bread.

TAJ
(HOLDING PHONE TO EAR)
These genitalia mutilations cause
degenerative infections, ulcers,
running sores, sterility, and
death. Oh! These Mullah-priests
make war on women and children
and against life itself.

INT: UNESCO BAKERY, TAJ & ROB TALK, BOYS BAKE -MORNING:

EXT: DEPARTMENT OF VIRTUE JAIL -- DAY:

KHALEEL is harshly led and pushed from a jail cell to a large
prisoner truck, where he limps and is made to sit down. The
truck drives away with KHALEEL inside.

Mullah
(IN COURTROOM SPEAKING TO LATEEFA
& TAROOB)

The women, LATEEFA HALEEM,
and TAROOB JAMAAL, have been
found guilty of prostitution.
You will be hanged until dead,
this afternoon, at the Kabul
justice grounds.

LATEEFA HALEEM and TAROOB JAMAAL cry out in terror. They are alone. The Taliban guards grab and drag them from the courtroom. LATEEFA HALEEM and TAROOB JAMAAL are brought to the Department Of Virtue Jail courtyard, whipped severely, and loaded into a truck, then driven away.

INT: UNESCO BAKERY, TAJ & ROB TALK, BOYS BAKE -NOON:

Through the window of the bakery a speeding car is seen as it moves toward the UNESCO compound. It arrives in the courtyard and screeches to a stop. LAWYER TAAMIR DAWOUD and his partner, LAWYER FAWAZ UDEEN, sweating and breathing hard, together, jump from the car and run to the bakery. Everyone is watching.

LAWYER TAAMIR DAWOUD
(ANXIOUS)

LATEEFA HALEEM, TAROOB and
KHALEEL have been sentenced to
death and are being
transported to the execution
grounds this afternoon. If you
intend to ask the Mullahs for
mercy on their sentence, you
must do so very quickly.

ROB and TAJ are running with TAAMIR and LAWYER FAWAZ UDEEN toward their UNESCO truck.

ROB
(LEADING TAJ TOWARD TRUCK)
We'll follow you, TAAMIR.

LAWYER TAAMIR DAWOUD & LAWYER FAWAZ UDEEN run to their car. TAJ and ROB jump into UNESCO truck. They start their vehicles and

TAJ & ROB follow TAAMIR & LAWYER FAWAZ UDEEN at high speed

EXT: KABUL EXECUTION GROUNDS, LARGE STADIUM, CROWD - DAY:

MULLAHS sit prominently in special MULLAH court box, off toward one end of the stadium. A large group of lawyers and relatives stand in line in proximity to the Mullah court box, waiting their turn to seek mercy or last minute reprieves for condemned relatives in the stadium. Nearby, inside the stadium, bound condemned men and women stand in line with their guards. As TAJ and ROB enter the stadium with LAWYER TAAMIR DAWOUD, in the background, several men are being whipped for "Adultery." The men cry out as they are lashed.

EXT: KABUL JUSTICE GROUNDS, LARGE STADIUM, CROWD - DAY:

Near the center of the "exhibition" field is a large iron grate basket which is half-full with severed human heads, swarming with flies. Roaches also crawl on the dead faces.

Men are being whipped. The master of ceremonies steps forth holding a microphone as the whipping of the adulterer men is finished and they are released, staggering in pain away from the whipping posts. The crowd claps lightly and falls silent.

The master of ceremonies makes another announcement and a woman is escorted to the center of the stadium and handed a very large carving knife. The crowd stands and claps enthusiastically for her as a bound man is dragged toward her and forced to lay on the ground at her feet.

LAWYER TAAMIR DAWOUD speaks to rob as they wait in line at the mullah judge box

LAWYER TAAMIR DAWOUD

Her son was murdered by that
man and she has right to put
him to death.

The woman kneels down, pulls the man's head back and begins sawing his head off by drawing the sharp knife across his throat. He thrashes, but guards hold him still while his throat is cut & blood spurts. The woman saws his head off and discards it on the ground. The crowd claps as she washes her hands and guards throw the head in the iron grate basket, drag away the body, and throw it into a pile of fly-swarmed headless

bodies on the back of a truck. Flies buzz and swarm.

EXT: STADIUM MULLAH JUDGE BOX - DAY:

LAWYER FAWAZ UDEEN
(TO ROB AS THEY WAIT IN LINE AT
THE MULLAH JUDGE BOX)

These are gay men who are
allowed to be freed if the
battle tank does not crush
them.

EXT: CENTER OF STADIUM, EXECUTION AREA -- DAY:

Three gay men are next led to the front of a wall. They are dressed in the traditional Afghani robes; but, their robes are more silken and have a design which tells an observer that they are gay. They hold hands in solidarity as they face death.

EXT: AUDIENCE SEATING AREA OF STADIUM -- DAY:

There is a small group of five rough Afghani men in the stadium, amused by the plight of the Gays. The crowd is silent; but, the small group of five rough Taliban men laugh when the Gay men are lined against a stone wall.

EXT: CENTER OF STADIUM, EXECUTION AREA -- DAY:

A large T-72 Battle Tank drives slowly to the back face of the wall and then drives into the back of the wall knocking it over on top of the three gay men. The gay men cry out in agony as the tank drives over the wall and crushes them. Blood bursts in geysers, shooting in spurts from the under edges of the wall. The gay men obviously suffer as they cry out in agony while bones audibly crack and they are being horribly crushed.

One Gay man survives and crawls from under the debris of the wall, bloody, badly broken, and gasping for air. He staggers and falls. The crowd is silent, but the small group of five rough Taliban men laugh. The surviving gay man crawls on all fours to freedom as the crowd claps for him.

The laughing "red neck" Afghanis make sound effects and vulgar motions with their mouths and hands pointing to their groins and rectums as the Gay man crawls to freedom.

INT: DEPARTMENT OF VIRTUE "CIRCUMCISION" ROOM -DAY:

Under guard, Safiya Parzuli, SALMA BAARI, and RAFA Samad wait to be "circumcised." The "circumcision" Mullah (soiled robes) sits outside the DEPARTMENT OF VIRTUE building with a soiled looking rag which he takes from his robe. He unwraps the

rag from which he withdraws his "circumcision instruments." Wrapped in the rag are his "cutters" -- a pair of vicious tile cutter pliers. He sharpens the jaws with a file and alternately scrapes the cutter edges on the filthy cement front stairs of the jail. He also sharpens a kitchen knife which he lays alongside a pair of auto-mechanic's long nosed pliers. He smiles. Swarms of flies buzz around his instruments.

EXT: STADIUM MULLAH JUDGE BOX

- DAY:

LAWYER TAAMIR DAWOUD
(TO ROB AS THEY WAIT IN LINE AT
THE MULLAH JUDGE BOX)
These men have been
found guilty of murder.

EXT: CENTER OF STADIUM, EXECUTION AREA

-- DAY:

The Taliban guards lead in more men who have been convicted of murder and force them to kneel. The relatives of the men beseech the Mullah in the Mullah judge box. The Mullah wave them away and signal that the headsman is to proceed.

The headsman with a large heavy sword walks over and beheads the first condemned man. The man's relative at the Mullah box cries out in anguish. The crowd claps. The headsman beheads the second and crowd claps.

The wife and son of the third condemned man run to the Mullah box and present papers accompanied by the wife of the murderer's victim. The Mullahs wave-off the headsman, reprieve the condemned murderer, and allow him to stand-up and be escorted away.

The headsman, finally, beheads the fourth while the condemned man's relative runs away from the Mullah box. The crowd claps.

INT: DEPARTMENT OF VIRTUE "CIRCUMCISION" ROOM

-DAY:

Under guard, Safiya Parzuli, SALMA BAARI, and RAFA Samad wait to be "circumcised" The "circumcision" Mullah walks into the "Department Of Virtue Circumcision" Room. The room is a small dirty janitor's room with fly infested trash cans in the back near an alley. Trash litters the floor and a single dim light lights the "operating table" which is an old greasy work bench with mechanic's tools and various broken parts of furniture at one end. The Mullah, "circumcision surgeon," brushes them to one side and calls for his first "circumcision patient." The Taliban drag SALMA BARRI into the "circumcision room." SALMA screams and struggles as Taliban force her onto the table. .

INT: JUSTICE EXECUTION STADIUM

-DAY:

ROB
(TO LAWYER TAAMIR DAWOUD)
TAAMIR, How much can we pay to
save KHALEEL and the girls.

LAWYER TAAMIR DAWOUD
(TO ROB AS THEY WAIT IN LINE AT
THE MULLAH JUDGE BOX)
Mr. Blake, the Mullah are not
interested in money to be paid
for these people. Just like the
statues, no amount of money will
make any difference.

TAJ speaks to LAWYER FAWAZ UDEEN

TAJ
(SHE SEES SAFIYA IN HER MIND)
ROB, I must go see if my sister
is in danger. I will go with
FAWAZ and meet with you later at
the bakery. Please stay here and
try to help the ladies.

ROB
(NODS)
I will do everything I can to
help them, TAJ.

TAJ speaks to LAWYER FAWAZ UDEEN and they hurriedly leave the
stadium

EXT: CENTER OF KABUL STADIUM, EXECUTION AREA -DAY:

Four men are brought into the stadium. An announcer announces
their crimes.

LAWYER TAAMIR DAWOUD
(TO ROB AS THEY WAIT IN LINE AT
THE MULLAH JUDGE BOX)
These men are soldiers who have
deserted or have been convicted
of crimes.

The Taliban force the men to turn around as they stand in line. A Taliban soldier steps up and shoots each of them in the back of the head. They fall as they are shot. The headsman walks over, beheads each corpse, and throws the head in the iron grate basket. The crowd claps politely.

ROB

(TO LAWYER TAAMIR DAWOUD)

TAAMIR, is there anything we can do for these women?

INT: DEPARTMENT OF VIRTUE "CIRCUMCISION" ROOM -DAY:
The "circumcision" Mullah holds his cutting pliers and bends over SALMA BAARI, who is visible only from the waist up and from the knees down, groin not visible, held by the Taliban firmly on the table with legs spread open, groin not visible. The Mullah holds the pliers in one hand while he puts his other hand on her groin - not visible. She screams in terror. The Mullah moves his cutter pliers into place while she struggles; and, he cuts and tears off her clitoris -- not visible. SALMA shrieks in pain, again and again. The Mullah takes a hot cauterizing iron and cauterizes the wound - not visible. He places a filthy rag against SALMA's groin and moves her hand to hold the rag against the wound. The Taliban lift her from the table, make her stand-up, and roughly push her as she staggers, spread-legged, out the door. She gasps in agony, holding the rag against her bloody groin as her sandals leave bloody footprints from the blood running down her legs.

The "circumcision" Mullah drops the cut and torn piece of SALMA BAARI's clitoris into his "specimen collection jar " He smirks and signals for his next victim.

INT: DEPARTMENT OF VIRTUE "CIRCUMCISION" HALLWAY -DAY:

Under guard, Safiya Parzuli, and RAFA Samad wait in the hallway to be "circumcised"

EXT: MULLAH BOX KABUL STADIUM, EXECUTION AREA -DAY:

LATEEFA HALEEM and TAROOB JAMAAL cry out in terror. The Taliban guards grab and drag them from the truck to the hanging scaffold in front of the MULLAH's box. They see ROB and scream to him and to LAWYER TAAMIR DAWOUD. ROB grabs TAAMIR and they approach the MULLAH box. LAWYER TAAMIR DAWOUD points to the women & pleads with the MULLAH for their lives. He points to ROB and the word UNESCO can be heard several times while he speaks amid the noise of the large crowd in the stadium.

The MULLAHS look at ROB and then at LATEEFA HALEEM and TAROOB JAMAAL. The hangman lifts the noose and is about to put it around the neck of LATEEFA HALEEM. The MULLAH signals the hang man to wait and politely listens to LAWYER TAAMIR DAWOUD.

ROB
(GRASPS TAAMIR'S ARM)
Please explain we request an opportunity to continue this case to obtain more evidence I will pay all costs.

LAWYER TAAMIR DAWOUD
(SPEAKS AFGHANI TO MULLAH)
We request an opportunity to continue this case to obtain more evidence. Our clients will pay all costs.

The MULLAH look at ROB and then past him to the execution area.

EXT: CENTER OF KABUL STADIUM, EXECUTION AREA -DAY:

Behind ROB, suddenly, KHALEEL is harshly pushed from a large prisoner truck and he sprawls as he hits the ground with his crutch in hand. He struggles to stand and limps on his stump as he is pushed towards the headsman.

KHALEEL
(TERRIFIED. SHOUTS IN AGONY)
Mr. ROB! Mr. ROB! I am not a bad man Please! Mr. ROB! I have a family
(KHALEEL LOOKS AT LATEEFA HALEEM and TAROOB JAMAAL) We have families. We are not bad people!

ROB whirls and sees KHALEEL waving and shouting at him. ROB is shocked to see KHALEEL awaiting the headsman... A Taliban starts to tie KHALEEL's good arm and stump arm behind his back. KHALEEL struggles to resist, But the Taliban tie his arms and drag him toward the headsman.

EXT: MULLAH BOX KABUL STADIUM, EXECUTION AREA -DAY:

LATEEFA HALEEM and TAROOB JAMAAL cry out in terror as their hands are tied behind their backs The MULLAH nod toward the

hangman. The hangman puts a rope noose around the neck of LATEEFA HALEEM and then one around the neck of TAROOB JAMAAL.

LAWYER TAAMIR DAWOUD is red in the face, sweating, almost shouting at the MULLAH as he gestures toward TAROOB JAMAAL, LATEEFA HALEEM and KHALEEL. TAAMIR is trying his best to save lives with language and is experiencing the stress of a man who feels his efforts may not be sufficient.

The MULLAH nods at the hangman and the hangman then yanks the rope tight on TAROOB JAMAAL and hoists her into the air while her feet are kicking violently as if trying to run in air. She continues to kick as LATEEFA HALEEM screams while the hangman grabs her neck rope. Her voice chokes to a gurgle as she is hoisted, kicking into the air. The women kick violently as they slowly choke to death. One MULLAH nudges another and moves his fingers to imitate the death-kicking of the women. The other MULLAH points his fingers and imitates the death kicking. They laugh, imitate, and laugh again, over and over.

EXT: CENTER OF KABUL STADIUM, EXECUTION AREA -DAY:

KHALEEL is forced to his knees while he struggles to free his arms. As the headsman draws back his sword and readies it to swing, KHALEEL manages to free his stump arm and bring it up just in time to be in the way of the sword blade as it swings toward his head. The sword chops off about ten inches of KHALEEL's stump arm which falls to the ground.

KHALEEL struggles to his feet and holds out his chopped-off arm spurting blood toward the crowd, as if to show he has paid enough and should be reprieved. He staggers on his good leg with his previously amputated leg stump limping in the dust in a tilt to one side.

There is shouting from the crowd to spare him. The spectacle is reminiscent of an ancient Roman coliseum. It looks like he might be spared. He struggles to walk, weak from loss of blood. Staggers & falls to one knee. Crowd silence.

The Mullah nods. LAWYER TAAMIR DAWOUD explains to ROB that it looks as if the Mullah's nod may have given permission to release KHALEEL.

EXT: MULLAH BOX KABUL STADIUM, EXECUTION AREA -DAY:

LAWYER TAAMIR DAWOUD
(SPEAKS TO ROB)
I hope the MULLAH have signaled
mercy.

Optimism: Some applaud what looks like a possible reprieve for KHALEEL.

The headsman walks up to KHALEEL with sword down and not in a threatening posture.

KHALEEL is starting to stand and then stands-up, forcing a grimacing smile, holding his stump forward and up with his good hand when the headsman sidesteps nimbly and spins with a sweeping sword hack at the back of KHALEEL's neck, which cuts KHALEEL's head completely off and leaves his torso standing momentarily in a grotesque stagger as a blood geyser shoots from his neck stump. KHALEEL's torso then stumbles forward and collapses to the dust. The headsman holds-up KHALEEL's head for display then tosses it into the open grid iron bar basket filled with the other heads. KHALEEL's torso is dragged in a bloody trail like the carcass of a dead animal to the fly swarming torso truck. Prisoners throw lye on KHALEEL's torso and stack it like wood on top of other torsos in the bed of the truck.

TAROOB JAMAAL, & LATEEFA HALEEM hang from their ropes. They are dead.

EXT: MULLAH BOX KABUL STADIUM, EXECUTION AREA -DAY:

ROB and LAWYER TAAMIR DAWOUD look on in silent shock and then walk away. The crowd is noisy as and Adulterer and Adulteress are brought out and forced to kneel. They are surrounded by Taliban and volunteers who begin stoning them with large rocks, almost a foot in diameter, ROB and LAWYER TAAMIR DAWOUD leave the stadium and walk toward their car as the Adulterer and Adulteress are being bashed to death by crowd throwing the stones.

The Mullah are still preoccupied pointing their fingers and imitating the death kicking with their fingers. They laugh, imitate with their fingers and laugh again, over and over.

EXT: TAJ & LAWYER UDEEN DRIVE BY MEN PRAYING ON RUGS -DAY:

EXT: DEPARTMENT OF VIRTUE PARKING COURTYARD -DAY:

TAJ and LAWYER FAWAZ UDEEN arrive in car. They get out of the car and LAWYER FAWAZ UDEEN makes inquiries about Safiya Parzuli, and RAFA Samad.

INT: DEPARTMENT OF VIRTUE "CIRCUMCISION" ROOM -DAY:

The "circumcision" Mullah holds his cutting pliers and bends over RAFA SAMAD who is held by the Taliban firmly on the table with legs spread open, groin not visible. The Mullah moves his cutter pliers into place while she struggles; and, he cuts and tears off her clitoris, not visible. RAFA SAMAD shrieks in pain, again and again. She suffers essentially the same as SALMA BAARI.

INT: DEPARTMENT OF VIRTUE "CIRCUMCISION" HALLWAY -DAY:

The "circumcision" Mullah drops RAFA SAMAD's clitoris into his "specimen collection jar " He signals for his next victim, SAFIYA PARZULI.

EXT: DEPARTMENT OF VIRTUE PARKING COURTYARD -DAY:

TAJ and LAWYER FAWAZ UDEEN knock on numerous doors at the Department of Virtue They search for the jail entrance, which is not posted with signs. They hear womens' shrieks from inside the jail area. TAJ is frantic to find SAFIYA.

INT: DEPARTMENT OF VIRTUE "CIRCUMCISION" ROOM -DAY:

SAFIYA PARZULI is dragged into the "CIRCUMCISION" room.

The "circumcision" Mullah holds his cutting pliers and bends over SAFIYA who is held by the Taliban firmly on the table with legs spread open. The Mullah, essentially, repeats his previous attack and holds the pliers in one hand while he puts his other hand on her groin - not visible. She screams in terror. The Mullah moves his cutter pliers into place while she struggles; and, he cuts and tears off her clitoris - not visible. SAFIYA shrieks in pain, again and again. The Mullah takes a hot cauterizing iron and cauterizes the wound - not visible. He places a filthy rag against SAFIYA's groin and moves her hand to hold the rag against the bloody wound. The Taliban lift her from the table, make her stand-up, and roughly push her as she staggers, spread-legged, out the door. She gasps in agony, holding the rag against her bloody groin as her sandals leave bloody footprints from the blood running down her legs.

. The "circumcision" Mullah drops the cut and torn piece of SAFIYA's clitoris into his "specimen collection jar " He signals the guards to throw the women out of the jail to the street.

"CIRCUMCISION" Mullah
(RUDELY)

The court has ordered seven
lashes each. Carry out the
sentence and throw this trash
out.

The guards drag, whip, and roughly push SALMA BAARI, RAFA SAMAD, and SAFIYA PARZULI, who stagger as they hold

bloody rags against their groins, out the jail door into the courtyard. They stumble and fall from the whips.

Once outside, the guards savagely whip the mutilated women. Red blood lines appear on their backs where the whip cuts through the cloth of their Burkas. SAFIYA collapses but the Taliban do not stop beating her. Their cane whips are merciless. SAFIYA is nearly unconscious from the beating. As she turns to ask mercy, the cane whip lashes a cut across her face making it bleed severely. The others suffer a series of lashes.

INT: DEPARTMENT OF VIRTUE COURTYARD JAIL EXIT -DAY:

TAJ and LAWYER FAWAZ UDEEN hear the screams and come running. TAJ screams in heartbreak as she sees Safiya being beaten with blood on her back, groin and legs TAJ runs to shield her and holds her as the Taliban continue to lash them both. TAJ also bleeds from the cutting whip.

LAWYER FAWAZ UDEEN holds SALMA BAARI and RAFA SAMAD. Then FAWAZ runs to his car and drives it alongside the injured women. TAJ and FAWAZ help the women climb into FAWAZ's car as Taliban whip. FAWAZ drives them away.

EXT: ROB ON PHONE IN LAW OFFICE LAWYER TAAMIR DAWOUD -DAY:

ROB speaks to BAASIM who is at the UNESCO bakery

ROB
(ON PHONE)
BAASIM, if TAJ phones, please tell her we looked for her at the jail and now we will look at the hospital.

EXT: BAASIM ON PHONE, UNESCO BAKERY, SPEAKS TO ROB -DAY:

Behind BAASIM's back, in the distance, is a dust cloud made by trucks driving toward UNESCO compound

BAASIM
(ON PHONE)
Yes, ROB I will explain to TAJ that you are at Dr LABEEB's office in the hospital.

AYMAN
(GRABS BAASIM'S ARM)
BAASIM! BAASIM! The Taliban are
coming.

INT: UNESCO BAKERY, BAASIM ON PHONE TO ROB -- DAY:

BAASIM
(TURNS AND SEES TALIBAN)
Mr ROB! The Taliban are coming!
What shall I do?

EXT: ROB ON PHONE IN LAW OFFICE LAWYER TAAMIR DAWOUD -DAY:

ROB
(CONCERNED)
They want to arrest Safiya and
TAJ, again. Please tell them we
took the truck to Jalalabad to
pull a trailer of wheat back to
Kabul for the bakery. Call me at
the hospital when they leave

BAASIM
(LOOKS AT TALIBAN ARRIVING)
I understand Mr. ROB. I will
never tell the Taliban anything.
I call you when they leave.

EXT: KABUL HOSPITAL -DAY:

FAWAZ drives TAJ, SAFIYA, SALMA BAARI and RAFA SAMAD
into the KABUL hospital driveway. TAJ and FAWAZ help the
injured women into the woman's area of the hospital. DR
LABEEB and Dr NASIHA tend to the injured

Dr. NASIHA
(EXAMINING SAFIYA)
These are such cruel injuries

DR. LABEEB
(CONCERNED AS HE SEES INJURY)
Ohh! When will this end?

FAWAZ

(INTENSE)

It will end when the twisted
Mullah priests leave our
government.

EXT: UNESCO COMPOUND, TALIBAN IN TRUCKS

-DAY:

Taliban Officer interrogates BAASIM and the boys as his
men search the bakery and living quarters

TALIBAN OFFICER

(ROUGHLY)

We want to speak to the sisters,
TAJ and SAFIYA PARZULI. Where are
they?

BAASIM

(PRETENDING COOPERATION)

They told me they must drive the
truck to pull a trailer of wheat
from Jalalabad They will return
tomorrow night.

The Taliban soldiers make a shambles of the bakery,
roughly overturning tables and knocking down bread racks
to look for TAJ and SAFIYA. Loaves of bread are all over
the floor, wheat and flour are spilled everywhere.

TALIBAN OFFICER

(POINTS HIS WHIP AT BAASIM)

They return when?

BAASIM

(COOPERATIVELY)

Tomorrow, at night

TALIBAN OFFICER

(LOWERS HIS WHIP AND LEAVES)

UMM

Taliban soldiers follow their leader and drive away..

INT: KABUL HOSPITAL LOBBY, ROB & LAWYER TAAMIR DAWOUD -DAY:

ROB & LAWYER TAAMIR DAWOUD enter the lobby and speak with nurse They enter emergency room TAJ and FAWAZ are with DR LABEEB and Dr NASIHA, speaking with SAFIYA, SALMA BAARI and RAFA SAMAD, who are laying on beds recovering ROB & LAWYER TAAMIR DAWOUD greet everyone and ROB holds Safiya's hand while he speaks with TAJ and Safiya to one side, out of earshot of the others, in a low voice, while the others converse

INT: KABUL HOSPITAL EMERGENCY RM , ROB, TAJ, SAFIYA -DAY:

ROB

(TO TAJ)

BAASIM just told me on the phone that the Taliban came looking for you and Safiya at the bakery. We should expect the worst and assume they are trying to make a case against SAFIYA for prostitution

TAJ

(TO ROB)

I cannot guess why they look for me.

ROB

(DISTRUGHT)

You and SAFIYA look alike!
The Taliban can therefore put you both on trial, separately, for prostitution if they find former customers of SAFIYA who will point their finger at either one or both of you!

SAFIYA

(GRABS ROB'S HAND)

Where can we go? The Taliban will find us.

(Holds both TAJ's hand and ROB's)

Kabul is only fifteen air minutes from the border of Pakistan in my biplane. We can fly across the border to Pakistan and then to India in about an hour.

A nurse hands the phone to DR. LABEEB

DR. LABEEB
(HANDING PHONE TO ROB)
He is right here BAASIM.

ROB takes phone

ROB
(SPEAKS ON PHONE TO BAASIM)
Yes BAASIM. Thank you for
warning us so quickly. Here,
speak to TAJ.

As TAJ speaks to BAASIM, ROB quickly assists SAFIYA out
of bed. Dr. Labeeb walks over to her bed

DR. LABEEB
(CONCERNED)
SAFIYA be careful that you do
not tear your stitches They
must be removed in about two
weeks.

DR LABEEB assists SAFIYA from the bed. He embraces her
and then TAJ. He shakes hands with ROB.

DR LABEEB
(TO ROB AND TAJ)
IF Taliban come to look for you,
what would you like me to say?

ROB
(SHAKING HANDS)
BAASIM told them we drove to
Jalalabad to pick up a wheat
shipment.

DR. LABEEB
(SMILES)
Yes! Wheat in Jalalabad

ROB, TAJ & SAFIYA say goodbye to SALMA BAARI and RAFA
SAMAD.

TAJ
(TO SALMA and RAFA)
I opened accounts for you at
the Bank of Kabul.
There is money for your
families. I will be in touch
with you.

TAJ leans over and kisses each of them on the cheek They
embrace and shed tears.

EXT: KABUL, UNESCO TRUCK, TAJ, SAFIYA, AND ROB -DAY:

ROB drives the back dusty roads of KABUL to avoid the
Taliban. They see a Taliban patrol in the distance and
move the truck into an alley until it passes. They
continue to drive until the UNESCO compound comes into
view.

EXT: UNESCO COMPOUND, BAASIM AND BOYS GREET TRUCK - DAY:

BAASIM helps SAFIYA from the truck. Her two children run and
hug her.

SAFIYA
(TO HER CHILDREN)
ZAAFIR, you and AFRAH must
help me pack quickly.

ZAAFIR, and AFRAH run ahead into the bakery and back to the
living quarters. TAJ assists SAFIYA. ROB is fueling and
servicing the biplane in haste. He hurriedly throws supplies
inside the fuselage baggage compartment. The pace is frantic
and fast. BAASIM assists ROB while the other boys assist TAJ.

EXT: KABUL HOSPITAL TALIBAN TALK WITH DR LABEEB -- DAY:

DR. LABEEB
(POINTS TOWARD JALALABAD)
They left here for their wheat
in Jalalabad just ten minutes
ago.

The Taliban officer leaves the hospital with his men. He calls on his Jeep radio. Communicates briefly on his radio, then directs his driver toward the UNESCO compound.

TALIBAN OFFICER
(POINTING TOWARD UNESCO)
UNESCO!

As the driver drives, a handmade wooden sign painted in blue becomes visible with the word "UNESCO" and arrow pointing toward UNESCO. The driver heads toward UNESCO. The officer checks his submachine gun and cranks a round into the chamber. He looks across the flat expanse with high power binoculars toward UNESCO.

EXT:UNESCO COMPOUND, biplane, ROB, TAJ, SAFIYA, KIDS -DAY:

ROB, TAJ, SAFIYA, ZAAFIR, and AFRAH climb into biplane. In the distance is a dust cloud. They wave good bye to the boys who stand in front of the bakery.

ROB starts the motor of the biplane as the dust cloud in the distance grows larger. He hurriedly revs the biplane and taxis it down the runway, turns and starts his take-off run.

The Taliban are almost within rifle range and shoot. Their bullets can be seen hitting the ground as a voluminous dust puffs about one half mile short of the runway. The biplane roars in the opposite direction down the runway as the bullets move closer with terrifying rapidity. Just as the bullets reach the runway, the biplane lifts off and starts its gradual climb. It has not yet reached its full speed and the Taliban are still gaining as it climbs. The Taliban continue to shoot. A Taliban bullet hits the fuel tank and causes a leak. But, the biplane seems unaffected. ROB continues to climb. He shouts back to TAJ and signals with his thumb up. TAJ looks back at the third seat and SAFIYA who waves.

TAJ signals ROB with thumbs-up. ROB points to ear phones with mike. TAJ puts them on. SAFIYA puts hers on. The Taliban are left behind and out of range.

EXT: TALIBAN, IN TRUCK, PURSUE & SHOOT AT BIPLANE - DAY:

The Taliban are seen on ground below, following the biplane
Again they fire more tracers at the biplane; but, the tracers
miss and the biplane is "out-of-range "

ROB

(SPEAKING ON HEADSET MIKE)

TAJ, tell SAFIYA to make sure
the children are double buckled
in their seatbelts very safely
because I may have to fly
upside down to avoid "Stinger"
missiles.

TAJ instructs SAFIYA and she double belts the kids very
securely. ROB points down and TAJ looks through high power
binoculars toward Pakistan border. She sees a small group of
Taliban military trucks moving fast in the same direction of
the biplane.

EXT: BIPLANE, ROB EXPLAINS TO TAJ

-- DAY:

ROB

(TENSELY)

Warn me if you see a trail of
white missile smoke coming up at
us. I gotta move fast if they
shoot a "Stinger" missile at us

EXT: TAJ POV: TALIBAN CONVOY APPEARS ON GROUND -DAY:

Through High Power Binoculars, TAJ sees TALIBANS in Jeeps. Some
carry "Stinger" missiles (Shoulder type) in their hands and
they are trying to aim at the faster biplane as it pulls away
from them

EXT: BIPLANE, TAJ SHOUTS IN HEADSET AND POINTS DOWN -DAY:

ROB looks down and sees white contrail of "Stinger"
missile streaking from jeeps on ground toward biplane. He
has barely seconds to react.

ROB immediately banks the biplane into a tight circular turn
as the missile approaches. Then he suddenly drops the nose into
a powered dive straight down, then a spinning loop. The
missile misses. ROB levels the biplane and continues to pull
away from the TALIBAN on the ground.

EXT: TAJ LOOKS AT TALIBAN CONVOY ON GROUND

-DAY:

The convoy is far behind the biplane; but, yet, another "Stinger" missile streaks up from the convoy toward the biplane. The Stinger is coming up from behind the biplane. ROB takes evasive action and it misses. By now, the TALIBAN are so far behind the biplane that they are no longer visible. TAJ laughs in relief. SAFIYA smiles. ROB raises hand in thumb-up sign.

ROB
(POINTS FINGER AHEAD)
Pakistan!

TAJ looks and sees Pakistani border guards looking at the biplane with binoculars. Guards run into BORDER guard house.

EXT: PAKISTAN BORDER GUARD HOUSE, GUARD ON PHONE -- DAY:
Pakistan border guard informs HQ that biplane is entering Pakistan airspace from Afghanistan.

ROB
(LOOKS AT INSTRUMENT PANEL)
We will be crossing the border into INDIA, in less than fifteen minutes. Lots of mountains and clouds ahead. I have the latest radar in my Vincent to see Pakistani Taliban fighters.

ROB looks at color radar. TAJ speaks in her headset mike to SAFIYA

EXT: PAKISTAN MILITARY AIRFIELD, 2 FIGHTERS TAKE OFF -DAY:

The fighters climb and their pilots talk.

PILOT #1
(LOOKS AHEAD)
We are to shoot down a biplane in the clouds of Zascar mountains. We cannot risk flying *between* mountain peaks.

PILOT #2

(LOOKS AHEAD)

If the biplane flies between Zascar mountains under the clouds, how can we see him? We do not have down-looking radar in this fighter.

PILOT #1

(LOOKS AHEAD)

The government obviously did not consult us when it bought this fighter from the Russians.

EXT: BIPLANE, ROB FLIES UNDER CLOUDS BETWEEN PEAKS -DAY:

Above the biplane is a blanket of protective clouds and mist. Side to side are mountain walls as they fly between the mountains. Below are beautiful sun-dappled valleys

ROB

(TURNS ON MUSIC)

Little music everybody? (THE BEAUTIFUL SOUNDS OF MOZART FILL THE AIR) We'll be crossing the border into INDIA in about five minutes.

EXT: PAKISTAN MILITARY AIRFIELD, RANKING OFFICER -DAY:

A voice from CAPTAIN MOHAMMED can be heard on the speaker.

GENERAL ALI

(SPEAKS INTO MIKE)

I know you cannot fly between the peaks of twenty-five-thousand-foot mountains. And, you do not have down-looking radar!

A voice from Captain Mohammed can be heard on the speaker

GENERAL ALI

(SPEAKS INTO MIKE)

This is why you must fly up! UP!
UP! UP! Very high! Then fly down
to get a reading on your radar
screen When you have the
reading, Shoot! Shoot! Shoot!
Understood?

EXT: PAKISTAN TALIBAN FIGHTERS FLY OVER MOUNTAIN CLOUDS -DAY:
The fighters climb and their pilots talk

PILOT MOHAMMED

(CLIMBING)

Yes Sir! Up! Up! Up!

PILOT #2

(LOOKS AHEAD)

Up! Up! Up! UUUUP!! (IMITATES
CHICKEN)

PILOT MOHAMMED

(CLIMBING)

Up! Up! Up!

EXT: Both fighters climb

-DAY

PILOT MOHAMMED

(DIVING)

DOWN! DOWN! DOWN! We have about
thirty seconds before they are
cross the border to India. Time
for one missile

PILOT #2

(DIVING)

DOWN! DOWN! DOWN!!! (IMITATES
CHICKEN)

PILOT MOHAMMED
(DIVING, SEES BIPLANE ON
RADAR SCREEN)
Ahh! I have a target

PILOT #2
(DIVING, SEES BIPLANE ON
RADAR SCREEN)
I also have a target

Both fighters dive

EXT: BIPLANE, ROB FLIES UNDER CLOUDS BETWEEN PEAKS -DAY:

ROB
(SMILES AS HE TALKS TO TAJ)
In about twenty seconds we
cross the border into India
so, I have two questions to ask
you.

TAJ
(SMILES)
Please ask me

ROB
(SMILES)
Shall I make a right or left
turn at the next mountain, my
dear?

TAJ
(SMILES)
You know you must turn right
to go East into INDIA.
(LAUGHS) Next question?

ROB
(SMILES)
I'm in love and want to marry
you. Will you marry me?

Before TAJ can answer, ROB sees the Taliban fighters on his radar.

ROB
(GRIM)
Taliban fighters behind us. I
gotta make that right turn now!

ROB yanks the biplane hard to the right and down. TAJ looks back with the binoculars and sees nothing but clouds.

EXT: TWO TALIBAN FIGHTERS DIVE AT MOUNTAIN CLOUDS -DAY:
The fighters dive and each shoots one missile.

PILOT MOHAMMED
(DIVING)
First and last shot

PILOT #2.
(LOOKS AHEAD)
MY last shot is gone .

PILOT MOHAMMED
(CLIMBING OUT OF DIVE)
Up! Up! Up!

Both TALIBAN fighters climb and their missiles head toward the biplane.

EXT: BIPLANE, ROB FLIES UNDER CLOUDS BETWEEN PEAKS -DAY:

ROB grimaces as he turns right and watches the missiles on his radar.

ROB
(STRAINING)
Com'on! Com'on! Don't let me
down, Vincent! Com'on!

The two missiles appear as flashing marks on ROB's Radar.

ROB continues to pull hard right. The radar screen alarm is shrill.

But, ROB's hard right turn has put a large mountain between the missiles and the biplane. The missiles crash and explode against the side of the mountain.

EXT: BIPLANE, ROB FLIES UNDER CLOUDS BETWEEN PEAKS -DAY:

ROB smiles, turns and looks at taj

ROB
Welcome to India! Bye-bye
Afghanistan and Pakistan. (ROB
looks down) Look, TAJ.

Seated at the end of the primitive dirt road is a large
smiling stone Buddha in front of a small mountain village

EXT: BIPLANE, ROB FLIES TO LAND ON DIRT ROAD -DAY:

The villagers run out to watch as the biplane lands like
an image out of a fairy tale. As the biplane taxis to a
stop, the friendly Indian villagers gather around. ROB
waves at them, exits the biplane, and helps TAJ and SAFIYA
get out with the children.

The villagers stare in shy friendly curiosity. They
start speaking in accented English.

VILLAGER
(SMILING)
Where are you from in this
wonderful flying machine?!

TAJ
(WALKS TO ROB AND REACHES TO
EMBRACE HIM WHILE SPEAKING)
The answer to your last
question is YES! YES! I will!
YES! A thousand times YES! I
have wanted to marry you since
I first met you!

TAJ hugs ROB and they both kiss each other, long and
passionately. The villagers clap. SAFIYA claps. SAFIYA's
children clap.

A FEW VILLAGERS
(SMILE, SOFTLY CLAP & SPEAK)
Ohh! Celebration! Do you visit
for marriage?

TAJ & ROB
(SMILE & LAUGH. They hug Safiya
and the kids)

THE END.

End credits play.

A BIPLANE FLIES UNDER MIST & SUN, BETWEEN PEAKS -DAY: