

Episode 11: The Tusks of Ganesha

BRIEF SYNOPSIS

The Cast arrive in Ulan Bataar, deep in the heart of CoR territory, where they discover that William/Nectanebus has escaped Pittsburgh and is en route to China to meet up with the Jade Lady, who is apparently part of a Dark Cabal intent on overthrowing the Dark Apostle in the name of the other Mad Gods. Also in town are Klaus's parents, still hunting him. Events lead to the Cast's cover being blown and a mad chase through the streets of Ulan Bataar ensues. Sabrina discovers her contact has been killed. Anita, at Nyarlathotep's urging, blows up a truck in the middle of a crowded marketplace, which has the fortunate side effect of allowing the Cast to get out of town in the midst of the chaos. They make their way to the village of Khun Li, where the daughter of the shirpa they used 20 years ago leads them back to the Lost Temple in the mountains, where the Llama Leng is still running the show, having not aged a day. Leng gives them the information they need to find the temple of Yad-Thaddag, and sends them through a portal just as the AoR kicks in the door and attacks the monks. The Cast find themselves on a mountaintop facing the entrance to an ancient temple, where the god Hanumaan informs them they must face trial by combat to enter. The Cast prevails and is met by a huge rat named Mushika, who agrees to carry them where they wish to go. As the rat moves into the darkness, they hear Hanumaan shout, "you cannot be here!" and the sounds of battle erupt. From the voices they hear in the tunnels, the Cast is able to determine that, as Matthew puts it, "Everyone in the world who wants us dead is now working together in that common cause."

Mushika lets them off at a huge set of double doors where inside they discover that Yad-Thaddag is in fact the Hindu god Ganesha. Ganesha gives John an amulet and a spell, and informs John that the spell will call forth the "familiar help you will need," and that the amulet will "carry you to where you need to be, to collect the Keys of Destiny, with which you can defeat Nectanebus and restore the timeline." He also tells John to remember that "No matter where or when Nectanebus is, he has only one soul. Wheresoever (and whenever) he is, there resides his soul. That is the key to defeating him."

When John casts the spell, he watches as right before his eyes, Klaus, Matthew, and Anita revert to themselves of 20 years earlier. This frees Anita of her commitment to Nyarlathotep, who, angry, teleports all their enemies into the room. John activates the amulet as Katherine and Sabrina say good bye and move to engage the enemy and Ganesha attacks Nyarlathotep. Out of a flash of celestial fire steps Michele, who joins the battle on the side of the good guys as the amulet pulses with power. The last thing John sees in the future is Nectanebus firing a bolt of green light at the amulet.

Then the cast falls out of the sky and lands face first on a road in the desert. On the horizon before them is a shining city; in the background an ancient forest, out of which ride several people in clothing that is too old to be called archaic...

QUOTES AND GREAT MOMENTS

Klaus has a nightmare and suddenly transforms, seriously wounding John in the process of trying to wake him up.

The cast arrives in Asia. There is a strong smell of copper and salt in the air...everyone is able to make the connection that it's the scent of blood. Soul police and AOR troops are everywhere, and signs are welcoming the Jade Empress to the capital city of Mongolia.

Klaus (re: the signs): "Oh dear..."

John (re: The Jade Empress): "Is she hot?"

Klaus: "If your definition of attractive is you want to die, than yes."

John: "All women kill you slowly, Klaus."

The cast is spotted after exiting the train. John leads the cast to safety and they lay low while awaiting Sabrina's Templar contact. Unfortunately, Klaus sees his parents in the city crowds and violently transforms which attracts their attention and raises the alarm. Anita, although overcome with Klaus' anguish from his powers, is able to knock his soul from his body so that he turns back into a human and John can grab him and the cast can get moving. His parents chase the cast throughout the city.

Sabrina (on the phone, to John): "We have problems." *hangs up*

John: "We have problems...duh!"

Sabrina finds her contact...riddled with bullets. Before he dies, he tells her that the Jade Empress has teamed up with a powerful sorcerer from the United States (Nectanebus) and the Sh'kyrth, Kane, and that together they plan to overthrow the Dark Apostle and bring their own Mad Gods into the universe.

Anita: "Didn't the Dark Apostle wipe an entire city off of the map? I think maybe your son's out of his league on this one."

Jason: "And who was it that completely destroyed Cathaway and all of its inhabitants?"

Anita: "Me. But that was different!"

Anita: "But John, we walked through the desert before..."

John: "Yes, and I remember it sucking!"

Klaus: "That way, we can avoid the Jade Empress and my parents..."

John: "What did you say?"

Klaus: "Nothing."

Anita is overcome with a desire to cause chaos while in the city. With a mischievous grin and an evil gleam in her eyes, she disappears. Several minutes later there is a large explosion, and she runs back towards the alley, giggling maniacally.

Matthew: "What're you doing with that grenade?"

Anita: "Oh, just thinking about blowing something up..."

Klaus (out loud, to the air): "I'm sure there will be much more chaos...elsewhere!"

John picks everyone up in a truck and they drive to the monastery. Later, while discussing how they will dispose of the truck, Anita volunteers to "take care of it." When John attempts to intervene, she kicks John in the groin and steals the truck. Matthew jumps in the back. Anita drives the truck down the mountain into a cave and throws a grenade inside, which destroys the truck and causes an avalanche, blocking the road from the city to the monastery. While walking back, Ebonor praises Anita and encourages her to reward herself by having a romp with Matthew before returning to the monastery. Anita walks quickly back, chain-smoking the entire way, carefully keeping her distance from him.

Klaus: "So I see you took care of the truck."

Anita: "Yes. I took care of the road, too."

John punches Anita in the face, attempting to knock her out. She goes down to her knees from the blow, but remains conscious.

John (to Anita): "If you don't stop doing this crap, I will leave you behind!"

Anita: "rolls her eyes"

John: "Trial by combat? Not trial by trivial pursuit?"

Matthew: "Thank God. I never was very good at that game."

Ebonor: "That is not fair!"

Ebonor (furiously grabbing Anita by the arm and pulling up her sleeve): "I may not be able to rule you anymore, but I can still screw you!" *snaps his fingers and the doors blow open to reveal Nectanebus, the Jade Empress, Kane, and Klaus' parents*

John (trying to read the amulet): "Klaus!!!"