

VISION

by

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based on characters by
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CHARACTERS

SANA, the Priestess of Melek

Assured and unshakable in her faith; Sana is easily surprised if things don't go exactly to plan, but she's quick to recover herself.

BLIND WOMAN, a peasant with a dark secret

Knows at least as much as she pretends to, and has a very clear idea of where she's going.

GUARD, a guard

In the service of Sana/the Church of Melek, accompanying the Priestess on her exorcism mission.

POSSESSED

A peasant in the grip of a Demon

MELEK

An angel with unclear motives.

1. EXT. TRACK, DAY

A BLIND WOMAN is sitting by the path, absent-mindedly scratching in the dirt with a stick. After a moment, she drops the stick, and rubs her left thumb.

BLIND WOMAN:

Hm.

Enter PRIESTESS SANA, walking along the track, speaking with GUARD.

SANA:

He must have gone to the woods; these dark beings usually seek shade from the sun when they first Claim; We must find it before night falls and it assume its full power.

BLIND WOMAN:

It's nice out here, isn't it? Much quieter, easier to think.

SANA:

We have done much thinking already today; I fear our time for thought is past, and all that remains is to act.

BLIND WOMAN:

And *I* fear that your actions will not be enough today.

SANA:

Do you know something of our quarry?

BLIND WOMAN:

*Beware, O weary traveller,
When your lament your journey's length,
If the horse of Helvenar,
Should offer you it's strength.*

*Fine will be it's offer,
to take away your pains,
But hold the heather close
when it offers you it's mane.*

*Else carry you away it will,
So far away from here,
And when it finds the bloodstone...*

SANA (irritated):

Childhood rhymes? I would just leave you to your blind musings, but it may be best to

take yourself home before harm befalls you.
We hunt a dangerous creature.

BLIND WOMAN:

Let me finish, there's only one more line.
"Your only hope is the Angel's Tear."
I wish you well on your hunt, I will await
your return.

Priestess looks bemused, then motions to the Guard, and they leave.

CUT TO:

2. EXT. WOODS, DAY

Sana and her Guard approach the POSSESSED VILLAGER, who spots them and *hisses*.

POSSESSED:

No! Mine! Won't give back!

SANA:

Hold it back; I'll prepare the incantation.

GUARD:

Yes, ma'am.

The Guard engages the Possessed villager, keeping her back from the Priestess; the Possessed is swinging wildly, lashing out with feral swipes and dodging back from the Guard's sword. In the background, the Priestess carves an arc in the ground with her staff, then kneels. She reaches to a pouch at her waist and then starts drawing symbols in the air.

SANA:

<chanting>

The fight continues between the guard and the possessed, though the guard is having some difficulty in forcing possessed back without causing injury.

GUARD:

Priestess..!

Sana looks up, then throws a handful of glowing seeds into the air; they hang suspended for a moment, as she twirls and pushes the point of her staff through them, pointing it at the possessed villager. The Guard steps nimbly aside, and a bolt of blinding light flashes through the possessed villager, stunning her.

SANA:

Release him, foul spirit of evil!

Possessed recovers, hisses at Sana.

POSSESSED (with unbridled fury):
NO! *MINE!*

The Possessed arches up and hissing attempts to attack the Priestess with fire-trailing fingertips. Sana looks startled that her spell didn't eject the demon. The Guard positions herself between the Priestess and the possessed, blocking the attack.

BLIND WOMAN (V.O.):
*And when it finds the bloodstone,
Your only hope is the Angel's Tear.*

SANA:
Could it be...?

Sana reaches to her belt pouches again, repeating the last line of the rhyme under her breath as she does so. This time she tosses up a rare crystalline flower, and as she points her staff, another flash of light, a slightly different colour, blasts the Possessed. She staggers a moment, then falls. The DEMON'S ETHEREAL FORM is left hovering in the air over the villager's prone body, and the guard steps in and neatly cleaves it in two, her blessed sword flashing with fire as it passes through.

SANA (kneeling again):
Ram'el, Melek adoren.

GUARD:
Milady, are you alright?

SANA (walking to Possessed):
Yes, thank the High.

Sana bends to Possessed, and from around it's neck pulls a red stone with demonic warding symbols painted/etched into it's surface.

SANA:
A Hellian Bloodstone. She knew... she *knew* it was a median demon we faced, not the lesser one we expected.

GUARD:
Milady?

SANA:
Take the girl home. I will find you at the inn.

GUARD:

Yes My Lady.

The Guard leaves, supporting the formerly-possessed villager.

CUT TO:

3. EXT. TRACK, DAY

The blind woman is still sitting by the path, once again doodling in the dirt with her stick. Sana walks up.

SANA:

I know what you are.

BLIND WOMAN:

(taps the cloth strip over her eyes)
And I know what you were.

Sana gasps.

FADE TO:

4. EXT. GARDEN, NIGHT

A YOUNG SANA is sitting on the grass, running her fingers through it. Her eyes are milky-white - blind. A light appears behind her, but she takes a moment to react, then sits a little straighter and tilts her head slightly.

SANA:

Who is it?

MELEK (O.S.):

You know me, child. I am Melek. I have a task for you.

Sana gasps.

SANA:

Ram'el, what could I possibly do to serve you, the High?

MELEK:

For your faith, and the faith of your parents, you are to be rewarded.

Melek walks around her, then crouches and extends a hand to touch her forehead, where he draws the three-pillar symbol of the Church.

MELEK:

I give you the grace to look upon me.

SHOT: Sana's eyes darken, granted sight for the first time.

SHOT: Sana's POV, fade up: Melek, arm extended, glowing faintly.

SANA:

My Lord!

Melek stands, and Sana kneels before him.

MELEK:

And now, your task. Return to your village,
and show them what I have granted you. Take
this, as proof of my gift.

Melek hands her a feather, which she holds like a fragile,
precious thing.

MELEK:

I must also ask one other thing of you.

SANA:

Anything!

MELEK:

There is one in your village who would deny
me. He is possessed of a great evil, and
must be cleansed. I am loathe to ask this
of one so young, but I must - only you have
the strength... it must be you to lead the
Purge.

SANA:

I live to serve you, Melek adoren!

She bows her head again, and Melek smiles - not pleasantly.

FADE TO:

5. EXT. TRACK, DAY

SANA:

This changes nothing; you call on the power of demons to see.

BLIND WOMAN:

To see... that's nothing but a dream.

Sana stares at the woman, suspicious, then makes a decision.

SANA:

Your blindness is your punishment for a
life without the Light of Melek. Perhaps if
you come to repent, it will be restored to
you. All you need do is show your faith.
Come with me now to the Citadel.

BLIND WOMAN:

I'm afraid I'll have to decline your offer,

but I am sure that in the future we will meet again.

SANA:

You choose to live in darkness? Very well. I hope that when we meet again, that I will hear your Pledge myself, that you might look upon me and know what you can be.

Sana departs. The Blind Woman smiles after her, and then stands, turning confidently to walk in the direction of the woods.

6. EXT, WOODS, DAY

The Blind Woman stands where the battle took place.

BLIND WOMAN:

So many wards... even I could hardly see your true nature until now.

She reaches her hands out palms down, as if searching... then we see a flash of what she seeks. She moves aside some branches, brushes back some dirt to find a hastily-hidden book; tattered, leatherbound - clearly very old. She picks it up and stands, gently wiping the cover.

BLIND WOMAN (V.O.):

How did you end up in the hands of that creature? Ah, it's no matter. I've always followed fate... but now I can see all the paths before me... and I will *choose* my path.

She turns, as if looking over her shoulder.

BLIND WOMAN (V.O., cont'd.):

She gave her soul away gladly... to see, only to walk blindly. Would I do the same? Would I lead her to you? Would I want to look upon the World if it was suffering? I suppose... I suppose I'll have to wait and see.

She smiles with determination, as the intricate seals of the cover of the book glow darkly...

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