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**Case 1** An expedition of six men, lead by High Mage Nicodemus and Mark, his guide, climb the narrow path of a mountain. They are seen from afar. The expedition could be seen from higher in the mountain, in a high angle shot. The sun is setting while the two main characters are talking. The twilight colors are pinkish.

NARRATOR

Dark God Mountain, in the Kingdom of Arthkan.

**Case 2** Close up on the members of the expedition. We clearly see Nicodemus talking to the Guide. The characters are warmly clothed.

MARK

The place isn't far, Nicodemus. A few more minutes and we will be there !

**Case 3** Close up on the worried face of Nicodemus. Mark's face is seen in the background. Steam is coming out of their mouths.

NICODEMUS

Yes... Even from here, I can feel his power... Gods, I wish I wouldn't be forced to free such a calamity on men...

MARK

You haven't talked much about your mission during our journey. Could your humble guide ask you exactly what it is we are searching for?

**Case 4** Nicodemus looks grave. The two characters are seen in full shot, slightly slanted towards the right, walking dramatically, followed by other members of the expedition.

NICODEMUS

I will tell you Mark. I will tell you about the Dark Times... and the Legend of Rage.

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**Case 1** Nicodemus' face is seen in a gradual fading with panel 2, which marks the beginning of the flashback.

**Case 2** Slaughter scene. We see demons triumphant, at night, amidst flames, and houses burning. The humans are not clearly seen, so that the reader can't guess they are actually cavemen. Nicodemus is the Narrator.

NICODEMUS

It is told that at the Beginning of Times, while humanity was still young, Gods and Demons fought for the domination of Earth. The Gods won and cast out the Demons to Hell. Thus has humanity been able to develop and prosper under their benevolent eyes.

NICODEMUS

But one day, at the beginning of what would later be known as "The Dark Times", Demons came out from Hell to prey on humans and defy the Gods.

**Case 3** The Gods are seen in a high angle shot, as they turn their eyes towards a basin, and look at a new slaughter scene in the water.

NICODEMUS

The Gods saw this act as an insult of the utmost gravity. But in their infinite wisdom, they decided not to involve themselves, considering that Demons were not worthy anymore to fight Gods.

**Case 4** Large panel. The Gods are seen in a council around Zas, the All-Father, in a large banquet room. Kori, God of Wisdom, tells the others his idea. Some Gods are listening to him, while others are sprawled on the ground, drinking heavily, kissing, fighting, laughing, etc. It is a scene of debauchery, that should contrast with everything Nicodemus is saying : The Gods don't care about humans and have no desire to dirty their hands fighting demons.

NICODEMUS

They held a meeting with Zas the All-Father, so as to find a way to stop the invasion, while avoiding to go among the humans themselves.

NICODEMUS

Kori, God of Wisdom, told them they should send to earth a Messenger of the Gods, a divine creature powerful enough to combat the demons and send them back to Hell, giving humanity a new hope.

NICODEMUS

This being would be so strong that he would look as a demi-god among humans. His intelligence would be exceptional, and his beauty incomparable.

**Case 5** Zas the All-Father, in a close shot, completely drunk, approves the idea of this other god, whom he doesn't remember the name...

He raises his finger with authority, but also with a kind of stupid look...

NICODEMUS

Zas found this idea excellent. He summoned all of his power to create Raaj, the Perfect Being, and...

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- Case 1** A blast of lightning on a plain, at night.
- Case 2** Rage is seen in the center of a smoking crater, crouched, his head down, in a high angle shot.
- Case 3** The plain is seen from afar, with a burning village on the horizon. From the crater, we hear Rage's howling.
- Case 4** Demons are devastating a village. We see a slaughter scene, with burning homes, etc. Humans are still not clearly seen.
- Case 5** The demons turn around, surprised, in the foreground, to see Rage facing them in the entrance of the village (which could be surrounded by a picket fence). Rage is relatively far (we only see his form in a red aura).
- Case 6** Close-up on Rage's face. His eyes are sparkling red.

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- Case 1** In chinese shadows, on a yellow and red flammng background, Rage slaughters the demons. His eyes and his aura are shining. The end of panel 1 is fading gradually towards panel 2.

NICODEMUS

Raaj did exactly what he had been created for. He hunt down and slaughtered every single demon without pity. The humans named him Rage, in honor of his just fury.

- Case 2** Nicodemus' face is seen standing out from panel 1, in a gradual dissolve.
- Case 3** The Guide is talking to Nicodemus, while helping him climb a promontory.

MARK

And thus did Rage put an end to the Dark Times... I too have heard the Legend, High Mage, but it doesn't tell us anything about your mission.

Nicodemus, tired (Mark is helping him stand up after his climb), continues his story.

NICODEMUS

No, Mark. The Dark Times did not end here. The All-Father created the perfect human as he imagined them... 10,000 years ago.

NICODEMUS

The only humans from this period were primitives, living in violence and fear. After having slaughtered all of the demons, Rage no longer had an outlet for his violence. So he set out to destroy everything... becoming a menace more terrifying than the demons !

**Case 5** Nicodemus is seen in a high-angle shot, from a section of the mountain. He looks up, tired.

NICODEMUS

Seeing the evil their creature had wrought, the Gods themselves descended upon the earth. In order to stop Rage, while still keeping him as a deterrant against demons, Kori imprisoned him in the heart of a mountain.

NICODEMUS

He recorded this Holy Event in the Book of Wisdom, along with the location of Rage's prison, and the means to free him in case the demons grew defiant once more.

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**Case 1** Flashback scene. Nicodemus shows the Book of Wisdom to King Kothas and Queen Gelda.

NICODEMUS (AS NARRATOR)

I saw the signs. Demons are reappearing on earth. Master Demon Torg has recently conquered the Fortress of Kahel, and is pillaging the land of King Kothas.

NICODEMUS (AS NARRATOR)

As High Mage of King Kothas, I have had the Book in my possession. I knew where to find Rage and... cursed by my arrogance... I told the King.

**Case 2** Mark, Nicodemus, and other members of the expedition follow a very narrow path carved into the mountain, they climb the path one by one.

MARK

You mean the King sent you to find Rage ?!  
And the location of his detention...

The guide, astounded, stands aside from Nicodemus, who is seen from the front, in a close shot. Nicodemus answers him solemnly.

NICODEMUS

... is right here, my young friend...

**Case 4**

Mark and Nicodemus are seen from the back, with some members of the expedition in the foreground. Everybody is standing before two gigantic doors carved into the mountain. The scene is seen in a low-angle shot so as to magnify the doors. We could maybe put the title in this panel.