

Episode 41: “Motives” -Written and Directed by JV Torres

>>>SCENE ONE

[creepy intro music—thunder roars]

**Beals:** Sooner or later you're going to have to face the truth, Asilas. People don't really want peace. They don't want to live a life devoid of sin either. [laughs] People revel in chaos because it's where they feel comfortable.

**Asilas:** I don't believe that. Somewhere deep down inside people want to be good. They want to be treated with respect and they want to live in a world that is peaceful.

**Beals:** But if people truly wanted that, then why hasn't society evolved in that direction? If it is true what you say, then people would be trying to be good to each other. But the reality is they're not good to each other. Not even families can resist backstabbing siblings—and even their own parents. And if you can't even be nice to your own mother and father, then what chance will there be for everyone else in the world—especially strangers?

**Asilas:** I will not deny that is a good point. But the fact that it is coming from you makes me not want to believe it. Because at the end of the day all you really care about doing is corrupting mankind. It's your sole purpose in this world. Nothing you offer is ever decent. No wisdom you ever pass along has ever resulted in a better world.

**Beals:** [laughs] Nice one, Asilas. I also cannot deny you make a good point as well. You know, there was a time when I had envisioned you being much darker in your deeds. I knew you would be a mass murderer, but you have surpassed even my wildest expectations of you.

**Asilas:** A mass murderer? *No.*

**Beals:** Yes, Asilas. There is no doubt you are the most prolific, diabolical mass murderer in human history. No man has ever been responsible for more deaths than you. Not even Hitler himself can compare to the stacks of millions upon millions of dead bodies you have amassed. And you're just getting started. This world has no idea what you will bring to them. And they have loved you all this time for it. But that love is slipping. [pause] You know the time is drawing nearer by the moment.

**Asilas:** If by *time* you mean *your* time on this earth, yes, it is coming to a close soon.

**Beals:** [getting angry] No, you fool! *Your* time is almost up!

**Asilas:** So what if it is? Will the world be a better place once I am gone? Will it matter to the common person that I fell? Will people change and everyone will love one another, hold hands and sing songs together in the streets once I am dead? [scoffs] Come on, people are not going to change for me. They're not going to change for the better, this I know. But they *will* change when someone else returns.

**Beals:** You really think he's coming back here? [scoffs] Not a chance.

**Asilas:** Luckily, I know better. In spite of all my faults and all the people who have died in my crusade to save humanity. Because in the end, what I have done and what I am doing is merely paving the road. And at the end of that road will be the end of the likes of YOU! [boom]

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>>>SCENE TWO

[transition music]

**Narrator:** Pope Innocent XIV met with Asilas and told him he was proud of all the good work he had been doing. Asilas, however, felt he was falling into a pit of uncertainty. His wife, Queen Rebekah, was terribly upset and threatened to leave him because of his indiscretions with Lord Shelley. Dr. Ezekiel had also fallen gravely ill—which further isolated the king to deal with his inner troubles completely alone. The king’s sadness was just the opportunity the Pope had been craving. He confided in Asilas that he too needed someone to speak with in matters of personal importance. He said:

**Pope Innocent:** It is natural, my son, for men wielding great powers to feel alone. I imagine no one who has ever lived has felt the loneliness you feel now. To have the amount of authority and power you have is something not even I can fathom.

**Narrator:** Asilas was getting closer to the Pope and was being guided to be more ruthless in his dealings with the Chinese and Middle Easterners. All sides of the war continued to cripple by the day—both in casualties and in financial matters. But the American forces, under the command of Lord Shelley, were closing in on Beijing. Although the king faced harsh criticism for the expense of the war with the last two sovereign regions left in the world, it was widely believed China would soon fall to their knees. Asilas commanded Lord Shelley to kill tens of millions of Chinese and plunder their conquests to further finance their war efforts. But when the supply of riches eventually depleted, the Pope opened the Church bank to help Asilas in America’s campaign—which Pope Innocent sometimes referred to as the “New Crusade.” With money no longer being a major problem for Asilas in his alliance with the Vatican, the Pope began making great demands of the king in his war—to destroy everyone who did not align with the Holy Catholic Church--*even if they were Christian*. [boom]

[transition action music]

**Pope Innocent:** Well Asilas, it looks like the Chinese are getting closer to surrendering.

**Asilas:** I wouldn’t quite say that, Holy Father. The war is still very much in full effect and the Chinese are not going to surrender. They will fight until the last of them fall.

**Innocent:** [scoffs] You certainly have a lot of respect for your enemies, my son. Perhaps you respect them too much. I don’t understand why you just don’t launch nuclear missiles at them. Why the need to fight this war on the ground? It has caused much more trouble than it should have. Especially financially.

**Asilas:** Are you regretting lending us the money, Holy Father?

**Innocent:** Heavens, no. You’ve proven to be the best ally the church has ever had. And these are extraordinary times—so please don’t think money is an issue. I’m simply curious as to why you are so honorable when it comes to the Chinese. I dare say they likely do not share this honor about you.

**Asilas:** President Wei and I had many talks when we were allies. The man knows me. He knows how far I am willing to go to win. At this point in the chess match, it isn’t about honor. It’s about will.

**Innocent:** But you could probably win this war with nukes. Couldn’t you?

**Asilas:** We would have to drop hundreds of nuclear bombs to completely destroy China. It is geographically such an enormous country. Doing so would release so much radiation into the environment, the atmosphere, the water supply—it would be devastating to all their neighbors—who happen to be American territories now. Going nuclear with them would have too high of an environmental cost, Pontiff. And if we destroy them, we wouldn't be able to harvest the resources that country has because of the radiation. At least, not for an untold number of years.

**Innocent:** Ok, Asilas, I see your point. I suppose if there was another way, you would have done it by now. [pause] So, let's change the subject. What is troubling you? You alluded to feeling completely alone before. This concerns me quite a bit.

**Asilas:** Things just haven't felt right in a long time.

**Innocent:** Well, maybe things are right, after all. But since the Drax and their surrogates have been destroyed, people might simply be in a withdrawal phase. All the poisons that used to ruin the world have been removed—and everyone is feeling the after effects of that. [pause] I suspect what you are feeling is the withdrawal from those poisons.

**Asilas:** [chuckles] You know, I hadn't thought of that. Since the Drax were pushed out of this realm, there has been something very different about the world. The air, the water, the dreams I've been having. Well, some of them anyway.

**Innocent:** Everyone has been feeling it, Asilas. Like a junkie would feel after being off his drug for a while.

**Asilas:** That's a rough analogy, but ok, I'll accept that.

**Innocent:** Asilas, you have to come to terms with everything you are feeling right now. Get control of it. The world is ready now for the major changes that *have* to happen. You have to initiate those changes. You are the *White Horse*. Embrace your role—for you were selected by the Almighty himself to carry this out. You have been given authority to conquer the world—so do it. Be as harsh as you have to be. Bring the Chinese and the Middle East to their knees. Make them beg for your mercy and execute them all anyway. Decree that everyone must become members of the Catholic Church. If they refuse, then execute them as well.

**Asilas:** Holy Father, that just doesn't even sound right. Are you saying I should kill people who refuse to join the Catholic Church?

**Innocent:** [in a very serious tone] Absolutely. I am very serious, Asilas.

**Asilas:** [hesitant] This is an incredible thing you are asking me to do.

**Innocent:** You've been sanctioned by God himself to do it. As his messenger, I am telling you it is the right thing to do.

**Asilas:** I need to meditate on this, Holy Father.

**Innocent:** Well, don't spend an eternity on it. Get your mind straight and start making your plans to carry this out. Your destiny has arrived, Asilas. [assertive] This is what you were born to do!

>>>SCENE THREE

[transition—news music]

**Newsreader Tom Novak:** Good evening, America. It is official, Lord Quintin Capone has returned to New Eden. Just moments ago it was announced Lord Capone has been renamed the Regent of the original states of America. This announcement comes after weeks of relentless terror attacks throughout the kingdom and the killing of hundreds of Americans. It also means that Prince Jacob steps down as the Regent, and he has released a statement, and I quote, “I am stepping aside as Regent and will remain working with Lord Capone and assist him in finding the terrorists and protect all American citizens. All of us here in New Eden will be working tirelessly to make America safe again.” End quote. It wasn’t that long ago that Lord Capone was the Regent, but had to leave his post amid scandals involving celebrity parties at the Grand Castle. Many media pundits are skeptical of Lord Capone’s return and have expressed cynicism on talk shows throughout the states. Many are unsure what this move means, but in a recent poll, Prince Jacob’s approval rating was just 38%. When Lord Capone’s celebrity scandal reached its peak, his approval rating was 45%—still a bit higher than the Prince. If nothing else, these poll numbers indicate people were more confident in the Regent after the celebrity party scandal than in the future king. It appears the Prince has a long road ahead of him before he will be ready to take charge of the kingdom. [fade out]

[transition music—sound of door closing]

**Lord Capone:** Prince Jacob, thank you for letting me ease back into my old office. I hope you don’t mind that I continue using it.

**Jacob:** Not at all. I didn’t rearrange anything when I moved into it, so everything should be pretty much how you left it.

**Capone:** I appreciate that. Listen, we have a lot to do here, so why don’t we begin with telling me who you dealt with when the terror attacks surged.

**Jacob:** Well, I brought in Lord Richards, as you know, and I brought in my wife to help out.

**Capone:** [an awkward silence] And.....who else?

**Jacob:** That’s basically it.

**Capone:** So, you didn’t meet with the NK Bureau chief? Or anyone at the NK Intelligence Office?

**Jacob:** No, I let Richards handle that. He’s the one who met with them on my behalf.

**Capone:** And the Princess? Did she also meet with officials?

**Jacob:** I appointed her my special counsel and she met with my chief of staff and coordinated our press briefings and that sort of thing.

**Capone:** Did you oversee any of that at all?

**Jacob:** I was briefed on most of it and then when I had to make a decision, I would make a decision.

**Capone:** [breathes heavily and sighs] Oh, Jacob, Jacob. Ok, listen we are going to tighten our circle—first and foremost. You, me, and I’m calling in Lord Vargas.

**Jacob:** Lord Vargas? But isn't he in South America right now? You sure that's a good idea?

**Capone:** [hesitant] Wait a minute. Hold on, Jacob. [sound of a drawer opening and closing] I'm not suggesting we should push out your wife or Richards—clearly Richards is a member of the High Council so we can all trust him. Your wife, too. So relax, we're just going to bring in some extra help that's all. [sounds of footsteps—then a door opening] Come with me.

**Jacob:** [sound of a door closing] Capone, why are we going down your secret stairwell? The basement has been sealed off. When we reach the bottom, there won't be a door there. I had it closed off after you left.

**Capone:** [grunts] I brought you down here so we can talk in private.

**Jacob:** Private? What are you talking about? We were in your office. No one was around.

**Capone:** Not so. I managed to bring something very handy with me. A neat little gadget I got from our scientists in Antarctica. [sound of an electronic device beeping] It detects the most sophisticated listening devices.

**Jacob:** I don't understand.

**Capone:** Your office was bugged, Jacob. Someone was listening to everything we were saying in there.

**Jacob:** Someone bugged my office? What the hell?

**Capone:** Someone in this castle has been listening to all the meetings in your office. Everything you said and decisions you made there, God knows how long someone has been listening to you. All I know is that before I left, I had my office swept for listening devices, so someone planted it after I left.

**Jacob:** [sounding defeated] I had traitors around me the whole time. Gosh, I'm such a loser.

**Capone:** Don't say that, My Prince. You trusted people and they betrayed you. That's what this is. It isn't a reflection on you, but on those you trusted.

**Jacob:** You think my wife or Lord Richards is behind this?

**Capone:** I don't know. But we are going to find out. And I need you to help me by not discussing that we discovered the device.

**Jacob:** You mean you're going to leave it in there?

**Capone:** Yes! This way we can give erroneous information and find out who the traitors are. But Jacob, you have to promise me you will not say anything to anyone—especially not your wife.

**Jacob:** So you *do* think she's behind this.

**Capone:** I think at this point, we should work towards eliminating suspects. If your wife is not involved in this, then she'll not do or say anything that would indicate that she is. But if she *is* involved, then we will be faced with a major dilemma.

**Jacob:** You're damn right, that's my wife! She would never betray me. [agitated] Look, I'm going back upstairs.

**Capone:** [sound of steps upward] Jacob, this has to stay between us for now.

**Jacob:** And what about Vargas? Are you going to let him know about the bug?

**Capone:** Yes. But at least we know he can't possibly be involved. [boom]

[SONG: "DOUBLE CROSSED" BY METAL BYRDS]

>>>SCENE FOUR

[transition music]

**Narrator:** Lord Vargas was in the midst of his campaign in South America, unleashing his siege of deadly poisons and plagues on the people of Peru, Ecuador, Bolivia, Chile and Argentina. Many Christians fled their countries to points north, bottlenecking in Central America and finally into Mexico. The people deemed non-believers were essentially exterminated—thousands at a time. Once the citizens of villages and cities in those countries died, Vargas sent in his teams of Henchmen to plunder all the wealth they could find and transport it all back to New Eden and various treasury sites throughout the kingdom. But as Vargas was readying his Henchmen to move on Brazil, he received an urgent call from the Regent, Lord Capone. Lord Vargas was not especially pleased to be summoned away from his campaign. But Capone, being the Regent, had all the power the king had and Vargas had no choice but to suspend his campaign and head back to New Eden.

[transition music]

**Capone:** [sound of door closing] Lord Vargas, thank you for coming on such short notice.

**Lord Vargas:** You mind telling me what this is all about, Lord Capone?

**Capone:** We have a serious situation here in New Eden and I need you to help me resolve it. As soon as we do, you can head back to South America.

**Vargas:** What is it that you need me to do?

**Capone:** [sound of pouring drink in a glass] You like whiskey, right? I think I remember you do.

**Vargas:** [sound of glass clinks] I do. [sound of a drink and glass set on a table] So, what do you need me to do?

**Capone:** Let's take a walk out in the garden. It's such a beautiful day out. Spring is here at last! [sound of footsteps and a French door opening/closing] Vargas, I need to speak with you out here. [sound of birds singing and winds] I had to walk out of my office for good reason.

**Vargas:** [sarcastic] The suspense is killing me.

**Capone:** There is a bug in my office. It was put there when Prince Jacob was Regent. We think someone close to him is behind the bug. Probably working with someone on the outside—maybe one of our enemies.

**Vargas:** Have you located the bug?

**Capone:** Yes. It's very small—inside the clock on the desk.

**Vargas:** We have to suspect everyone in the castle—starting with his closest people. His wife and Richards, I assume? They've been controlling all the info going in and out since he became Regent.

**Capone:** How did you know all that?

**Vargas:** Didn't you notice how they were acting when we came to the emergency meeting? Richards was behaving like he owned the castle.

**Capone:** He does seem a little like a control freak.

**Vargas:** *A little.* [pause] Look, I hate to suspect a member of the High Council, so let's eliminate him from the suspect list first.

**Capone:** How do we do that?

**Vargas:** We set a trap. We need someone else that is close, but not in the inner circle. Someone like Prince Isaac. He hates the princess—so there's no way he would align with her. He also hates Lord Richards for some strange reason. Let's bring him into our circle and he can help us set a trap for the both of them. If Richards or the princess are involved, Isaac will help us find out.

**Capone:** You're forgetting Isaac hates Jacob as well.

**Vargas:** I can assure you he hates the princess much more. He's perfect for this. Tell Jacob to invite him in...discreetly. [boom]

[Outro music]

YOU'VE BEEN LISTENING TO THE RISE OF KING ASILAS, EPISODE 41: MOTIVES, STARRING:  
JV TORRES AS KING ASILAS AND BEALS  
DAVID S. DEAR AS POPE INNOCENT XIV  
DON RUDZINSKI AS NEWSREADER TOM NOVAK  
JOHN DOBY AS LORD QUINTIN CAPONE  
DOMINIC NOTARO AS PRINCE JACOB  
DAN DELGADO AS LORD ALBERTO VARGAS  
AND NARRATED BY SERGEI BRAZHNIKOV

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