

INT. LAKE OF FIRE - CAVE IN HELL

A Titan breaks free of its restraints and walks through a lake of fire. Lava rises to its knees as it approaches a piece of land. A small DEMON (2021), wearing a triceratops skull, stands between the Titan and the door to freedom.

DEMON

Back to the pit from which you came,
Our ruler has not spoken your name.

The Titan looks down and smiles at the Demon, both move towards each other.

TITAN

Ugly Demon with stupid rhymes. I
wonder, do you taste better than you
look?

The Titan grabs the Demon and eats him. As the Titan climbs on top of the island, its stomach dissolves. Then its legs and arms. The Demon stands on the Titan's head and whispers.

DEMON

Now that your ear is mine, back to
your chasm for a second time.

The Titan dissolves and the Demon stands looking at the lake. A hooded figure, surrounded in ember, appears behind him looking down at an iPad.

HOODED FIGURE

Damien the Demon. Says here you have
officially completed your sentence.
From all of us in Hell, congrats!

DAMIEN

Yes, I have paid the toll; 24 hours to
save my soul.

HOODED FIGURE

(looking at the iPad)
Oh... This is awkward. Says here it's
24 minutes.

The Demon turns around and looks at the hooded figure. Three horns on his head grow larger as he snarls.

DEMON

You vile creature, I was promised a
day to save the preacher.

The Hooded figure smirks under its' hood and looks at the Demon.

HOODED FIGURE
(leaning in)
Hey listen, good luck.

The hooded figure uses its long claw to cut open a portal.
The Demon is whirled through space and time.

CUT TO:

INT STUDIO APARTMENT - EVENING

The Demon reconstructs, appearing in a gloomy living room. There he sees DAMIEN (37), his human self wearing a clean white shirt and sweat pants, sitting on a couch cleaning his gun. A dull lamp sits on a table in front of him. Television plays in the background. Small dark shadows float around him, whispering little thoughts. Damien is startled and looks up to see the Demon.

DEMON
You're about to do something you'll
soon regret, but I'm here to stop you
yet.

DAMIEN
A Demon? A rhyming Demon?

The Demon's eyes glow through the skull. The small shadows scurry into the corners of the room.

DEMON
Aren't you terrified of a demon in
your presence?

DAMIEN
Not really, I've always felt an evil
essence.
(pause)
Damn it.

DEMON
(giggles)
Not bad. You have cokes right?

The Demon walks to the refrigerator and grabs a soda from inside. He gulps it down loudly as Damien looks on, confused and discussed. The Demon loudly belches.

DAMIEN

Sure, help yourself. Wait, you don't have to rhyme?

DEMON

No. Something I started working on. Still work shopping some stuff out.

The Demon finishes the soda and the can disintegrates in his clawed hand. He grabs another and sits down beside Damien. The Demon removes the triceratops skull from his head, sets it on the table and takes in the unsettling familiar atmosphere. Damien sets the gun beside the skull and looks at the Demon's face. Small bones pierce through his yellow translucent skin, eyes are darker than his lips. It dawns on Damien that the monstrosity is him.

DAMIEN

Wait. You're me?! I become a Demon?
Does that mean we've possessed people?
Killed anyone?

DEMON

You have asked many questions, now it's time to answer mine. Why kill the preacher, what is his crime?

DAMIEN

(looking down)
You should know that already.

DEMON

It's been a while, enlighten me.

DAMIEN

They lied to me. Had me believing in stories made for children. My youth wasted 'reading the bible' and 'saying my prayers'. Staying abstinent while other kids were partying and making friends.

The Demon rests his clawed feet on the table, pops open the other coke and sips loudly.

DAMIEN

Mom gave all her time and energy to them, and they took. But once she died, they didn't care. Couldn't even help with funeral costs. They took and took, now I'll take from them.

DEMON

Then, the real question: What happens after that?

DAMIEN

I don't know. I'm too old to start over. No one cares enough to help. My life is meaningless.

Damien wipes tears from his eyes. The Demon looks at the Coca-Cola can, admiring the art.

DEMON

Funny thing about meaninglessness, there's no such thing.

(bletch)

What you mean is: I'm in pain and anxious all the time. Those are meanings.

DAMIEN

Then what do I do? Suffer?

DEMON

Yes. Find a boulder and push it uphill. When it rolls down, push it up again. Suffer. Maybe then you'll gain some self-confidence or learn to respect yourself. The alternative of course is...

He motions to the gun and they both sit quietly. The television plays a loud commercial, snapping them out of silence. The Demon finishes his soda, spits on the can, dissolving its remains. Damien stands up, holsters his gun, grabs his coat and walks to the door.

DAMIEN

Well, don't you want to see how it ends?

IN A FLASHBACK

A child hides under the blanket, frightened. The clock shows 3:00 AM and there is an unsettling growl. Under the bed is Damien the Demon asleep, snoring as acidic drool plops from his mouth.

CUT TO:

EXT - WALKING THROUGH NEIGHBORHOOD - NIGHT

DAMIEN

Seriously? Those were your favorite times? Kinda lame don't you think?

DEMON

Though I am dead and quite a mess, a demon still needs his rest.

DAMIEN

Um, okay. Say what happens to Pastor's soul when we kill him?

DEMON

Always near and never far, his place on Earth is truly bizarre.

DAMIEN

So he stays here huh? Can you see him? What's he look like?

DEMON

I don't know, it doesn't matter. It's not his story that I'm after.

The Demon sees pastor's shadow following along, hiding in the dark with a malevolent stare. They walk past tattered houses, dogs growling and barking behind fences. The cloudy sky clears up, exposing the yellow moon.

DEMON

One more story before the end. A child's story of a friend.

DAMIEN

Jesus Christ.

DEMON

How'd you know? A Christian's goal, roughly speaking, is to imitate Christ in their own story.

DAMIEN

So he's real? Ever met him?

DEMON

I offered him water in a desert once, he politely refused.

DAMIEN

Man, you are lame! Hiding under beds,
offering water, you're the most
passive Demon I've ever heard of.

DEMON

(annoyed)

Evil deeds do corrupt, now be polite
and don't interrupt.

They walk on the old brick road, past an old tortilla shop,
past the convenient store. The Demon lights a joint with his
long fingernail and takes a long drag.

DEMON

(coughing)

Christ voluntarily took on the burden
of being human. He accepts suffering
as a precondition of existence. That's
life, the way out is to accept it.
Accept your mortality. That's what the
cross symbolizes. Pick up your cross
willingly and accept your death
voluntarily.

DAMIEN

Funny how God's people only act like
that sometimes. Pffft. Adam Soto. Mr.
Preacher, Mr. Leader. Give me a break.
If I don't kill him, will he go to
heaven?

DEMON

(Angry)

Who cares? Do not concern yourself
with his story, this is about you and
your actions.

The Demons horns slowly grow. Damien takes a step back and
puts his hands up.

DAMIEN

Okay big guy, take it easy.
(under his breath)
Probably could of made that rhyme.

DEMON

Though you have reasons to commit this
sin, it's still a choice you cannot
win. Better?

They walk. Past Coach's boxing gym, past their Aunt's quinceanera store. They stop in front of a small fire station across the street from the church. Through big clear windows they see Pastor Soto sitting in his office. His bible is open with sticky notes everywhere.

INSIDE CHURCH:

A cold feeling covers Pastor Soto. He looks up and sees Damien across the street. A tall dark figure stands beside him, a tree covering its' face. Pastor Soto gives a nervous smile and waves.

ACROSS THE STREET

Damien feels the gun in his holster. He takes one more look at the Demon, standing motionless admiring the soft yellow moon.

DEMON

I guess this is goodbye, at least I know I gave it a try.

Damien turns to the Demon and gives him a hug. The Demon is surprised.

DAMIEN

You've done enough. Thank you for listening to me.

Damien steps back and shakes the Demon's hand. He walks across the street, entering Templo Sinai. The Demon looks down and sees two bullets in his hand. He smiles.

DEMON

(to himself)

There's nothing in that gun, on this day we have won.

He looks on, Damien walks into Pastor Soto's office and takes out the gun. Pastor's eyes widen and he sits up. Damien sits down, placing the gun on the table. They begin talking. As the Demon watches, an Angel appears behind him and calls out.

ANGEL

Rejoice, for you have saved your soul.
You are now welcomed into the Kingdom
of Heaven.

The triceratops skull disintegrates, the Demon's horns fall and his protruding bones retract. Damien the former Demon

looks at his skin as it begins to glow. He follows behind the Angel as they ascend into heaven.

FORMER DEMON

This is so cool. By the way, how does
God feel about rhyming angels?