

# DELTA GREEN

## // Iconoclasts //

A CAMPAIGN OF HORRORS MODERN AND ANCIENT  
FOR DELTA GREEN: THE ROLE-PLAYING GAME

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For more Delta Green, visit [delta-green.com](http://delta-green.com).

*“Is it possible to write about Mosul without feeling as if I am chewing on a mouthful of rubble, blood, and broken glass?”*

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# Introduction

*Iconoclasts* is an extended Delta Green operation set in 2016. The Program learns of a lethal incursion of unnatural power in the heart of war-torn Mosul. Case officers and analysts must investigate and confirm the scope of the incursion and gather resources to deploy against it. Finally, a team of Agents must infiltrate ISIL territory to contain the incursion before it spreads beyond control.

*Iconoclasts* contains an overview, three scenarios, and an appendix. An ambitious Handler could easily use its expansive coverage of gathering intelligence and organizing clandestine operations to develop a broader campaign around the Father of War and other unnatural threats in the Middle East.

## Horrors in Mosul

An overview of the campaign describes its setting, the Great Old One called the Father of War, and the “Sons of War” cult that serves that bloody god.

### Part 1: A Black Smoke Rising

*Iconoclasts* begins with an unusual and especially grim scenario. The players temporarily take the roles of ISIL foreign fighters. They have the easy duty of smashing idols from the region’s pagan past and recording it for propaganda purposes. The mission dooms them. They smash the wrong ancient artifact and release into the world a ghastly entity that demands slaughter. After its escape, members of the cult it builds in Mosul call it Abu Harb, the Father of War.

### Part 2: Operation BONE BOX

The players switch to playing Agents of the Program. The action of their time playing ISIL recruits will have been presented to the Agents as part of the mission briefing, in a recovered video recording of the incident. The briefing includes information from an unusual source: a member of the *other* Delta Green, the so-called Outlaws.

### Part 3: The Evil of the Whisperer

The Agents go to Kirkuk to gather intelligence and assets from across the region. The threat they face is not known to the Program, so it is up to the Agents to determine its magnitude and to establish countermeasures to eliminate or contain it. There is no “B” team working this problem from an office on another floor. The Agents are it.

“The Evil of the Whisperer” can be played for the long suspense and slow burn of espionage or as a tight series of crises of discovery and disinformation.

### Part 4: Among Jinn and Men

The Agents must infiltrate ISIL-occupied Mosul, move against the Sons of War, and confront the Father of War. At the Handler’s discretion, the players could have two teams. One team can be investigators and analysts who gather intel on the threat and determine how to combat it. A second team may be Agents skilled at infiltration, capable of blending with local cultures and trained for combat. This is a well-established dynamic in American intelligence: analysts and operators, with case officers gathering human intelligence and signals intelligence in between. Either way, Delta Green needs them to stop the threat of the Father of War. It can trust no one else to complete the mission.

### Blacker Than Black

New rules help the Handler present the suspense and risks of spying and black ops.

### Appendix

Tools that are useful across the campaign: new rituals, artifacts, and tomes, a glossary, playtesters, an index, and sample names.



**// Horrors in Mosul //**





# ISIL in 2016

*Iconoclasts* is set in the Middle East, in the midst of the Syrian civil war. It deals with the so-called Islamic State declared in 2014 by the regional terrorist group known to the U.S. as the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). Formerly known as the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS), ISIL had conquered an area between Raqqa, Syria and Mosul, Iraq, and declared themselves to be a worldwide caliphate. The Islamic State created its own military, courts, currency, and passports, and enforced a particularly brutal interpretation of the Quran, the holy book of Islam.

ISIL's origins can be found in the U.S. overthrow of Saddam Hussein's Ba'ath Party government in Iraq in 2003. Part of the U.S. occupation included a program to remove all Ba'ath Party members from government service. Iraq's Ba'ath Party began in a kind of fascistic pan-Arabism, but by the time of Saddam Hussein, it was merely a bureaucratic tool to enforce the rule of Hussein's Al-Tikriti clan. When all those Ba'athist bureaucrats and military officers were forced from their jobs, many joined resistance cells fighting the U.S. occupation. Most were Sunni Muslims, a religious minority in Iraq.

In 2007 the U.S. instigated a "troop surge" in Iraq combined with attempts to buy the temporary loyalty of Sunni Arab tribal leaders. The result was that most of the Ba'athist-inspired resistance groups were run out of Iraq by March 2011. Many took shelter in neighboring Syria, a state that shared a Ba'ath Party political culture. Syria's Ba'athist party was a lethal rival to Iraq's Ba'ath Party, and Syria supported the U.S. invasion. But Syria had then done much to help the resistance against U.S. forces in Iraq, despite Iraqi Ba'athists being Sunni and Syrian Ba'athists being Alawite, a sect of Shia Islam. Just as Iraq was winding down, Syria was gearing up.

In March 2011, the Syrian government met civil protests of the Arab Spring with lethal force. Rather than cowing the population, it ignited a full-scale

rebellion. Former Sunni Ba'athist insurgents from Iraq made common cause with Sunni rebels in Syria and formed the movement that would become ISIL. The rebellion bloomed into a sectarian civil war.

In Iraq, Sunni insurgents had been fighting against a majority Shia population. In Syria, the majority was Sunni and the ruling minority were Shia. ISIL quickly drew thousands of recruits by demonstrating that they were the most energetic and effective insurgents against the Syrian Ba'athist Shia government. ISIL took control of entire cities and set up their capital in Raqqa, Syria.

In 2014, ISIL pulled off its greatest coup. Fifteen hundred fighters crossed the border back into Iraq and routed over 60,000 troops stationed in Mosul, a Sunni-majority city that had been chafing against rule of the Shia-led government in Baghdad. Mosul is Iraq's second largest city. Including areas in both Syria and Iraq, ISIL brought between three and eight million people under its rule.

The U.S. responded to ISIL's success with Operation INHERENT RESOLVE in Iraq, Libya, and Syria. U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) deployed special operations forces with Kurdish and Iraqi units and supported ground operations with airstrikes.

In 2015, the future viability of the governments of Syria and Iraq appeared to be in doubt. Then the Peshmerga, the army of Iraqi Kurdistan, launched an offensive to reclaim villages around Mosul with U.S. air support. By 2016, both states, with massive aid from Iran, Russia, and the United States, are beginning to push back.

The next stage begins with *Al-Fatah* or Operation CONQUEST, an offensive by Iraqi Kurdistan, the Iraqi government, Shia, Sunni, Christian, Yazidi, Turcoman, and Armenian militias with U.S. and UK air support and ground forces.

The days of ISIL are numbered.

XXX DESIGN NOTE XXX

*Map of the region showing ISIL-controlled territory, the official borders, and the locations of key events and NPCs:*

- Official borders
- ISIL-controlled territories in April 2016
  - Major transportation routes
    - Rassam estate
      - Mosul
    - Kirkuk Airport
  - Al-Udeid Air Base, Qatar
    - Al-Kiswah, Syria
  - Iraq Museum (Baghdad)
  - Baghdad International Airport
    - Erbil, Iraq
    - Aleppo, Syria
    - Silopi, Turkey
  - Red Crescent refugee camps (?)
  - Kurdish POW camps (?)
    - Sinjar

XXX END NOTE XXX



## IN THE FIELD

### Islam and ISIL

The peculiar expression of Islam by ISIL, and the conflicts between ISIL's beliefs and those of other Muslims, feature directly in *Iconoclasts*. A game book is hardly the appropriate place for a study of Islam, but an overview may be useful for readers who come from other cultural backgrounds. Readers should consult deeper sources for real understanding.

*Iconoclasts* uses the Associated Press Stylebook as its guide for spellings, titles, and honorifics.

Islam is the most recent of the three great Abrahamic monotheist religions, following Judaism and Christianity onto the world stage beginning in 610 CE with the revelations of the prophet Muhammad. These revelations, ultimately codified in the Quran, built on the previous Abrahamic religions of the region, utilizing many of the most important figures and concepts found in Judaism and Christianity. Islam acknowledges such figures as the archangels Gabriel and Michael; Abraham, the father of Isaac; Noah and his Ark; Jonah and the whale; the prophet Moses; and Jesus of Nazareth (regarded as a prophet rather than a divinity).

Unlike Christianity, which developed under the rule of the rebellion-wary Roman Empire, Islam does not draw any distinction between religious and temporal authority. Some traditionalists hold that the only legitimate law is religious law, Sharia, and that religious leaders are the only legitimate leaders. Many modern Muslim-majority nations adopted secular laws and government over the centuries, reserving Sharia for personal or family conflicts. Many fundamentalists oppose such secularism in government.

## IN THE FIELD

### Sunni and Shia

The Sunni branch of Islam is by far the largest, accounting for 85% or more of Muslims worldwide. Differences with Shia, the second-largest branch, have given rise to countless conflicts over the centuries. The schism has to do with rules of succession from the earliest years of Islam. Sunnism holds that the most learned and important leaders should decide who should lead. Shia holds that leadership can be inherited only by those with the bloodline of the prophet Muhammad.

Where temporal authority derives from religious authority, assigning religious authority is a matter of supreme temporal importance. As far as the two sects are concerned, only one can be right.

Iraq's population is 55% to 65% Shia, but it was ruled for decades by a secular Sunni government of Ba'athist Arab nationalists until the American overthrow of Saddam Hussein. Iran, to the east, is at least 90% Shia and aggressively seeks to expand its influence into majority-Shia Iraq. Iraq's northwestern neighbor Syria is overwhelmingly Sunni but is ruled by a secular Shia Ba'ath party that bitterly opposed the Sunni Ba'athists in Iraq.

xxx DESIGN NOTE xxx

*A Middle East map showing this data. Note that the Islamic State is NOT a nation like the others, hence the italics. Make sure the borders of its territory are distinct from national borders and overlap those of Iraq and Syria.*

NATION	POPULATION	MAJORITY RELIGION	GOVERNMENT
Bahrain	1,234,596	Shia Islam (rulers are Sunni)	Monarchy
Cyprus	1,088,503	Christian	Presidential republic
Egypt	82,798,000	Sunni Islam	Presidential republic
Iran	78,868,711	Shia Islam	Islamic republic
Iraq	33,635,000	Shia Islam	Parliamentary republic
<i>Islamic State</i>	<i>8,000,000 (est.)</i>	<i>Sunni Islam</i>	<i>Caliphate</i>
Israel	7,653,600	Judaism	Parliamentary republic
Jordan	6,318,677	Sunni Islam	Monarchy
Kuwait	3,566,437	Sunni Islam	Monarchy
Lebanon	4,228,000	Islam, about half Shia and half Sunni	Parliamentary republic
Oman	2,694,094	Ibadi Islam	Monarchy
Palestine	4,260,636	Sunni Islam	Semi-presidential republic
Qatar	1,696,563	Sunni Islam	Monarchy
Saudi Arabia	27,136,977	Sunni Islam	Monarchy
Syria	23,695,000	Sunni Islam (rulers are Shia)	Presidential republic
Turkey	73,722,988	Sunni Islam	Presidential republic
United Arab Emirates	8,264,070	Sunni Islam	Monarchy
Yemen	23,580,000	Sunni Islam	Presidential republic

xxx END NOTE xxx



## IN THE FIELD

### ISIL's Beliefs

ISIL's Sunni fundamentalism holds to be apostates not only all Shia but also all Sunni who do not accept the authority of ISIL. As apostates, those denounced may be attacked, killed, robbed, enslaved, or imprisoned. Redefining who is truly Muslim in order to remove the protections granted to those living under Sharia is a characteristic ISIL shares with the Wahhabist sect of Saudi Arabia. However, ISIL combines radical fundamentalism with contempt for Islamic scholarship, preferring a literalist and apocalyptic reading of the Quran.

ISIL's mythology predicts an Islamic version of the battle of Armageddon near the town of Dabiq in Syria, where an army of angels will join the jihadis in a final battle against all infidels and apostates. This myth serves a specific political philosophy. Once the trappings of religion are stripped away, ISIL is a genocidal police state.

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ

الله  
رسول  
محمد

# The Father of War

Of all the mighty powers called the Great Old Ones, only one seems to take consistent and attentive interest in humanity: Nyarlathotep, the so-called soul and messenger of the Outer Gods. Nyarlathotep wears uncounted guises to offer corrosive wisdom and power. One particularly bloodthirsty avatar appeared to prehistoric tribes in the Caucasus Mountains in today's southwest Armenia, where it taught them to create lethally sharp knives and arrowheads from chips of obsidian and to use them in slaughter and sacrifice. The earliest known records of this cruel god came in ancient Assyria, where it was worshipped as Shagash, god of slaughter. Its cultists called it Abim Anuntum, the Father of War.

Each chip and flake struck away in creating lethal obsidian weapons held a grain of the consciousness of the Father of War. Once enough chips accumulated, they moved of their own volition, imbued with its spirit. The Father of War appears by night as a whirlwind of razor-sharp obsidian shards. It never stirs by day. It flays the skin off human beings who have the hubris to encounter it, all except those it accepts as worshippers. See **RESEARCHING THE FATHER OF WAR** on page XX for more of its history.

## The Sons of War

One who bows in worship of the Father of War may become what it calls a "Son of War." Accepting the Father of War into your soul means accepting it into your body as well. It requires swallowing a chip of obsidian imbued with the power of the Father. The modern Sons of War call this the "Vigil of Stone."

The Father of War sometimes uses the Sons of War as its eyes and ears, knowing everything they see and hear. It cannot know its servants' thoughts; it can only hear their words and see their actions. When it wants to call a Son of War to it for instructions, the imbedded chip pulls them. It causes them pain until they answer the call. The individual chips cannot communicate beyond that.

Worship of the Father of War begins with absolute obedience. Those who disobey the Father, or who share its secrets, die horribly. The obsidian chip slices its way through the traitor until it reaches the heart.

Newly manifested, the first thing the Father of War demands from its acolytes is transport to a suitable temple, someplace secure from the light of the sun. Buildings are good. Caves are best. Then the worshippers must provide human sacrifices. The most acceptable means of sacrifices are those that utilize obsidian to kill slowly.

## The Throne of Blood

The Sons of War have not existed for thousands of years. Methods to summon the Father of War are vanishingly rare. The Father of War emerges into the 21st century only by accident.

As detailed in **THE HISTORY OF THE FATHER OF WAR** on page XX, Shagash was last worshipped in ancient Assyria. Little-known myths say armies carried the god of slaughter in a sacred amphora called the Throne of Blood. Its cult fell when a rebellious priest inscribed the bronze stopper to the Throne of Blood with a version of the Elder Sign, a sigil potent against certain powers that exist beyond the dimensions known to humanity. He sought to control his god. When the god refused to be controlled, the priest buried the Throne of Blood in the hope that it would never be found.

Of course, it eventually was.



# Tariq Mohammed Rassam

The man who found the Throne of Blood and who has guarded it for decades is Tariq Mohammed Rassam. He hunted unnatural threats with Delta Green during World War II and on his own afterward.

See **THE JOURNALS OF TARIQ RASSAM** on page XX for details about his background. Rassam has deep occult history in the region of *Iconoclasts* and with Delta Green. Watch for moments to introduce bits and pieces of his background so the Agents can piece them together.

Rassam eventually fell out of touch with his Delta Green contacts. He spent a lifetime as an academic, careful to avoid too much attention, and quietly sought and confronted unnatural threats in the region. He found the Throne of Blood and became its fearful caretaker. He relied on unnatural rituals to maintain his vitality even knowing they would eventually consume him.

Sometimes Rassam wondered whether all the war he had seen could be evidence of the Father of War's influence on the region. Could there ever be peace in the Middle East until this demonic prisoner was removed from the land? He vacillated between smuggling the Throne of Blood out of the country and burying it in concrete forever.

Then came ISIL.

## ISIL's Invasion

ISIL's takeover of Mosul was so fast that at first no one could believe it. On 4 JUN 2014, the city had 30,000 American-trained infantry and 30,000 policemen. By 10 JUN 2014, those men had thrown down their weapons and run for their lives from an attacking force of 1,500 ISIL fighters. The city and its environs fell into the hands of a motley collection of former Iraqi Ba'athist intelligence officers, home-grown jihadis, and an array of foreign fighters previously drawn to the civil war next door in Syria.

The population of Mosul was subjected to a reign of terror. Dead bodies were everywhere, left as warning to the disobedient. Unlike with Saddam Hussein's intelligence services, those who ran afoul of ISIL authorities did not disappear. They were publicly executed with often grotesque cruelty.

Rassam grew increasingly afraid of what would happen if ISIL found the Throne of Blood.

## Enter the Outlaws

Tariq Rassam made plans to remove the Throne of Blood from its vault and transport it across the border into Turkey; however, that would only be the beginning. The Throne would have to cross many borders before some final disposition could be arranged. To accomplish this, Rassam knew he had to get someone in authority to listen to him about its deadly and unnatural nature. He had to ensure no one would ever open it.

Despite his distrust of the Americans, Rassam felt he had no choice but to reach out to Delta Green. Only they would understand the deadly reality of the Throne and what it contained.

Through his black-market contacts, Rassam purchased a satellite phone. He smuggled letters containing the number for the phone to a cousin he had helped reach the United States. The cousin hand-delivered the letters to every contact Rassam had developed during the three decades he worked with Delta Green. Rassam figured that all of them would be dead by now, but he hoped a group like Delta Green might keep an eye even on their dead agents.

Sure enough, when Rassam's cousin turned up at the Library of Congress with a letter for Delta Green's former leader Joseph Camp, someone noticed.

Rassam's gambit put him in touch with the Delta Green faction known as the Outlaws. Rassam knew nothing of Delta Green's history of disbandment, reinstatement, and balkanization. As far as he knew, there was only ever one Delta Green. And once they got in touch with Rassam via his satellite phone, they did their best to convince him that they were still the Delta Green Rassam had known from long before.



The Outlaws arranged to get the amphora out of Turkey. The plan was for Rassam's Kurdish contacts to bring two Delta Green agents to Rassam's house at 2:00 a.m. on 24 MAR 2016. They would transport Rassam and the amphora across the border into Turkey and then smuggle them to the United States, bypassing customs via a U.S. military flight out of Incirlik Air Base.

That plan will not be executed.

ISIL's Al-Hisbah, or religious police, have chosen 23 MAR 2016 to move against Rassam, who they believe is hiding idolatrous and blasphemous art and artifacts. Al-Hisbah, in the form of the players and their pregenerated characters in this campaign's first scenario, will raid Rassam's home hours before he and the Throne of Blood can be removed.

## After the Father Is Free

After the Father of War is free, events take place unknown at first to the players.

The two Delta Green agents arrive at Rassam's home just after the Father departs. They have a few moments to search the grounds for clues as to what happened. They grab only two things before leaving the scene: the ISIL team's digital camera and the amphora stopper inscribed with the Elder Sign, which both agents recognize. The Throne of Blood is too heavy to be moved quickly.

After returning to Turkey and studying the video, they realize that the situation is bigger than they can handle. They wrangle about it with A-Cell. Finally, A-Cell brings the incident to the attention of the Program. The Program, too, sees the huge risks in confronting an unnatural threat in ISIL territory. Finally, the Program assembles the team with authorization to operate in Iraq.

During that time, ISIL launches its own investigation into the incident at the Rassam house.

## The Vigil of Stone

Once Al-Hisbah notices that its propaganda team has not returned from the Rassam residence, it sends backup to check things out at mid-morning of 24 MAR 2016. Then the public slaughter of fighters at several checkpoints the night the Father is freed draws the attention of Amn al-Dawla, ISIL's internal security service.

The highest-ranking member of Amn al-Dawla in Mosul is Colonel Ahmed al-Jabiri. He previously held that rank inside the Mukhabarat or Iraqi Intelligence Service during the reign of Saddam Hussein. Al-Jabiri leads the investigation. It takes only a couple of hours for Amn al-Dawla to connect the events at the Rassam house with the checkpoint deaths.

Al-Jabiri's first step is to arrest Daoud el-Said of Al-Hisbah, who organized the search of the Rassam home. Despite hours of harsh interrogation, El-Said offers nothing to explain what had happened to his men beyond the assertion that Rassam was a secret pagan practicing black magic. Rassam's vault, laboratory, and library certainly had a distinctly impious atmosphere. Al-Jabiri interprets that to mean Rassam was an educated man and an expert on regional archeology. Al-Jabiri is an educated man himself, without much belief in the supernatural. He continues his investigation.

The following nights, skinless corpses start turning up around Mosul, killed just like the men at the Rassam house, by thousands of cuts executed in seconds. Entire families are butchered at home. Well-armed roadblock teams and alert patrols are peeled down to their muscles.

Sometimes a man disappears rather than turning up skinned alive. Massacred families are found to have members missing. Each bloody incident produces one or more people who are never seen again. The Father of War is collecting new worshippers.

Colonel Al-Jabiri cannot account for how these killings are committed, so he concentrates on finding the missing ISIL militia fighters and Mosul civilians. He knows from his daily intelligence reports that Iraqi and Kurdish forces have begun operations to clear ISIL fighters from areas east and south of Mosul in

preparation for assaulting the city itself. Despite the news blackout, word of the bloody flayings spreads throughout the city. Both occupied and occupiers are terrified. This spreading terror convinces Al-Jabiri that he must be up against some kind of psychological warfare operation run by the CIA to undermine the defense of Mosul.

Al-Jabiri arranges for a company of Chechen mercenaries, the Wolves of Al-Mansur, to be pulled off the line to provide muscle for when he corners the American special operators he suspects are responsible for these atrocities. With the full force of the ISIL police state behind him, Al-Jabiri tracks some of the missing ISIL fighters to a tunnel beneath the ancient ruins of Nineveh across the Tigris River from Mosul. On the evening of 30 MAR 2016, Al-Jabiri, his Amn al-Dawla agents, and the Wolves of Al-Mansur attack the lair of the Father of War, to Al-Jabiri's eternal regret.

## If Al-Jabiri Dies Early

The Agents could well orchestrate Al-Jabiri's death before he has a chance to oversee many of the developments in this campaign. In that case, Col. Abu al-Shishani, the commander of the Wolves of Al-Mansur, takes over leadership of the Sons of War. Events proceed as written, but Al-Shishani has a lower profile than Al-Jabiri. Efforts to spy on him or follow his movements are equivalent to pursuing Al-Jabiri but with a further penalty of -20%. See **COLONEL ABU AL-SHISHANI** on page XX for his details.

Most of Al-Jabiri's Chechen mercenaries die around him, screaming and skinless beneath the ancient capital of the Assyrian Empire. To save their own lives, Al-Jabiri, four of his Amn al-Dawla agents, and 20 Chechens pledge their submission to the demon in the darkness. Each swallows a sliver of obsidian, a piece of the Father of War itself. Al-Jabiri calls it the "Vigil of Stone."

Al-Jabiri and his men have no choice but to obey their new god. As time goes on, they come to actively want to obey. As their sanity erodes, they see the value of blood and victory.

## The Sons of War Reborn

The Father of War's first order to Al-Jabiri is to gather more worshippers for *Abna' alharb*, the burgeoning Sons of War cult. Al-Jabiri's recruitment gives the cult access to the highest levels of ISIL. His training as a counterintelligence officer makes the cult's activities harder to detect. He immediately ends the practice of leaving skinned bodies to be found. Now the Sons of War dismember flayed corpses and dispose of the remains in the Tigris River, south of the city, so there will be less chance of people discovering them and panicking. Reports of flayings end.





Rather than requiring the Father of War to hunt across the city for prey and recruits, Al-Jabiri assigns the new Sons of War to ISIL's execution squads. Captured prisoners, traitors, apostates, and other enemies are brought to the caves beneath Nineveh.

Recruitment is no longer random. Al-Jabiri selects officers in ISIL's security apparatus and arranges for them to be tricked or forced to come to the Father's lair. Those who accept the Vigil of Stone return to their lives serving a new master. Those who refuse disappear into the Tigris River. Most people in Mosul don't notice those disappearances. Al-Jabiri recruits among members of Amn al-Dawla (ISIL counterintelligence) and Amn al-Dakhili (police), and most of those men are not natives of Mosul. Al-Jabiri subverts the very forces that should be hunting the cult.

There are side effects, however. Inside ISIL security organizations and Al-Hisbah, these disappearances are the subject of many hushed rumors. The men who have disappeared are among the most loyal and reliable of ISIL's servants. They are the least likely to flee or be secretly arrested for treason. Their absence, and the silence around their absence, is impossible to ignore. Their disappearances are not ordered by the state or being investigated by the state. This prompts a lot of chatter, a fair amount of which is intercepted by U.S. SIGINT assets.

The growth of the Sons of War is slow but steady. The first recruits act out of sheer terror. However, ISIL has long filled its propaganda outlets and mosques with promises of divine intervention to destroy the "Crusaders" and other apostates that threaten the caliphate. And Al-Jabiri knows that as the Kurds and Iraqis close in around Mosul, there will be much need for a god who can deliver on promises to drown the enemies of the faithful in rivers of blood. Like any good father, the Father of War will act to protect its children.

Al-Jabiri sells the Father of War to recruits with a mix of Arab folklore and grossly misinterpreted Islam. He claims the Father of War is the archangel Azrael, *Malak al-Mawt*, the Quranic Angel of Death. Al-Jabiri constantly reinforces the idea that the Azrael serves the will of Allah by dispatching sinners and traitors of

ISIL. Fear and the comfort of this delusion keep the group from disintegrating.

## The Growth of the Cult

On 1 APR 2016, as the Agents attend the Program's briefing, there are over two dozen Sons of War, including Al-Jabiri, four Amn al-Dawla agents, and 20 Chechen fighters. There were more, but Al-Jabiri's raid killed them before the Father of War intervened.

On average, the cult grows by one member a day. Forced conversions are accompanied by disappearances as people brought before the Father of War choose death before apostasy. The longer the Agents take to resolve the situation, the more Sons of War they must deal with.

As things become less tenable for ISIL in northern Iraq, and therefore also untenable for the Sons of War, Al-Jabiri plans to pull out of Mosul. His plan, in consultation with the Father of War, is to write the ritual to summon the Father of War in modern Arabic and teach and distribute it to as many Sons of War as he can. On 2 AUG 2016, he will dispatch a number of Sons of War to Raqqa, ISIL's capital in Syria, by many different routes. Al-Jabiri hopes this will ensure at least one Son of War survives to invoke the Father of War, allowing it to instantly appear in Raqqa and take up residence in freshly blood-baptized obsidian clips.

Al-Jabiri will also attempt to smuggle the Father of War out of Mosul physically, in the back of a specially armored tanker truck. The truck will leave Mosul on 3 AUG 2016 at 6:00 p.m. It will be escorted by the Sons of War in armored technicals and Humvees mounting heavy machine guns and grenade launchers. He himself will travel as one of the lone couriers.

As for the Throne of Blood, the Father of War has abandoned it, refusing to be trapped again.

The Delta Green team must locate the Father of War and discover a means of neutralizing it and the Sons of War before the cult abandons Mosul. If it fails, it loses the chance to contain the situation. New cults dedicated to the Father of War will spring up in war zones around the globe as insurgents and security forces embrace a god that promises victory and grants at the very least the satisfaction of endless blood.



# Timeline

Kurdish and Iraqi operations against ISIL form the backdrop of this campaign. Operation CONQUEST is not a direct attack on Mosul but a preparatory campaign to secure the villages and towns around the city. Particularly notable or notorious executions carried out by ISIL in and around Mosul have also been included. Some of these events could impact the course of the campaign. This timeline also includes fictional events that will occur unless the Agents intervene, right up until the Sons of War evacuate Mosul for Raqqa.

Fictional events are in *italics*.

## 23 MAR 2016 ●

- » Full moon.
- » *ISIL Al-Hisbah fighters raid the home of Tariq Rassam. It turns disastrous as the Father of War is released into the world.*

## 24 MAR 2016

- » *Agents Sloan and Stillwater of the Delta Green Outlaws come to the home of Tariq Rassam and find carnage. They remove a video recorder and an amphora stopper that bears an Elder Sign and flee before ISIL investigators arrive.*
- » *The Father of War attacks an ISIL checkpoint as it travels cross-country to Nineveh. It kills three ISIL fighters and leaves their flayed bodies to be found by the next vehicle that approaches the checkpoint. Once it arrives at Nineveh, it settles into caves beneath the ruins.*
- » Iraqi forces advance westward toward the oil town of Qayyarah, southeast of Mosul. Iraqi troops were reported to have recaptured several villages from ISIL, among them Al-Nasr, Garmandi, Kudila and Khurburdan, though it was later revealed that government forces were trying to capture Al-Nasr. Two brigades of the U.S.-trained Iraqi 15<sup>th</sup> Division face the brunt of the fighting while the Peshmerga hold their front line.
- » About 200 U.S. Marines and a few U.S. Army and Iraqi soldiers support the offensive with fire from four howitzers at Firebase Bell outside Makhmur, about 70 km southeast of Mosul and 24 km from ISIL lines. Firebase Bell faces rocket and suicide bomber attacks. The Pentagon renames it Kara Soar Counter Fire Complex on 30 MAR 2016 and eventually names it Kara Soar Base.
- » *Amn al-Dakhili (ISIL's criminal police service) responds to the checkpoint massacre.*

- » *Al-Hibah follows up on their missing team after morning prayers and find the massacre scene. First Amn al-Dakhili is called, but that quickly results in Amn al-Dawla (ISIL counterintelligence) being alerted. That brings Colonel Ahmed Al-Jabiri to the Rassam residence massacre. Al-Jabiri takes over the investigation. His team discovers Rassam's artifacts, lab, and library. Remains are removed but due to the amount of blood at the scene, the evidence in Rassam's vault is not collected. After the attack is documented and photographed, men from an ISIL disciplinary unit are brought in to clean up the blood. The house is placed under guard.*
- » *Al-Jabiri takes over investigation of the checkpoint massacre and looks for related attacks.*

## 25 MAR 2016

- » *Overnight, the Father of War visits a home north of the ruins of Nineveh. Seven of the family are flayed alive, but two sons disappear, forced to accept the Vigil of Stone. The massacre is discovered in the morning by the Amn al-Dakhili, who report it to Al-Jabiri.*
- » *Overnight, the Father of War kills six ISIL fighters in two different attacks. Two ISIL fighters escape with their lives but are unable to report coherently. They have taken the Vigil of Stone.*
- » *Al-Jabiri orders street patrols in Mosul doubled after dark.*
- » *Delta Green Outlaws Sloan and Stillwater report to A-Cell. A-Cell decides to bring their evidence to the Program.*

## 26 MAR 2016

- » *Iraqi forces shell ISIL headquarters in the oil town of Qayyarah, killing 25.*
- » *Overnight, one ISIL fighter on night patrol is killed and three are reported as deserters. The deserters accepted the Vigil of Stone and now have joined the Sons of War.*
- » *The Father of War slaughters a family in their home west of Nineveh. Six dead and one son missing. The son takes the Vigil of Stone and joins the burgeoning cult in the tunnels under Nineveh.*
- » *Delta Green Outlaws Sloan and Stillwater arrive at Incirlik AFB Turkey. They take military space-available flights, Sloan to Germany and Stillwater to the U.S.*

### 27 MAR 2016

- » *Overnight, eight more ISIL fighters are killed in the streets of Mosul. Two go missing and three escape. All five survive by accepting the Vigil of Stone.*
- » *Col. Ahmed al-Jabiri arranges for a company-strong unit of Chechen fighters, the Wolves of Al-Mansur, to be pulled from the front and brought to Mosul.*
- » *Agent Sloan of the Delta Green Outlaws makes contact with the Program. He begins the process of convincing the Program that his intel is real and the threat is genuine. The Program works to confirm his story.*
- » *Abu Furqan al-Misry, an ISIL commander and executioner who was a notorious figure in the region, is killed in action.*

### 28 MAR 2016

- » *Another night and seven more ISIL fighters are killed in the streets of Mosul. Two go missing and two survive the attacks. All four take the Vigil of Stone.*
- » *Ahmed al-Jabiri suspects that survivors of the nightly attacks may be involved in other attacks. He has the survivors placed under surveillance.*

### 29 MAR 2016

- » *Ahmed al-Jabiri's investigators discover that survivors of night attacks are in contact with the fighters and civilians who had gone missing. Surveillance shows them visiting the tunnels beneath the ruins of Nineveh. Al-Jabiri prepares to raid the tunnels the next night with his Chechen fighters.*
- » *Another home is attacked in Mosul. Eight members of the family are found flayed. The eldest son goes missing, having accepted the Vigil of Stone.*
- » *Radio chatter in Mosul concerning ISIL fighters and civilians being flayed alive convinces the Program to take Agent Sloan's story seriously. The Program establishes Operation BONE BOX and assembles a response team: the players' Agents.*



### 30 MAR 2016 ☾

- » Third quarter moon.
- » *Ahmed al-Jabiri raids the tunnels beneath the ruins of Nineveh. Seventy of his Chechen mercenaries die skinless and screaming. Al-Jabiri and four of his Amn al-Dawla officers and 20 Chechens take the Vigil of Stone and join the Sons of War.*
- » *Al-Jabiri takes charge. He has the newly recruited Sons of War collect the bodies of their comrades, dismember them, and dispose of them downstream in the Tigris River.*
- » *No open attacks on ISIL fighters or Mosul residents occur after this date.*

### 31 MAR 2016

- » *The Program flies the Agents to the U.S. base Panzer Kaserne in Germany.*

### 1 APR 2016

- » *Mosul residents in fear of bombing and fighting begin to flee the city, choking the region with refugees.*
- » *Coalition aircraft carry out airstrikes near Qayyarah, destroying an ammo dump.*
- » *The Program briefs the Agents on Operation BONE BOX.*

### 2 APR 2016

- » *Heavy fighting in Al-Nasr, and south of Mosul in Makmur District, leaves 40 ISIL dead.*
- » *The Agents fly to Kirkuk Airport and are assigned a corner of the USAF base there to begin Operation BONE BOX.*

### 4 APR 2016

- » *Coalition airstrikes destroy the ISIL-occupied Turkish Consulate in Mosul, with Turkish permission.*
- » *ISIL-occupied Al-Nasr still holds out against Iraqi forces.*

### 5 APR 2016

- » An airstrike destroys ISIL's training headquarters near the Mosul Grand Mosque, killing 50.

### 6 APR 2016

- » Peshmerga and allied tribal forces join the Iraqi army fighting in Al-Nasr.

### 7 APR 2016 / RAJAB 1437 AH ○

- » New moon.
- » A bridge over the Tigris River in Mosul is destroyed by an airstrike, cutting off a supply line.
- » An airstrike targets a laboratory of chlorine-filled rockets, chlorine gas and other toxic materials belonging to ISIL in Al-Saawiya village in Qayyarah District, destroying it completely and killing 30 fighters.
- » *The Father of War, strengthened by sacrifices, rises from the caves beneath Nineveh and attacks an Iraqi armored platoon changing positions under cover of darkness near Qayyarah. The 12 crewmen are flayed alive inside their three M-1 Abrams tanks. The Iraqi Army recovers the tanks and attempts to sanitize them and put them back into service.*

### 9 APR 2016

- » Coalition airstrikes hit Mosul. Two strikes on an ISIL defensive fence in Al-Haj, south of Mosul, kill over 20 militants and pulverize the base. Coalition jets kill 10 militants in Al-Mahanna District, south of Mosul.

### 10 APR 2016

- » ISIL bulldozers destroy the ancient Mashki Gate at the Nineveh ruins.

### 12 APR 2016

- » British airstrikes near Mosul and Qayyarah take out an ISIL rocket-launching team and a mortar team.



**14 APR 2016** ☾

- » First quarter moon.
- » ISIL bulldozers destroy the ancient Adad Gate and adjacent walls in the Nineveh ruins.

**16 APR 2016**

- » A coalition airstrike kills Imad Khalid Afar, a senior ISIL commander and adviser, near the Salam Hospital in Mosul, which ISIL uses as an operational headquarters.

**18 APR 2016**

- » Helicopter-borne U.S. and Peshmerga forces carry out a raid in Hamam Alil, south of Mosul, killing three ISIL militants. One is Salam Abd Shabib al-Jbouri, the former top ISIL commander in Mosul.
- » The Peshmerga launch an offensive on Khorsabad, northeast of Mosul, capturing the villages of Nawara and Barima and the Khorsabad intersection to the north.

**19 APR 2016**

- » Peshmerga forces enter Khorsabad.

**21 APR 2016**

- » ISIL executes two fighters and three civilians by throwing them from the top of a high building in the area of Bab al-Tub in central Mosul for homosexuality.
- » Reports indicate that since Mosul was taken by ISIL in 2014, over 250 women and girls have been executed by firing squad for refusing to become “temporary wives” for ISIL fighters. The vast majority of these victims are Yazidis.

**22 APR 2016** ●

- » Full moon.

### 27 APR 2016

- » *The Iraqi Army captures Mahana, a village in the Makhmur area southeast of Qayyarah. The clashes and aerial bombardments kill 200 ISIL militants.*
- » ISIL executes seven civilians for collaborating with the Iraqi government. They are drowned in metal cages lowered into a swimming pool.
- » The Iraqi Army shells Khayata village, in the Qayyarah District, killing 35 ISIL militants.

### 28 APR 2016

- » ISIL blows up the nineteenth-century Christian Sa'a Qadima Church and clock tower in central Mosul.

### 29 APR 2016

- » The Iraqi Army repels an ISIL counterattack on the villages of Mahana and Khardan, killing 91 ISIL militants.
- » An Australian ISIL recruiter, Neil Prakash, also known by his alias Abu Khaled al-Cambodi, is mistakenly reported to have been killed in a U.S. airstrike in Mosul.

### 30 APR 2016

- » Third quarter moon.

### 1 MAY TO 11 JUN 2016

- » There is a lull in the fighting as Iraqi and Peshmerga gains are consolidated.

### 2 MAY 2016

- » The Iraqi Army shells ISIL forces in Shayla village in Makhmur District, south of Mosul, killing nine.
- » ISIL begins demolishing the ancient Southwest Palace of Sennacherib in the ruins of Nineveh.



**3 MAY 2016**

- » ISIL militants with more than 20 vehicles attack a Peshmerga position near the town of Tel Skuf, north of Mosul, where a dozen U.S. troops are acting as advisors. The militants break into the position using three truck bombs followed by bulldozers to clear the wreckage away.
- » The Peshmerga and U.S. forces call for a Quick Reaction Force (QRF) to respond and help the advisors and other personnel withdraw. The QRF includes about a dozen U.S. aircraft: F-15s, F-16s, A-10s, B-52s, and two drones carry out 31 airstrikes which destroy two more truck bombs. Together, the coalition forces repel the attack.
- » The battle continues for another 12 hours, killing 58 militants and capturing three mortars and 20 vehicles. Peshmerga forces capture three U.S.-made Humvees that ISIL had captured from the Iraqi military in 2014. Special Warfare Operator 1st Class Charles Keating IV, a U.S. Navy SEAL who was part of the QRF, is the third American serviceman to be killed in combat during Operation INHERENT RESOLVE. Ten Peshmerga fighters are killed and 30 wounded. Two U.S. medevac helicopters are damaged by small arms fire.
- » It emerges that this ISIL attack is part of a counter-offensive on multiple fronts to obtain new ground. Near Tel Skuf, ISIL destroys a Peshmerga checkpoint. Iraqi special forces foil an attack by five suicide bombers in the village of Kh-irbirdan. Peshmerga forces repel an ISIL assault on Wardak. Coalition aircraft carry out seven airstrikes near Mosul, hitting six groups of ISIL fighters as well as two vehicles, three weapons caches, a mortar system, and other targets. The offensive is one of the most complex battlefield operations launched by ISIL since December 2015. It fails.
- » ISIL executes 17 civilians in Mosul by firing squad for refusing to fight for the Caliphate.

**5 MAY 2016**

- » ISIL arrests 200 Mosul civilians for refusing to fight for the Caliphate and executes 25 ISIL fighters by firing squad for “escaping from battles.”

**6 MAY 2016 / SHA'BAN 1437 AH ○**

- » New moon.
- » An airstrike on ISIL forces in the village of Al-Ju'wana in the district of Makhmour kills 20.
- » *The Father of War hears his Sons' prayers, accepts their offerings, and emerges to attack a unit of Shia militia holding defensive positions around the village of Mahana. Twenty-three members of Shia Kata'ib al-Imam Ali (the Battalions of Iman Ali) are found flayed alive. Four fled for their lives and give conflicting accounts of the massacre.*

**7 MAY 2016**

- » An airstrike destroys an ISIL fuel station south of Mosul, killing 17.

**8 MAY 2016**

- » ISIL finishes demolishing the Southwest Palace of Sennacherib in the ruins of Nineveh.





**9 MAY 2016**

» Iraqi forces retake the northern village of Kabrouk from ISIL, supported by artillery and airstrikes from the U.S.-led Coalition. It takes less than two hours, as militants put up little resistance. Forty ISIL militants are killed. This advance brings Iraqi forces slightly closer to the oil town of Qayyarah.

**13 MAY 2016** 🌑

- » First quarter moon.
- » ISIL executes by firing squad five of its fighters in Mosul for espionage.
- » ISIL executes by firing squad 11 Mosul citizens for using cell phones.

**16 MAY 2016**

» ISIL's Al-Hisbah executes one woman and 20 men for "illegal relations." Execution is by stoning. It takes over an hour to kill the victims.

**22 MAY 2016** ●

» Full moon.

**28 MAY 2016 TO 30 MAY 2016**

» Peshmerga forces recapture nine villages southeast of Mosul, including Muf-ti, Tulaband, Shuqali, and Wardak. Four Peshmerga fighters and 140 ISIL mili-tants are killed.

**29 MAY 2016** 🌑

- » Third quarter moon.
- » Peshmerga forces, consisting of 5,500 fighters supported by Coalition airstrikes, retake the towns Al-Muftiyah and Jim Kour near Mosul.

**31 MAY 2016**

» The Iraqi army repels an ISIL attack on the areas of Kabrouk, Mahana, and Khar-brdan west of Makhmur, killing 22 fighters. The militants use two booby-trapped vehicles against the army's district headquarters.

### 1 JUN 2016

- » ISIL executes six men by firing squad in Mosul's main square for selling cigarettes.
- » Outside Mosul, ISIL executes by firing squad 13 former officers of Saddam Hussein's Iraqi army for refusing to join ISIL.

### 3 JUN 2016

- » ISIL publicly burns to death 17 Yazidi girls and women in Mosul for refusing to become "temporary wives" of ISIL fighters.

### 5 JUN 2016 / RAMADAN 1437 AH ○

- » New moon.
- » *Answering the call of the Sons of War, the Father of War attacks a convoy of trucks carrying Peshmerga forces to the town Al-Muftiyah. Forty-six Peshmerga soldiers are flayed to death. Another 33 survive but suffer horrific injuries. Of the survivors, another 12 will die in hospital. Witness statements vary wildly.*

### 6 JUN 2016

- » Ramadan fasting begins.
- » ISIL in Mosul publicly executes 11 locals for attempting to flee ISIL-controlled territory.

### 9 JUN 2016

- » ISIL in Mosul publicly stones a woman to death in front of the Zahraa Mosque.

### 12 JUN 2016 ☾

- » First quarter moon.
- » The Iraqi Army renews its offensive south of Mosul to capture the village of Hajj Ali on the banks of the Tigris River. The offensive is supported by Coalition warplanes, after U.S. and Iraqi units hit ISIL positions with artillery in recent days.



**13 JUN 2016**

» The Iraqi Army captures Hajj Ali and the villages of Khirab Jabri and Kaproki.

**20 JUN 2016 ●**

» Full moon.

**25 JUN 2016**

» A U.S. airstrike kills two senior ISIL officers in Mosul, deputy war minister Basim Muhammad Ahmad Sultan al-Bajari and military commander Hatim Talib al-Hamduni. Al-Bajari is suspected of organizing mustard gas attacks and leading the takeover of Mosul in 2014.

**27 JUN 2016 ☾**

» Third quarter moon.

**4 JUL 2016 / SHAWWAL 1437 AH ○**

» New moon.

» *The Father of War strikes down an Mi-17 helicopter from the Iraqi 15th Squadron. It is transporting a unit of the 2nd Battalion, 1st Special Operations Brigade as they return from a successful raid to capture an ISIL commander along the Tigris River. The Father of War blinds the pilots, forcing a crash landing, then flays the rest of the team as they secure their prisoner and radio for assistance. The pilots survive, half-mad and utterly blind. The prisoner survives, utterly insane. All 20 commandos die.*

**7 JUL 2016**

» July 7-9: The festive holiday Eid al-Fitr marks the end of the month-long daylight fasting of Ramadan. In Iraq, Eid begins on 7 JUL 2016 and lasts three days. For ISIL, it marks the end of a month-long spree of terror attacks in Iraq, Turkey, Bangladesh, and Saudi Arabia.

» The Iraqi Army captures an area on the Tigris River southwest of Hajj Ali, linking up two fronts and besieging an ISIL pocket containing a hundred villages and the town of Hawija.

### 9 JUL 2016

- » The Iraqi Army captures Qayyarah Airfield West in Nineveh province, reportedly without resistance. The airfield is considered a strategic launch pad for the Mosul offensive.

### 12 JUL 2016 ☾

- » First quarter moon.

### 15 JUL 2016

- » Iraqi troops establish a floating bridge over the Tigris River south of Mosul, connecting Makhmur to Qayyarah.
- » President Erdoğan of Turkey launches a crackdown purportedly in response to a military coup. The Turkish MİT backs Erdoğan.

### 16 JUL 2016

- » A large boat carrying more than two tons of explosives en route to the Tigris floating bridge is destroyed by a coalition airstrike near Haj Ali village.
- » Turkey begins the mass arrest of military officers, including many pro-NATO officers. Erdoğan blames U.S. resident Muhammed Fethullah Gülen for masterminding an attempted coup. The U.S. government refuses to surrender Gülen to Turkish custody.

### 19 JUL 2016

- » Women lead the first public protest in Mosul since ISIL took over in June 2014. ISIL fighters kill 12 women and arrest many more.

### 20 JUL 2016 ●

- » Full moon.

### 26 JUL 2016

- » Over 1,500 ISIL members, including several senior leaders, escape Mosul and head towards Raqqa, Syria. It is estimated that there were around 9,000 ISIL members in Mosul before the recapture of Qayyarah base and surrounding villages by pro-government forces. The number declined after their recapture as many died or fled.

**27 JUL 2016** ☾

» Third quarter moon.

**28 JUL 2016**

- » A report describes a youth group attack on an ISIL prison outside Mosul that kills a prison guard and helps dozens of detainees escape. Most of the detainees were from Mosul and had been arrested on charges of collaborating with the security forces. ISIL had demanded ransoms ranging from 100,000 to 200,000 Iraqi dinars.
- » ISIL leaders, including Abu Shuaib, die in an airstrike on Qayyarah.

**2 AUG 2016 / DHUL-QA'DAH 1437 AH** ○

- » New moon.
- » Iraqi forces recapture the public road and Al-Hathr junction as well as the surrounding villages from Qayyarah to Tlul al-Bj.
- » *Ahmed al-Jabiri and the Sons of War attempt to relocate themselves and the Father of War to Raqqa, Syria. Six couriers depart Mosul on independent routes, carrying the ritual Call Forth Those From Outside (The Father of War). Al-Jabiri is one of the couriers.*
- » *Once again, the Father emerges to answer its Sons' prayers. It intercepts an American F-15E Strike Eagle approaching for an airstrike on Mosul. The Father feeds part of its obsidian mass through the engines and causes a double flameout. Pilot and weapons officer safely eject. The Father flays them before they touch down south of the city, leaving their parachute harnesses and rescue transponders intact. A USAF E-9 JSTARS surveillance system records their broadcasts, including part of their horrible deaths. USAF pararescue recovers the bodies.*

**3 AUG 2016**

- » *Just after dark, a heavily guarded convoy organized by the Sons of War leaves Mosul for Raqqa, Syria. A tanker truck at the center of the convoy contains the Father of War.*



**// Part 1:  
A Black Smoke  
Rising //**

اعلم بما يقوله  
بالقرآن



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

لا حشر علينا يتيب  
وما انت عليهم من حجار فله  
تخاف وعبد





# Part 1:

# A Black Smoke Rising

In this opening scenario, the players take the roles of non-Delta Green characters. They will play regular Agents in the rest of the campaign. Do not tell the players that they are playing out an event that their Agents will eventually investigate, but assure them that this opening session is a prelude with temporary characters. A look inside black hearts and a blacker hunger. An introduction to details and contexts of the campaign to come. And a demonstration of what's at stake.

The players' temporary characters are ISIL foreign fighters. The majority of them, being essentially useless in combat but fluent in European languages and both tech and media savvy, have been assigned to make recruitment videos for the ISIL online recruitment

magazine *Dabiq*. Their assignment today is to go to the house of a suspected infidel and film the destruction and confiscation of his collection of blasphemous pre-Islamic artifacts.

The team consists of six pregenerated characters and two NPCs. One NPC, a disabled *ghazi* (warrior) currently serving non-combat duties, supervises the team. Another inexperienced and rash NPC fighter accompanies the team. Should the player characters prove too cautious, that reckless warrior can take actions that will release the Father of War from its prison. Unused pre-generated characters can fill out the party's ranks as additional NPCs.





# Introduction

Hand out the pregenerated ISIL characters and allow the players to familiarize themselves with their public and secret personae.

Next, hand out the document entitled “ISIL Briefing.” This describes what happened that morning during their mission briefing. Everyone should read it silently. Do not allow players to ask questions about it. Tell them not to show their copy of the briefing to any other players. All copies of the briefing are identical, but this should foster a touch of paranoia.

Then have each player read the “Public Information” about their pregen character out loud to the group, and read the “Secret Information” silently to themselves.

Once that is done, begin the mission *in medias res*. They are in the back of the truck that is driving them out of Mosul on the way to their mission. The action should begin like the team’s video camera is being switched on to get comments and observations on their way to the mission, in the style of a “found footage” movie.

## The Team From Al-Hisbah

The three videographers should be the first pregenerated characters assigned, with the security and demolition team assigned if there are more than three players. Timur Alimsultanov and Faisal bin Salman are meant to be NPCs, but if there are enough players, they too can become player characters.

**QAZIM ADEMI:** A Dutch foreign fighter. He helps Arshad and Gökhan while saying snide things behind Gökhan’s back.

**TIMUR ALIMSULTANOV:** A crippled, fortyish Chechen small-unit commander and explosives expert. He is now assigned to Al-Hisbah. He keeps the others focused on their assignment.

**ELAM SOUFIANE BOUMEFTAH:** A Belgian foreign fighter. He looks like the Terminator and scolds everyone for their language and morals.

**KHALED HADJ IBRAHIM:** A French foreign fighter. He resents being sidelined when there’s real fighting to be done.

**ALEN ISLAMOVIĆ:** A Danish foreign fighter. He hero-worships Timur as a “real ghazi.” He wants to impress Timur so he can get into combat.

**GÖKHAN KIRDAR:** An Australian foreign fighter. He thinks he’s a jihadi rock star. He thinks he’s ISIL’s Tupac Shakur, only Gökhan won’t get killed.

**ARSHAD MEHMOOD:** A British foreign fighter. He runs the camera and is jealous that Gökhan gets to be in front of it.

**FAISAL BIN-SALMAN:** A twenty-something Gulf-Arab jihadi “war tourist.” He demonstrates sadistic glee at the suffering of others and is actively a bully. Ultimately, his purpose is to be sure that someone is foolhardy enough to open the Throne of Blood and release the Father of War.

## QAZIM ADEMI

*Dabiq* filmmaker. You help Arshad and Gökhan and say snide things behind Gökhan's back.

### Background

You are a Dutch foreign fighter. Your native language is Dutch. Your life in the Netherlands was mind-numbingly boring. Nothing important ever happened. Your own life promised to be as safe, bland, and irrelevant as those of your parents and older siblings. Their watered-down Islam may as well have been atheism.

Jihad—helping to build the Caliphate!—was the first thing to promise a life of real meaning. A chance to make a difference. A chance to make history. It would be a fight, and you would be surrounded by enemies, but you would stand with people who believed.

After a few weeks with Al-Hisbah, the religious police, the Caliphate put you to work as a vehicle mechanic, since your inability to understand Arabic proved a far deeper liability than you expected. Luckily, you had some experience with computers and social media. You finally got assigned to work with Arshad and Gökhan making documentaries and recruitment videos for *Dabiq*, ISIL's online magazine. That gig has been going on for about three months now.

Privately, you have begun to get a bit queasy about all the “inventive” public executions you have had to document. You are beginning to worry that you are on the wrong side of the history that you are making. But you have no idea how you could get out. And the consequences of desertion? Well, you've seen those.

### Serving ISIL

You are an ISIL foreign fighter, short on combat skills but long on being foreign. You have only recently arrived in ISIL. Your first duties were with Al-Hisbah, the religious police. You handed out fines for violations of ISIL's massive list of proscribed acts, from smoking to inadequate beard length to allowing female family members out without escorts. You had to administer beatings to repeat offenders. Worse offenses were given the death penalty. That wasn't on you, of course, but more experienced fighters.

You know enough to be wary of everyone around you. Anonymous denunciations can easily lead to imprisonment, torture, and execution without ever knowing the charge or your accusers.



## ELAM SOUFIANE BOUMEFIAH

Construction worker. You look like the Terminator and scold everyone for their language and morals.

### Background

You are a Belgian foreign fighter from Antwerp. Your parents came from Morocco but your native language is French. You were an amateur competitive weightlifter who followed a martyred friend, Ali, into jihad after following his story on social media. You left family behind, but they praised your decision.

You were included on this mission because you used to work construction and can operate some of the necessary equipment, and because you are a fighter, physically aggressive, always ready for a scrape.

Unlike most of them, you have seen real combat. There was a raid by Kurdish YPG fighters on the border town, where you and a group of recruits were being brought into Syria. During the raid you grabbed an AK from a fallen martyr and fought. With your help, the godless communists were driven back. It was the proudest moment of your life.

Your decision to join the jihad was the first time since you were a child that you felt your parents' unreserved approval. You are terrified of disappointing them. Your parents taught you that morals are everything. Some foreign fighters think that being assigned to Al-Hisbah, the religious police, is a waste or a punishment, but you know better.

You know from personal experience the constant temptations that men face, even when surrounded only by other men. Especially *then. Rigidly following the law is the only way to control urges and temptations* that could destroy you. You must use the battle with those desires to hone yourself into a perfectly disciplined warrior. That is, indeed, every man's obligation. Al-Hisbah gives you the chance to show them and save them.

You are the fighter most likely to scold the others for transgressions of Islamic rules of behavior. You are always first to insist on stopping for the five daily prayers at dawn, noon, afternoon, sunset, and night.

### Serving ISIL

You are an ISIL foreign fighter, short on combat skills but long on being foreign. You have only recently arrived in ISIL. Your first duties were with Al-Hisbah, the religious police. You handed out fines for violations of ISIL's massive list of proscribed acts, from smoking to inadequate beard length to allowing female family members out without escorts. You had to administer beatings to repeat offenders. Worse offenses were given the death penalty. That wasn't on you, of course, but more experienced fighters.

You know enough to be wary of everyone around you. Anonymous denunciations can easily lead to imprisonment, torture, and execution without ever knowing the charge or your accusers.



## KHALED HADJ IBRAHIM

Construction worker. You resent being sidelined when there's real fighting to be done.

### Background

You are an Algerian-descended foreign fighter from Paris. Your native language is French but you speak fluent Arabic and English. You came to the Caliphate because of your family. They have no interest in Islam, at least not the Islam of ISIL. They want only to assimilate with French society and make money.

When you left school because it was too expensive and your grades were too poor, your family disapproved. When you took honest work on a construction site, they disapproved. When you ran out of money and had to borrow to make ends meet, they disapproved most of all. Meanwhile, the French hated you for your faith and your Algerian background. You got into fights constantly, and your family and the cops always blamed you.

When you started paying attention to the mission of the Islamic State, things finally started to make sense. There was a fight worth having. There was a place you would be welcomed and where nobody would care about money. It was not radicalization, it was revelation.

Your life in the Islamic State has not quite lived up to your hopes. The government spends more time scolding and abusing your fellow Sunnis than fighting the Assad government, the Iranians, or other Shiites. And it has treated you as though you are next to useless. You received only the barest military training and have seen no combat. Instead, they put you in Al-Hisbah, the next-to-useless "religion police." It's almost as if ISIL does not trust its foreign recruits. Meanwhile, the jerks who did a stint with the French Army go right into the action. How is that fair? Joining a crusader army should be treason!

You were assigned to this mission because you know how to operate construction equipment. You'll do whatever Timur tells you to do, but you would rather be smoking and complaining—despite both activities being offenses against the state, punishable by the lash.

### Serving ISIL

You are an ISIL foreign fighter, short on combat skills but long on being foreign. You have only recently arrived in ISIL. Your first duties were with Al-Hisbah, the religious police. You handed out fines for violations of ISIL's massive list of proscribed acts, from smoking to inadequate beard length to allowing female family members out without escorts. You had to administer beatings to repeat offenders. Worse offenses were given the death penalty. That wasn't on you, of course, but more experienced fighters.

You know enough to be wary of everyone around you. Anonymous denunciations can easily lead to imprisonment, torture, and execution without ever knowing the charge or your accusers.

## ALLEN ISLAMOVIC

Construction worker. You want to impress Timur Alimsultanov so you can get into combat. You want to be “real *ghazi*,” a respected warrior like him.

### Background

You are a Danish foreign fighter. Your Muslim parents fled Sarajevo during the Balkan Wars of the 1990s, before you were born. They did not encourage you to learn Bosnian, so your second language after Danish is English. Even so, your inability to assimilate left you bitter and resentful.

Graffiti has always provided an outlet, but increasingly violent Islamic radicalism provided a place where you felt you belonged, and a source of meaning and structure. Social media introduced you to a world of righteous warriors fighting against genocide by the West.

You turned up in Mosul with no combat skills, and little understanding of the conflicts in Syria and Iraq, but ISIL assigned you to Al-Hisbah, the religious police. This quickly made you feel that most foreign fighters are not trusted to do anything important. The Islamic State is just like your parents in that regard.

You are on today's mission because you worked as a construction worker in Copenhagen and know how to handle the backhoe. You'll tell anyone who'll listen that you'd rather be in combat.

Unfortunately, you have never seen combat. You secretly worry that you might be in for an eye-opening surprise, unless you get your eyes closed permanently first.

As resentful as you are about being placed on “hall monitor duty,” you are glad to have met Timur Alimsultanov. Unlike other officials, Timur isn't condescending. He fought in Bosnia and remembered your parents' village, or at least its ruins. He has been taking the time to teach you how to make and use explosives. Timur treats you like an adult, and you worship him for it.

### Serving ISIL

You are an ISIL foreign fighter, short on combat skills but long on being foreign. You have only recently arrived in ISIL. Your first duties were with Al-Hisbah, the religious police. You handed out fines for violations of ISIL's massive list of proscribed acts, from smoking to inadequate beard length to allowing female family members out without escorts. You had to administer beatings to repeat offenders. Worse offenses were given the death penalty. That wasn't on you, of course, but more experienced fighters.

You know enough to be wary of everyone around you. Anonymous denunciations can easily lead to imprisonment, torture, and execution without ever knowing the charge or your accusers.



# GÖKHAN KIRDAR

Dabiq video performer. You are a jihadi rock star. You're like ISIL's Tupac Shakur, only you won't get killed.

## Background

You are an Australian foreign fighter born to Turkish immigrants. Your native language is English but you spoke some Turkish at home. You have always been good-looking, charming, and popular, and you are destined to be a star. If anyone has any doubts, show them how well you are trending on Snapchat and Vine!

Back in Australia, prejudice against immigrants did its best to interrupt your destiny. You were on your way to becoming a pop star, thanks to the magic of Autotune and your natural charisma and dance moves, but all the agents and producers refused you and your videos were swarmed with racist trolls. But your uncle Emre understood. He saw your talent. And he knew where it was needed. He convinced you to join the fight for your people.

Now that you are in the Caliphate, you are a star. You were quickly matched up with Arshad and Qasim, and for the last three months you've been recording for the online recruiting magazine Dabiq. Your videos bring fighters from around the world. If you think about it, that makes you the greatest fighter of all, even if you never fire a shot! If you keep this up, the whole world will always remember you as the public face of jihad.

You have been working with Arshad and Qasim for about three months. They both love working with you and really appreciate your input and ideas.

## Serving ISIL

You are an ISIL foreign fighter, short on combat skills but long on being foreign. You have only recently arrived in ISIL. Your first duties were with Al-Hisbah, the religious police. You handed out fines for violations of ISIL's massive list of proscribed acts, from smoking to inadequate beard length to allowing female family members out without escorts. You had to administer beatings to repeat offenders. Worse offenses were given the death penalty. That wasn't on you, of course, but more experienced fighters.

You know enough to be wary of everyone around you. Anonymous denunciations can easily lead to imprisonment, torture, and execution without ever knowing the charge or your accusers.



## ARSHAD MEHMOOD

Dabiq filmmaker. You run the camera and are jealous that Gökhan gets to be in front of it.

### Background

You are a UK-born fighter from a Pakistani family. Your native language is English, but you grew up speaking Pashtun around the house. Your Arabic is still quite poor. You are the most tech-savvy of the team, having built and run your own pro-jihad websites and YouTube channels in the UK. But conflicts with your parents were too much to handle. Their version of Islam is too soft and feckless to ever save the Islamic people from the threats posed by imperialist Crusaders and Jews. You dropped out of college and retreated online, where you were further radicalized.

Through instant messages, social media posts, and email, you met Amena, a jihadi widow looking for a husband. She encouraged you to come to Syria and join the fight against its Alawite Shia-dominated dictatorship. When you reached Iraq, however, your fellow fighters told you of her martyrdom by U.S. bombs. It has occurred to you that she may never have existed at all.

Rather than try to go home, you stayed and were assigned to Dabiq, ISIL's online recruitment magazine. But even that proved a disappointment. You are clearly the brains of the operation, but your editor picked Gökhan Kırdar to be in front of the camera. That guy is an empty-headed poser. He wants to make jihadi music videos, for fuck's sake! How is the world supposed to take the Caliphate seriously when we're leading with a down-under Vanilla Ice?

You share your opinions with no one but Qazim Ademi. He seems to share a sense of doubt concerning some of the things the two of you have seen since arriving.

You have been working with Gökhan and Qazim for about three months.

### Serving ISIL

You are an ISIL foreign fighter, short on combat skills but long on being foreign. You have only recently arrived in ISIL. Your first duties were with Al-Hisbah, the religious police. You handed out fines for violations of ISIL's massive list of proscribed acts, from smoking to inadequate beard length to allowing female family members out without escorts. You had to administer beatings to repeat offenders. Worse offenses were given the death penalty. That wasn't on you, of course, but more experienced fighters.

You know enough to be wary of everyone around you. Anonymous denunciations can easily lead to imprisonment, torture, and execution without ever knowing the charge or your accusers.

## ISIL BRIEFING

The date is 23 MAR 2016. Just after early morning prayers, your team was brought to meet with two officials: Ali bin Hamza from the online magazine *Dabiq* and Daoud El-Said from Al-Hisbah, the religious police.

This briefing was not recorded. El-Said angrily shut down any suggestion that it should be. Then he took away all your phones and never gave them back. He said they were needed by other fighters.

Bin Hamza began the briefing:

- Your three social media guys—Arshad, Qazim, and Gökhan—are going to film an action against a suspected heretic named Tariq Mohammed Rassam.
- Brother Rassam purports to be a good Sunni, but some suspect he is a Christian who should pay the dhimmi tax like all non-Muslims.
- Others suspect he is Sufi or even Shiite. In those cases he must be tried and executed for apostasy.
- Two servants live with Rassam, his driver and gardener Majid al-Muhandis and his cook and maid Shatha Hassoun.

Bin Hamza turned the rest of the briefing over to Daoud el-Said. El-Said added:

- Brother Rassam owned a marble quarry and is a former teacher at the University of Mosul.
- During the war with Iran in the 1980s, Brother Rassam was granted permission to build a bomb shelter beneath his house.
- Brother Rassam is known for his interest in collecting antiquities, so his home was previously searched and many blasphemous artifacts were found and destroyed. He was, however, able to demonstrate his devotion to ISIL by the signing over ownership of his quarry and his two cars. Rassam's marble quarry has been nationalized and is currently being worked by conscripts.
- Subsequent visits to Rassam's home did not turn up any open displays of idolatry or any sign of the shelter. Brother Rassam has yet to be confronted with the fact that he failed to point out the shelter's existence to ISIL officials.

El-Said impatiently refused to answer questions. He gave the fighters their orders:

- Proceed to the home of Brother Rassam and gain access to the bomb shelter. It is strongly suspected that Rassam is hiding pre-Islamic artifacts there. Find the stash of heretical idolatry.
- Destroy some of the offending items for propaganda purposes. Leave the rest to be boxed up for later disposal by another team from Al-Hisbah.
- Film everything.
- If possible, the house should not be damaged in case it has some value to ISIL.
- Charge and arrest everyone in the house with idolatry and bring them back to Mosul. They must be brought in alive for interrogation, trial, and execution. Such spectacles are the duty and privilege of the state. Failure to bring in the suspects alive will show the limitations of the team members' use to ISIL except perhaps in conducting martyrdom operations as suicide bombers.
- Timur Alimsultanov, a disabled warrior and explosives expert currently serving non-combat duties, will supervise the team and handle demolitions.
- The other fighters will provide security and handle excavation equipment.



## Equipment

Besides the personal gear of each Al-Hisbah deputy, the team is assigned specialized gear. Let the players decide which of them is responsible for each item.

- » Paperwork, including an order from an ISIL emir granting legal permission to search the Rassam premises, as well as a photocopy of the 1984 building permit authorizing construction of a bomb shelter on the property.
- » A 1991 Volvo Cabover FE6 Converter Truck, with side rails and a canvas top over the bed, a trailer hitch, and a fold-down gate in the back.
- » A trailer with a Hyundai model H940-4WS backhoe-loader chained on it.
- » Plenty of sledgehammers, picks, shovels, and crowbars.
- » A pneumatic jackhammer that can be run off the truck's engine or the backhoe-loader's engine.
- » Four sets of portable floodlights on tripods, each of which can be powered off the truck or backhoe-loader.
- » A partial case of dynamite, 24 sticks, with detonators and a wire-fired manual exploder.
- » Heavy work gloves and safety goggles. Ear protection, hardhats, and flashlights.

While ISIL has looted the city of Mosul for anything they deemed useful, it has been in Mosul for nearly two years and supplies aren't what they once were. It takes a few hours to sort all of this out. Logistical efficiency is not ISIL's strong suit.

By the time the party is ready to depart, it is after mid-day prayers. Timur Alimsultanov rides up front while Faisal bin Salman drives. The party piles into the back of the truck and starts shooting footage with their camera.





# LIFE IN MOSUL

Mosul is an ancient Muslim city reshaped first by Saddam Hussein's ubiquitous concrete construction and now by ISIL's demented dreams.

Mosul has been depopulated. Before ISIL took over in 2014, the city had a population of 1.8 million. Today, just over 700,000 people remain. The rest are dead or have fled. But when the city was taken, ISIL barely fired a shot. The killing took place in an orderly fashion after the city surrendered.

On some blocks there is no battle damage to be seen. Others are in rubble from U.S. and Iraqi airstrikes.

Large portions of the city are silent, with few people in the streets and absolutely no unaccompanied women. Women who do emerge are accompanied by male relatives and wear the *niqab*, which covers everything but the eyes. No woman works at any job in public except a few members of Al-Khansaa Brigade, a small, all-female branch of Al-Hisbah tasked with punishing women for moral failings.

ISIL graffiti covers the walls of buildings, either exhorting the populace to greater devotion, or designating buildings as having become the property of ISIL. The call to prayer (*adhan*) comes five times a day and is strictly enforced.



## City Services

Cell phone networks have been down since 2014. There is no music. There is no television. Private satellite dishes have been removed.

Nevertheless, the streets are impeccably clean. Garbage service is run under the threat of imprisonment and corporal punishment. There aren't even cigarette butts on the sidewalks, not the least because ISIL has declared smoking cigarettes a flogging offense. Occasionally a severed head is displayed at an execution site with a cigarette stuck between its lips to drive home the point about repeat offenders.

Corporal punishment motivates much of the city's services. If it is physically possible for the water, gas, or electricity to function, then it functions. ISIL has threatened city workers with imprisonment and death should they fail at their jobs.

## On the Streets

The rainy season has ended. Dust churned up by vehicle traffic stings the eyes and coats the nostrils despite round-the-clock street sweeping.

Driving through Mosul is slow. Car and truck traffic is limited to official and commercial purposes, but checkpoints dot the city, especially on bridges crossing the Tigris River. The bored young men manning these checkpoints enthusiastically flaunt their authority. Drivers are often seen kneeling on the road next to their trucks while gunmen strut about with AK-47s, searching vehicles and examining travel documents for an excuse to start shooting. This creates traffic jams.

Large intersections, particularly those with traffic circles, are where the regime displays the bodies of those they have executed for crimes against the state and God. The bodies are left out for days in the sun. The smell of death in these places is ever-present. Heads are often piled separately from the bodies.

Whole cadavers are left hanging from pedestrian and vehicle overpasses so drivers are forced to see them as they drive beneath. Sometimes the swarming maggots drop down onto the cars as they drive beneath the corpses. The dead are guarded lest the families try to take the bodies away for proper Islamic funerals. Guarding the dead is not preferred duty. The stench of death often keeps the guards edgy and short tempered.



# The House of Rassam

As the ISIL team enters Rassam's property, encourage the players to describe recording everything. Later they can edit the footage into something more dramatic for posting on *Dabiq*. It is important for the ISIL team to record as much as possible of the events leading up to the release of the Father of War and the ineffectiveness of bullets and explosives against him. It is also important that the ISIL team document potential clues for Delta Green to recover.

## At the Gate

It is just after 2:00 p.m. when the party finds the front gate of Brother Rassam's property. The home is located in rolling countryside south of Mosul, within sight of the Tigris River. A very old wall made of rocks piled about a meter high surrounds the broad property along the road.

The driveway is closed by a rusty iron gate closed by a simple bar. There is no lock. The truck and trailer can proceed to Rassam's home along the single-lane gravel drive. On either side of the road are apricot orchards. Sheds with baskets and ladders are scattered throughout the orchards.

A taller wall of newer construction surrounds the house, garden and swimming pool. It stands over two meters tall and is made of cinder block with broken glass cemented along the top, common for well-to-do homes in the region. This gate is secured with a chain and padlock.

The fighters can force the gate with the truck bumper or dismount the back-hoe loader and use the bulldozer blade. Shooting the lock off is another option. However, all they really have to do is honk the truck's horn a few times, which summons the older servant, Majid al-Muhandis, to emerge from the house and unlock the gate. He offers no resistance.

## The Residents

Three people live at the house: Tariq Mohammed Rassam, the owner and suspected heretic, surprisingly spry at age 93; Majid al-Muhandis, Rassam's loyal driver and gardener, age 62; and Shatha Hassoun, Majid al-Muhandis's grandniece who now serves as Rassam's cook and maid, age 17.

### Tariq Mohammed Rassam

Despite his advanced age, Rassam is very hard to rattle. He's seen a lot of human-authored horror, not to mention the unnatural. He does not respond to threats. He does not break under torture. He lets the intruders torture or kill anyone, even loyal Majid al-Muhandis, without giving up the truth of his history and plans.

Rassam's goal is to try and get ISIL to leave and stay away until the Kurdish smugglers arrive after midnight. He cooperates and answers questions in the most disarming way that he can muster. Rassam is pious and urbane. He does his damndest not to let these cheap thugs know the contempt he feels for them.

Rassam is desperate enough that he might turn to the unnatural. He knows a fair number of potent rituals. He fears magic. He once used a ritual to expel a Yithian and compel the return of the host mind and it nearly broke him. Nevertheless, he uses alchemical techniques to create gold and increase his vigor and a ritual to access the hidden vault beneath his house.

### Majid al-Muhandis

Majid al-Muhandis serves as driver, gardener, and general factotum for Tariq Rassam. Al-Muhandis runs many errands for Rassam, particularly risky ones such as smuggling. Elderly, widowed, and with no children to look after him, he is extremely loyal to Rassam, despite believing that Rassam is a *sahir* or sorcerer. Back in 1964, Rassam performed an exorcism that cured Al-Muhandis's older sister of demon possession. Al-Muhandis's recently deceased wife, Tahiya, was also a victim of the unnatural whom Rassam rescued from a horrendous fate. Both of them served Rassam for nearly four decades and saw him confront and overcome the unnatural. Al-Muhandis's attitude about Rassam's use of *sibr* or black magic is tempered by



his belief that Rassam is a good man who has taken terrible burdens upon his soul to fight demons and Iblis, or Satan.

Majid al-Muhandis is obviously terrified of a truckload of young men with guns, all foreigners demanding entrance to the home. He knows that Rassam plans to remove certain items from the vault because of the danger of their falling into the hands of ISIL. Al-Muhandis does not betray that trust. He can take a beating. If threatened with death, he says a prayer and takes comfort that he has been a good man and a good Muslim. If Rassam is threatened with either, Majid offers to take the punishment for Rassam. If Rassam dies, Majid weeps over the corpse and refuses to leave him. He intends to wash and wrap the old man for burial because Rassam has no family left to do it for him.

Threats to Shatha Hassoun terrify Al-Muhandis. He does anything to protect her short of betraying Rassam. If Shatha denounces Rassam as a sorcerer, Majid only begs her to stop, claiming that she is confused and not in command of all the facts.

If the Father of War is released, Majid does not try to run. He knows he is too old and slow. He prays loudly until his tongue is too mangled to utter the words of the prophet Muhammad. He tries to protect Rassam with his body if he can. He is a dutiful servant, loyal to the end.

### Shatha Hassoun

Shatha Hassoun is young and attractive beneath her *niqab*, the black garment that reveals only her hands and eyes. She is perhaps the most complicated character at the Rassam household. She is Majid al-Muhandis's grandniece, his older sister's granddaughter. Al-Muhandis's nephew was her father. Both of her parents have been executed by ISIL, first her father in August 2015 for being a former member of the Mosul police, then her mother in February 2016 for blasphemy (namely, for refusing to stop openly grieving for her husband and remarry an ISIL fighter). Majid al-Muhandis was her closest living male relative, so ISIL turned her over to him.

That was incredibly traumatic for both of them. Al-Muhandis was thoroughly unprepared to take on

a ward. Rassam only permitted it because he felt that refusing to allow her to be placed in the house might raise more suspicion. Both men were aware that proximity to the Throne of Blood would result in terrible dreams. They have attempted to control Hassoun's dreams with drugs Rassam prepared in his laboratory. That initially quelled the nightmares. But then Rassam and Al-Muhandis locked Shatha in her room at night so that they could attend to the slow business of packing up the things that Rassam wanted to get out of Iraq, especially his personal journals and notes on the Throne of Blood and its probable inhabitant. They especially didn't want her to see Rassam using the Clear the Path ritual, where the sand in the swimming pool flows out on its own and stands like the parted waters of the Red Sea until Rassam allows them to fill the pool again.

Being locked in her room raised Hassoun's paranoia, which was already running double time after the murder of her parents by ISIL. She realized that Al-Muhandis was putting something in her evening tea, and she stopped taking it. The bloody dreams from the trapped Father of War began affecting her mind. Now she is barely holding onto her sanity. The arrival of the ISIL team is enough for her to start denouncing her great uncle's employer as an evil sorcerer.

Before the ISIL team arrives, Hassoun is already terrified of Rassam. She wants out of the house immediately and hopes that the ISIL team will take her away. She believes (incorrectly) that Rassam and Al-Muhandis already think she is an informant and may kill her. She thinks even a jail cell would be safer. Given the opportunity, she tries to force her way onto the fighters' truck before it departs. If they refuse to take her, she takes a bike and flees. Rassam does not stop her, but Al-Muhandis begs her to stay, telling her she does not understand.

Hassoun flees by bicycle when the ISIL fighters release the Father of War. If any fighters make it back to their truck, they see her in the dark, in her black *niqab*, only with an **Alertness** roll. If that fails, the truck runs her down and only a successful **Drive** roll prevents the truck's wheels from getting tangled up with the wreckage of the bicycle and slowing their escape.

## Hassoun's Warnings

Shatha Hassoun takes any opportunity presented to explain, outside Rassam's hearing, that Rassam is a sorcerer and should be arrested at once. She is terrified of waiting for his vault to be found lest he invoke some djinn or cast some spell.

Take pains to ensure that her statements are caught on film by the documentation team. Later Delta Green agents should gain access to the information. If she doesn't get a chance to make these accusations where Rassam and Majid cannot hear her, she publicly accuses Rassam after the old man attempts to use the Gaesa ritual on Timur.

Hassoun makes the following accusations:

- » **LOCKED UP:** She is often locked in her rooms at night by the other servant, Majid al-Muhandis. It has been every night the last week. (They do this any time they need to access the vault or work in the lab.)
- » **SOUNDS AND SMELLS:** When she is locked up, she sometimes hears sounds like prayers from the "wizard's workshop," Rassam's laboratory in Bedroom 4. She smells strange odors the morning after. (The sounds and smells are part of Rassam's alchemical rituals.)
- » **THE GOLD:** She claims to have seen Rassam give Al-Muhandis small gold objects like beads when Muhandis went out to purchase supplies. (This is true. Rassam creates gold via alchemy whenever he needs some supplies. He uses a cast he previously used to make silver buckshot during an incident in the Seventies when he had to kill something unnatural.)
- » **THE BACKYARD:** When she is locked up, she sometimes hears weird sounds from the backyard, the hiss of a sandstorm followed hours later by a loud thump that practically rocks the house. She is convinced that Rassam, the sorcerer, summons devils there. (That is the sound of the sand leaving and later returning to the pool when Rassam enters the vault.)
- » **RASSAM IN THE ORCHARD:** Two nights ago, Al-Muhandis forgot to lock her door. Hassoun went into the backyard and saw Rassam leaving

by the rear gate. He went into the apricot orchard and spoke in a language she could not understand to things that could not be seen. If the interviewer says it sounds like Rassam was talking on a phone, Hassoun angrily says she knows what talking on a phone sounds like. This was Rassam, the sorcerer, giving his devils their commands. She cannot be shaken from this conviction. (Rassam was using his satellite phone with a headset to talk with the Delta Green Outlaws in English.)

- » **VANISHINGS:** Twice Rassam disappeared for an entire day, even though neither bicycle was taken and there was no car to take. Al-Muhandis only said "the Master is gone." (Rassam spent the night in his vault to study his collection, pack away his most important texts and artifacts, and check on the Throne of Blood.)
- » **THE STOVE:** Once, after Rassam had disappeared for the day, Hassoun heard the echoes of his voice reciting an evil spell coming from the vent of the stove. Rassam did not return to the house until late at night. (Rassam was in the vault, reciting rituals and prayers in the hope of keeping the Father of War restrained.)
- » **NIGHTMARES:** Every night since she began staying in the house, Hassoun has had nightmares about blood and cutting herself. (This is not completely correct. It has only been for the last couple of weeks, but SAN loss due to the influence of the Father of War has muddled her thoughts.)

## Rassam's Gambit

Deep in Rassam's bag of tricks, he has a ritual called Geasa, detailed on page XX. When it becomes clear that there is no way to persuade the fighters to leave, he eventually gathers his nerves to use it on Timur Alimsultanov.

Rassam speaks to Timur in Russian so that no one else understands. He commands Timur to leave and not to come back until tomorrow. There is no need to roll for an NPC affecting an NPC. Unfortunately for Rassam, he fails. Timur feels himself fighting off its influence. He is filled with horror as a few SAN slip away. He is positive that Rassam tried to "hex" him



or put the “evil eye” on him. He is deeply affected by the experience and orders Faisal to guard Rassam closely. He also takes everything Shatha Hassoun has to say seriously.

If Rassam somehow ends up trapped in the vault while the ISIL team is digging down to him or rigging the vault door with explosives, he shoots his servant Majid, then Shatha, and then himself. If he has no pistol, he attempts to provoke one of the ISIL goons to kill him so he won’t experience the wrath of the Father of War. If Rassam’s pistol has been taken, he attempts to give the ISIL goons an excuse to shoot him. He grabs the barrel of one of their AKs if his hands are free, or just walks away if his hands are tied. If completely immobilized, he taunts them with insults to their mothers, their manhood, and their piety in the hope that one will lose his temper and kill him.

## Searching the House

The players decide how or whether they search the Rassam home. They should come in with the camera recording the event. Beyond that, whether they physically bully the residents, attempt to psychologically intimidate them, or act with the utmost courtesy as they smash holes in the walls is up to them.

The interior floors, staircases, exterior walls, sinks, and countertops of the Rassam home are all made from marble supplied from Rassam’s quarry. Arabic inlaid mosaics serve as the molding around doorways and along the tops of interior walls. Many features of the building are inspired by the architecture of mosques.



The interiors are very well cleaned, if a bit bare. Many valuable items have already been removed from the house by officials of ISIL. Most interior walls include niches with lighting for the display of artifacts. All are empty now.

There are electric lights in every room, but with power outside Mosul being unreliable, most windows are open to let in light and allow the rooms to cool.

## Ground Floor

**GRAND FOYER:** Overhung by a crystal chandelier, this white marble room looks out onto the courtyard and its graceful Arabic fountain.

**TOILET:** Used by guests. No bathtub or shower.

**POWDER:** A powder room for female guests to adjust their make-up.

**GUEST BEDROOM:** The quarters of Majid Al-Muhandis. A number of feminine touches remain from the presence of Al-Muhandis's wife Tahiya, who died from natural causes a couple of months back.

**GUEST CLOSET:** The only thing of note is that Al-Muhandis has not yet given away his wife's clothing and belongings.

**GUEST BATH:** Complete with bathtub and shower. Still has some of Al-Muhandis's wife's personal items.

**LINEN CLOSET:** Towels, sheets, tablecloths.

**STORE:** Household cleaning supplies. Electrical tools such as the floor polisher and vacuum cleaner were long ago taken by ISIL.

**MAJLIS:** This large salon is filled with low, curved couches with large pillows, set around an equally low, wide wooden table with beautiful mosaic inlay. This is where guests would be brought to sit, drink tea, and discuss business with the head of the household. The walls are covered with photos of Rassam's extended family, his graduation from Cambridge in the UK and from the Freie Universität Berlin in Germany, Rassam at dig sites and with personalities from the world of archeology, and Rassam with political figures like the

Hussein-era Minister of State for Antiquities and past directors of the Iraq Museum. No photos show him hobnobbing with government officials after the U.S. invasion of 2003.

**FAMILY ROOM:** Less formal and more comfortable than the majlis. Here is where the television and stereo system stood before they were taken by officials of ISIL.

**DINING ROOM:** A very formal affair, with a fine table of inlaid wood and a crystal chandelier. Most of the furniture is still here. ISIL seized all the silverware and china months ago.

**BREAKFAST ROOM:** A far less formal dining area. It has seen plenty of use but is well-cleaned.

**KITCHEN:** Most modern appliances have been taken but the electric oven and refrigerator remain. The refrigerator holds a block of ice to help keep the interior cool when the power fails. This is the room where the maid, Shatha Hassoun, spends most of her time. The vent above the oven connects with a vent that rises from the vault (described on page XX), though this cannot be seen unless the fighters take the vent apart. With no one in the vault, they won't have a chance to hear tell-tale sounds.

**GALLERY:** This short hallway displayed artifacts in wall niches that now stand empty.

**LAUNDRY:** The washer and dryer have been removed. Instead, clothes are hung from lines outside where Hassoun works with a washboard, a steel wash bin, and a hand-cranked wringer.

**STORE:** A pantry for dry goods and household supplies.

**MAID'S ROOM:** Occupied by Shatha Hassoun. A bolt on the outside of the door is locked at night to keep her from prowling when everyone is asleep.

**DRIVER'S ROOM:** Currently unoccupied. It has no access to the interior of the house. It holds old gardening supplies.

**POOL EQUIPMENT ROOM:** A lot of old and unused maintenance tools and chemicals for the swimming pool.



**TWO-CAR GARAGE:** Empty. Both vehicles have been requisitioned by ISIL, along with batteries, tires, patch kits, and engine oil. There is a pair of bicycles here now, plus extra tires, tubes, and a manual air pump. A garage wall holds the house fuse box, hooked up to portable generator for blackouts. A jury-rigged exhaust system vents carbon monoxide. The water heater is here, too, along with the pump that draws from the local aquifer and fills the tank on the roof.

## Upstairs

**UPPER GALLERY:** Much like the gallery and the foyer on the ground floor, this curved hall looks out onto the courtyard while the opposite wall contains empty display niches.

**ROOF ACCESS:** A ladder leads up to a bolted roof hatch. From there the satellite dish could be adjusted if it had not been taken by ISIL. The air conditioning unit is still up there, along with a gravity water tank and some old TV antennas that are no longer in use.

**MASTER SUITE:** This is Rassam's bedroom. It is a practical sleeping place for an old man who moves quite slowly. There are pictures of his wife and a few of her gifts to him, and even her old letters in a drawer. A very fine leather-bound copy of the Quran sits on a table next to the bed.

**MASTER BALCONY:** Accessible only from the master suite, this is where Rassam would lay out a prayer mat anytime he would be required to go through his mostly empty motions of the call to prayers. A prayer mat is rolled up on the balcony.

**MASTER BATHROOM:** A well-apportioned bathroom with handicapped access bars for getting in and out of the tub.

**MASTER CLOSET:** Rassam's daily wear is simple traditional Iraqi dress, but tucked away in the back are decades-old Italian business suits and archeological field gear.

**BEDROOM 1:** This bedroom is left furnished but unoccupied in the unlikely event of guests.

**BEDROOM 1 BATH:** As advertised.

**BEDROOM 1 CLOSET:** Now used as storage for some of Rassam's deceased wife's things.

**BEDROOM 2:** Converted to a library. Shelves line the walls, and a reading desk sits in front of the window for natural light. Desk drawers contain reading glasses, pens, paper, and envelopes. The books range widely in history, poetry, mythology, folklore, archeology, and religion. They are written in Arabic, English, French, and German. There are translations of manuscripts originally in Egyptian hieroglyphs, Demotic Egyptian, Babylonian, Akkadian, Latin, Ancient Greek, Turkish, Classical Arabic, Linear A & B, and Sanskrit. Antique travelers' journals describe the point of view of outsiders travelling to Mesopotamia in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. There are copies of the Quran from as far apart as Java and Tunisia. No tomes refer directly to the unnatural. Nevertheless, much shelf space is free due to previous visits by ISIL officials. Many books were taken away as improper or "not in agreement with the Quran."

**BEDROOM 2 BATH:** As advertised.

**BEDROOM 3:** Very much like the library in bedroom two, except this room is for periodicals. The bookshelves are filled with issues of magazines and journals on archeology and anthropology in half a dozen languages, dating back to the 1950s.

**BEDROOM 3 BATH:** As advertised.

**BEDROOM 4:** Rassam's laboratory. This room appears to have been set up as a chemistry lab. There are Bunsen burners, Erlenmeyer flasks, beakers, pipettes, and laboratory glass of all shapes and sizes. Cabinets are filled with jars of various substances, some of them quite toxic. There is personal protection gear: gloves, lab coats, goggles, and respirators. Here is where Rassam ritually transmuted base elements into the gold with which he bribed ISIL officials, paid Kurdish smugglers, and bought black-market goods. A number of occult items necessary for these rituals are stored in the vault. He brings them here when it is time to work. A successful Search roll in the laboratory turns up residue of gold dust in some of the crucibles, on the tables, and in an iron cast originally used to create 00 buck

shot. Not being metallurgists or geologists, the fighters can only guess at the dust's nature. Rassam claims the laboratory is for analyzing geological samples as part of his business as a marble merchant.

**BEDROOM 4 BATH:** Modified to serve the alchemical laboratory. There is an eye-wash station and the shower has its own water supply connected to a separate tank on the roof.

## The Patio

**WATER FOUNTAIN:** This beautiful, multi-tiered, marble fountain is turned off to conserve power.

**COVERED PAVILION:** There are a number of patio chairs out here along with standing brass ashtrays. Unless guests smoke in the majlis, Rassam prefers to smoke here or on the first-floor balcony.

**GARDEN BEDS:** Al-Mahundis cultivates roses and striped squills.

**STORAGE SHED:** Where the old pool and gardening supplies were kept. Now it stores plastic jerry cans of gasoline for the generator in the garage.

## The Pool

The swimming pool is lined in marble and filled to the top with fine desert sand. Rassam says that he filled it with sand after his wife fell in and drowned, decades ago. (This is a lie—his wife died of a heart attack in her sleep—but there is no simple way to check it. The birth and death registry in Mosul was always disorganized, and records were damaged when ISIL took over.)

In fact, the sand is meant to discourage anyone from poking around. Rassam constructed this home atop a vault where he collected unnatural artifacts that he felt were too important to destroy or was simply unable to destroy. The secret entrance to the vault is located in the pool.

It takes about six hours for a backhoe to dig out enough sand to reveal a false wall at the deep end of the pool. The fine sand continues to settle to the lowest part of the pool unless efforts are made to create a dam in the shallow end using sandbags or rocks

or logs. Wetting the sand goes a long way towards preventing it from flowing back. That reduces the time it takes to clear the entrance to three hours.

Beneath the sand, the bottom of the pool is filled with beautiful mosaics.

## The Vault

A false wall at the bottom of the deep end of the pool conceals a shallow concrete alcove. At the end of the alcove is a pressure-door salvaged from a ship in the port of Basra. The alcove is wide enough for the pressure door to swing outward without blocking passage. A wheel valve in the door turns to open it.

Rassam accesses the vault using the ritual Clear the Path, which causes the sand to slide aside and reveal the entrance. Before the sand, he used the same ritual to part the water.

Beyond the water-tight door, the concrete passage makes an immediate left turn towards the house and opens to an octagonal room, 10 meters across, filled with Babylonian and Assyrian artifacts.

The vault is located more or less directly beneath the kitchen. An air vent in the ceiling of the vault connects to the oven's vent above. That may allow the Father of War to get from the vault to the house while avoiding direct sunlight.

If the team decides to use jackhammers and crowbars to dig down into the chamber or the passage from the kitchen through the house's foundation, Timur reminds the ISIL team that their orders are to refrain from damaging the house. It takes 16 hours to cut a man-size hole through the concrete and to use an oxyacetylene torch to cut through the steel rebar that reinforces the concrete.

At a glance, intruders take in the contents of the chamber:

- » A two-meter iron cage is bolted into the concrete floor in the middle of the room. It holds a large bronze amphora.
- » Shelves and bookcases covering the walls hold ancient statues, clay tablets, and hand-bound, handwritten books.
- » Ten wooden cases the size of footlockers.
- » A workbench with lamps and an open journal.
- » A rolling office chair.



**STATUES AND TABLETS:** Each shelf is laden with ancient Babylonian and Assyrian statues and hundreds of carefully tagged and labeled clay tablets written in such ancient languages as Akkadian, Ashurian Aramaic, and Sumerian. An **INT×5** roll reveals that many of the shelves are empty and there are gaps in the cataloging system where tablets have been removed. These objects are easily identified as pre-Islamic and therefore forbidden. An **Anthropology** or **Occult** roll, or having the skill at 50% or better, identifies the artifacts as having significant roles in the offering of prayers to gods, the placation of demons, and both the issuing of and protection from curses. Rassam collected them and used the rituals recorded on them to attempt to further blunt the influence of the Father of War.

**BOOKS:** Also on the shelves are what appear to be transcriptions of ancient texts bound in folios. They are not transcriptions. They are journals handwritten in Ashurian Aramaic, an extinct language which previously served as a kind of Mesopotamian lingua franca during the fifth through ninth centuries CE. Here Rassam has kept vast notes on his work against the unnatural. If asked about them, Rassam lies, describing the folios as handmade copies of texts from the Baghdad Museum of Antiquities. He says they cover the spread of early Islam into Mesopotamia. For details on the books, see **THE JOURNALS OF TARIQ RASSAM** on page XX.

**WORKBENCH:** A workbench holds light sources—two battery-powered electric lamps and a pair of backup oil lamps—along with a magnifying glass, Rassam’s satellite phone, and an open folio. The folio is written in Ashurian Aramaic. A character with at least 40% skill in **Foreign Language (Aramaic)** or who makes a roll at +20% can read it in detail. If the Agents later see video footage of these pages, they can make out the writing. The folio reveals that it and the rest are actually Rassam’s journals. This one describes his plan to smuggle something called “The Father of War” out of the country. The last words on the page say, “The Americans must not fail,” with “Americans” written to be sounded out phonetically. Beneath the open journal





is a small knife, like a letter-opener but razor-sharp, inscribed in Arabic with a nonsense word: “Azathoth.” Beneath the bench are sealed plastic jugs of water and cans of preserved food, enough to last one adult a week.

**CASES:** Ten wooden cases the size of footlockers contain scores of clay tablets etched with Akkadian cuneiform. To a reader who knows **Foreign Language (Akkadian)**, the tablets comprise part of *Winds Unknown to Adad*. These cases also include Rassam’s translations of the tablets into modern Arabic. (See **WINDS UNKNOWN TO ADAD** on page XX for details.)

**THE CAGED AMPHORA:** The most prominent object is an iron cage bolted to the concrete floor in the middle of the room. It measures two meters per side, with an ancient key lock on the door. In the center of the cage, carefully balanced, is a large bronze amphora stoppered with a leaded seal. Its exterior is etched with an inscription in Akkadian. Though the ISIL team has no way to translate it, it reads:

THE FATHER OF WAR WAITS  
HUNGRY TO LICK THE SKIN  
FROM THE WORLD  
WAR HIS ENDLESS GIFT  
BLOOD HIS ENDLESS PRICE  
FREE HIM AND PAY

This is the Throne of Blood.

As far as Faisal bin Salman is concerned—and he says this aloud if no player thinks of it—the ISIL fighters must have just discovered where Rassam keeps his supply of gold.

If the leaded seal is pried out, it can be seen to have an unrecognizable sigil inscribed on the inside. See **THE THRONE OF BLOOD** on page XX for details of the artifact. See **THE FATHER RISES** on page XX for what happens immediately after the stopper is removed.

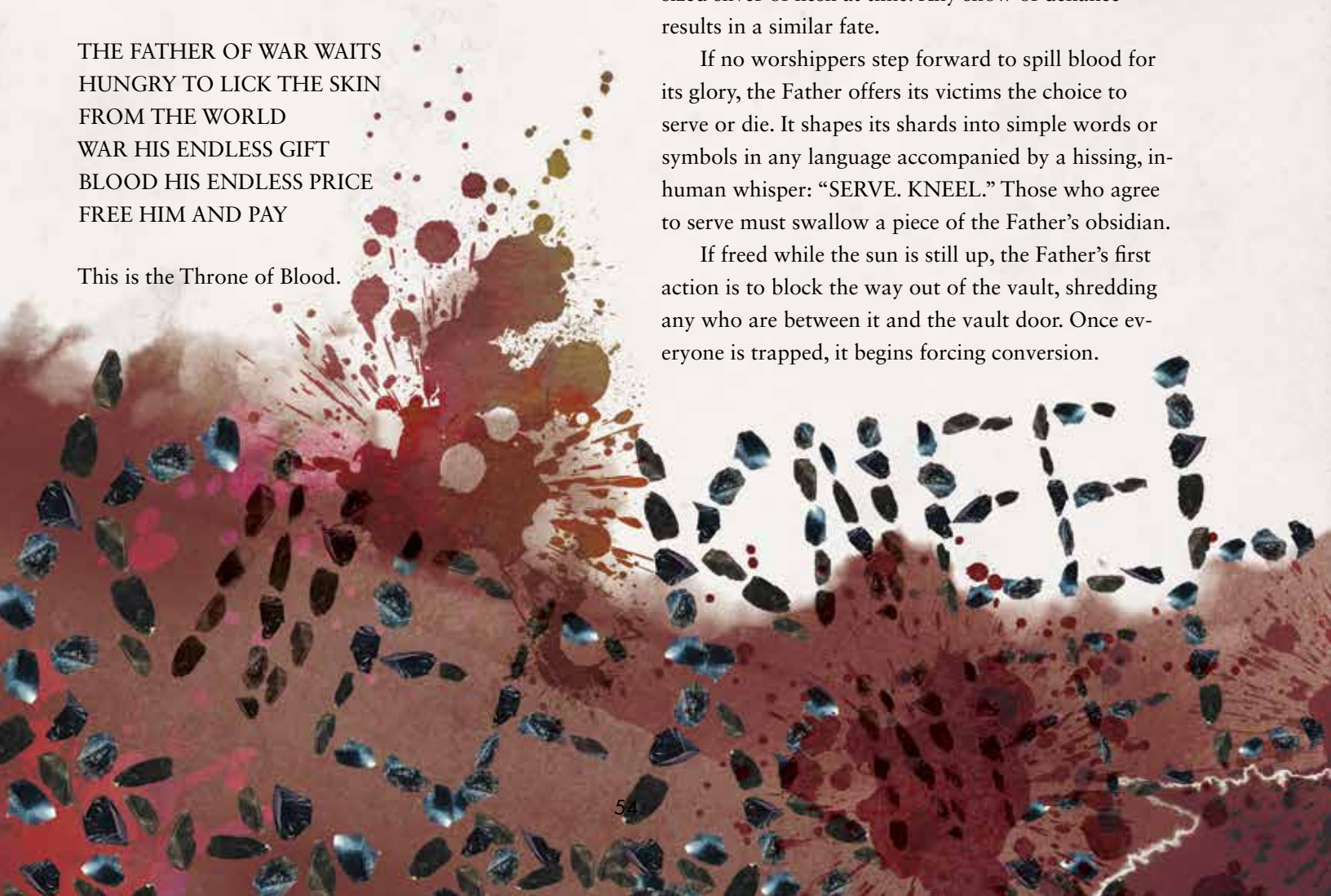
## The Father Rises

The Father of War and its attacks are described fully on page XX.

As soon as the amphora is opened, the Father of War spills out in a living stream of black obsidian shards. Far more shards emerge from the amphora than its apparent volume should allow. The Father immediately wants to bathe in blood. The first person the Father encounters is skinned alive, one thumbnail-sized sliver of flesh at time. Any show of defiance results in a similar fate.

If no worshippers step forward to spill blood for its glory, the Father offers its victims the choice to serve or die. It shapes its shards into simple words or symbols in any language accompanied by a hissing, inhuman whisper: “SERVE. KNEEL.” Those who agree to serve must swallow a piece of the Father’s obsidian.

If freed while the sun is still up, the Father’s first action is to block the way out of the vault, shredding any who are between it and the vault door. Once everyone is trapped, it begins forcing conversion.





If freed at night, it stalks the intruders as they flee into the open air. It is possible to get the truck and try to flee, but only if a fighter survives the six turns it takes to run from the vault to the truck. Succeeding at an **Athletics** test reduces that to four turns. An ISIL fighter in the driver's seat can attempt a **Drive** test once per turn to start the truck and speed away. Of course, this is a situation where the answer to the question "Who has the truck keys?" is critical. Starting the truck without keys requires a successful roll with **Craft (Electrician)** or something equivalent.

Meanwhile, the obsidian cloud whips and coils through the air, stalking and flaying its victims, one or two at a time. It is completely capable of chasing the truck down and slashing the belts, hoses, and tires to immobilize it. The Father of War glories in terror and death, but it wants worshippers even more.

End the scenario at a particularly dramatic moment when the digital video camera is turned off, abandoned, or damaged. Not showing the death of every ISIL fighter provides the opportunity to bring some characters back later as clue vectors.

## Player Characters

Six pregenerated ISIL fighters are available for the players. Find their character sheets beginning on page XX. Give the players the handouts that reveal their characters' secrets.

- » Arshad Mehmood, British videographer, age 21
- » Gökhan Kırdar, Australian would-be Snapchat star, age 19
- » Qazim Ademi, Dutch student, age 20
- » Alen Islamovi, Bosnian graffiti artist, age 20
- » Elam Soufiane Boumeftah, Belgian construction worker, age 19
- » Khaled Hadj Ibrahim, French construction worker, age 20

## Other Characters

### Timur Alimsultanov

Timur Alimsultanov has been fighting since 1995 during the First Chechen War. He went on to fight in the Balkan Wars, the Second Chechen War, Afghanistan, and finally Syria with ISIL. There is no flavor or color of Crusader he hasn't had a hand in killing. The cowardly Americans wounded him with a bomb at the Battle of Kobane last year and since then he has been on light duties. But he's the sort who knows what to do if there's trouble.

Alimsultanov speaks no English and gives orders in Arabic. It's up to the Arabic-fluent members of the team to translate for the rest.

Alimsultanov is a very, very tired jihadi. His heart burned more fiercely when he had both arms, both eyes, and more of his hearing. Exiled from Chechnya like so many of his countrymen, Alimsultanov and his fellow Chechens were packed tightly in front of Kobane in October 2015, ready for the final assault on the Kurdish enclave, when the USAF hit them. Thanks to an American 500-pound bomb, Alimsultanov is missing his right arm below the elbow, his right eye, and his right eardrum. He nearly died. The bombardment broke Alimsultanov just as it broke his unit. The wounded were left behind and order was lost. Alimsultanov suffers from PTSD but has done nothing about it for fear of being discarded by ISIL.

Alimsultanov is a competent but bored authority figure. Babysitting for Al-Hisbah propagandists is beneath him. He pays little attention to the mission. If he experiences the supernatural, he becomes as focused as a Puritan witch-hunter. He pushes ahead as a means of overcoming his own fears. He believes in the power of the supernatural as described in the Quran and in Chechen folklore. When confronted by its reality, he is likely to come apart at the worst possible time, giving panicked orders and digging it to make a stand when he should run.

As the leader, Alimsultanov will likely be a target of Rassam's attempt to use the ritual Geasa to force him and the players to withdraw from the home. If

he succumbs, his stiffness and discomfort as he obeys are obvious to all. Successful rolls of **Psychotherapy** or **HUMINT** reveal that he is acting under coercion, even through he denies it. Under the Geasa, Alim-sultanov draws his weapon and threatens to kill any soldier who is insubordinate, but he drips with sweat and his hand shakes. He does not want to kill his men. He fights the sorcery constantly. That imparts a -20% penalty to all his rolls while controlled.

### Timur Alimsultanov

*Shaken ISIL veteran, age 43*

**STR 9 CON 15 DEX 12 INT 14 POW 13 CHA 11**  
**HP 12 WP 13 SAN 49 BREAKING POINT 36**

**ARMOR:** 5 from a NATO-issue tactical vest.

**MOTIVATIONS AND DISORDERS:** Post-traumatic stress disorder.

Adapted to violence.

**SKILLS:** Alertness 26%, Artillery 38%, Athletics 45%, Craft (Electronics) 38%, Demolitions 33%, Dodge 34%, Drive 25%, Firearms 40%, First Aid 32%, Foreign Language (Arabic) 41%, Foreign Language (Russian) 70%, Heavy Weapons 34%, Melee Weapons 37%, Military Science (Land) 54%, Navigate 68%, Occult 25%, Ride 32%, Search 25%, Stealth 41%, Survival 50%, Swim 26%, Unarmed Combat 31%.

**ATTACKS:** Makarov pistol 40%, damage 1D8.

Unarmed Combat 31%, damage 1D4-1.

Qama 37%, damage 1D8.

**WEAPONS:** Timur wears an EFA-2 Makarov holster on his left hip. By pushing the pistol down through the holster, the pistol's slide automatically chambers the first round, cocks the pistol, and takes the safety off, all with his one hand. A qama is a short sword or long fighting knife from the North Caucasus.

### Shatha Hassoun

Hassoun's history is detailed on page XX.

#### Shatha Hassoun

*Fearful young servant, age 17*

**STR 7 CON 11 DEX 12 INT 12 POW 10 CHA 15**  
**HP 9 WP 10 SAN 42 BREAKING POINT 40**

**SKILLS:** Alertness 41%, Athletics 46%, Craft (Cooking) 45%, Dodge 40%, Melee Weapons 32%, Search 35%, Stealth 44%, Drive (Bicycle) 39%, Swim 29%, Unarmed combat 41%.

**ATTACKS:** Kitchen or cleaning tool 32%, damage 1D6-1. Unarmed 41%, damage 1D4-2.

### Majid al-Muhandis

Al-Muhandis's history is detailed on page XX.

#### Majid al-Muhandis

*Gardener, mechanic, and loyal friend, age 62*

**STR 10 CON 9 DEX 8 INT 11 POW 13 CHA 11**  
**HP 10 WP 13 SAN 52 BREAKING POINT 39**

**SKILLS:** Alertness 35%, Athletics 46%, Craft (Cooking) 25%, Craft (Gardening) 48%, Craft (Mechanic) 68%, Drive 56%, Firearms 54%, First Aid 61%, Foreign Language (Sonari Kurdish) 40%, Melee Combat 40%, Search 60%, Stealth 42%, Survival 49%, Swim 33%, Unarmed Combat 45%.

**ATTACKS:** Garage or garden tool 40%, damage 1D6. Unarmed 45%, damage 1D4-1.

### Tariq Mohammed Rassam

Rassam's history is detailed on page XX and in **THE JOURNALS OF TARIQ RASSAM** on page XX.

#### Tariq Mohammed Rassam

*Hunter of the Unnatural, age 93*

**STR 3 CON 9 DEX 5 INT 17 POW 17 CHA 12**  
**HP 3 WP 17 SAN 22 BREAKING POINT 5**

**MOTIVATIONS AND DISORDERS:** Adapted to helplessness. Depersonalization disorder. Sleep disorder.



**SKILLS:** Alchemy 45%, Alertness 81%, Anthropology 67%, Archeology 69%, Art (Stone Sculpture) 65%, Athletics 35%, Demolitions 43%, Drive 39%, Firearms 82%, First Aid 54%, Foreign Language (Akkadian) 40%, Foreign Language (Ashurian Aramaic) 45%, Foreign Language (English) 61%, Foreign Language (French) 41%, Foreign Language (German) 63%, Foreign Language (Persian) 39%, Foreign Language (Russian) 31%, Foreign Language (Sanskrit) 43%, Foreign Language (Sorani Kurdish) 48%, Foreign Language (Turkish) 54%, Heavy Machinery 41%, History 73%, HUMINT 65%, Occult 87%, Persuade 47%, Pharmacy 64%, Science (Chemistry) 71%, Search 55%, Stealth 47%, Survival 33%, Unarmed Combat 60%, Unnatural 31%.

**ATTACKS:** Walther PPK pistol 82%, damage 1D8. Unarmed 60%, damage 1D4-3.

**THE FLOWER OF DILMUN:** Rassam has long used the ritual called the Flower of Dilmun (described on page XX) to maintain vigor beyond his years. He has used the ritual so many times that should he fail to use it again before his CON reaches its natural score of 3, his INT will permanently drop to zero. That is a problem he will never face.

**RITUALS (ACTIVATION ROLL 77%):** Clear the Path, The Closing of the Breach, Dust of the Thresholds, The Elder Sign, Exorcism, The Flower of Dilmun, Geasa, Obscure Memory, the Powder of Ibn-Ghazi, Song of Power, Soothing Song, The Voorish Sign, Transmutation.

## Faisal bin Salman

Faisal is here to get his jihad on. He is a handsome man with a cheerful disposition that comes from having better equipment and cleaner clothes than others. He receives care packages from home since there is almost nothing for his money to buy in the Caliphate.

Faisal is perfectly open about how cool and fun he thinks it is to be able to throw his weight around as a member of Al-Hisbah. He brags about everything from his Porsche back in Jeddah to the number of Shiites he's bagged. Once he's back home in Saudi Arabia, he's going to brag about this war like it was spring break.

He happily tells anyone who listens about his "slutty" Yazidi concubine, a kidnap victim who ran away at the first opportunity after he raped her. It is intolerable to him that ISIL officials are dragging their feet getting him a new concubine. He asks the players how their trafficked women are, knowing full well they didn't get assigned any.

A bully and a coward, Faisal is perfectly happy to kill people who can't fight back and has participated in a number of executions. Worse than useless in combat, he is tolerated and kept relatively safe so his family will write more checks to ISIL.

Perhaps the worst part of Faisal's cruelty is its absolute thoughtlessness. He is reflexively sadistic. He never passes up an opportunity to be petty and mean-spirited. Being in *Al-Hisbah* allows him unquestioned authority with no risk. At Rassam's house, he is bored with anything besides pushing people around.

Besides these fine qualities, Faisal is greedy. When he hears about Rassam paying in gold, he wants to discover its source. The alchemical lab makes no sense to him, but that amphora locked in an iron cage? That is definitely where the gold is kept. Definitely. Faisal recklessly opens the Throne of Blood if the players' fighters do not.

## Faisal bin Salman

*Unredeemed predator, age 19*

**STR 13 CON 11 DEX 10 INT 7 POW 9 CHA 9**  
**HP 12 WP 9 SAN 38 BREAKING POINT 36**

**ARMOR:** 5 from a NATO-issue tactical vest.

**MOTIVATIONS AND DISORDERS:** Adapted to violence.

**SKILLS:** Alertness 60%, Athletics 55%, Computer Science 21%, Demolitions 23%, Dodge 35%, Drive 55%, Firearms 30%, Foreign Language (English) 41%, Melee Weapons 35%, Persuade 40%, Ride 39%, Search 33%, Stealth 41%, Swim 25%, Unarmed Combat 55%.

**ATTACKS:** M4 carbine 30%, damage 1D12, Armor Piercing 3.

Desert Eagle .44 magnum pistol 30%, damage 1D12.

Arabian dagger 35%, damage 1D6+1.

Unarmed 55%, damage 1D4.