“Interim”

by

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Wide Shot of a prairie overlooking a canyon, a single tree in the middle of the prairie a dirt road beside the tree, leading into a town just beyond the northern side of the prarie:

in a deep sleep is Daniel, under the tree, by the road.

Daniel’s hand is grasping a leather-bound Bible, given to him by his father. A man approaches him, walking cane in hand, scarring the ground with tiny holes. The man smiles, poking Daniel with his cane. Daniel stirs, looking up at him with half open eyelids, sleep still cast over him.

Daniel

Good day, good fellow. Are you looking for something, maybe someone? If at all I could help-

Micah

No, no. I’m just curious as to why you are out here, and not in town my boy?

daniel

I am waiting for someone under this tree, someone important.

Micah

Who is that?

Daniel holds up his Bible, pointing to the cross on it.

Daniel

My Judge. I am waiting for his return so that I can be with him.

Micah chuckles happily.

Micah

Your judge is unfair and unjust. He casts out his own, permanently for following in his footsteps, yet forgives others who murder and rape, and allows them access to the golden steps beside him.

Daniel

My judge is just that, the judge, I am but a servant. If my master serves to judge, as you say, unfairly, who am I to stop him?

Micah

You are what gives the judge power. You are what gives the master power. If the master has no servants to clean his home, or pick his crops, what does he have? If the judge has no populace to judge, then what is he but a man?

Daniel, interjecting, points up at the man

Daniel

Then, what you are displaying, is that I, too, am powerful in my own way?

Micah

Without an obedient populace to control, who is a Judge, or a Master? Your power comes from your faith.

(Micah was a priest of a church whose followers slowly left, leaving Micah with nothing in his life, forcing him to become a wanderer.)

Daniel

Then I choose to place my faith in my master, the judge.

Micah

Then I choose to enlighten you my boy, your faith is misplaced, and will only bring you grief and disdain. Good day, my boy, I wish you well in your fruitless endeavors.

Daniel

A fruitless tree is still useful. My name is Daniel, what is yours?

Micah

My name is Micah.

Micah turns on his heel, walking back to the dirt road, starting the northern venture into town leaving Daniel under the tree, thinking about the boy’s blindness in following someone so hypocritical. Another figure approaches Micah, this time a tall and dark man, with black facial hair.

Obadiah

Hello good sir! Spare a bite for a poor man?

Daniel digs through a sack beside him nestled in between two roots of the tree, removing a golden apple from it.

Daniel

Yes, my good sir! Please take this apple! I only ask that you spend a moment of your time with me while you eat it.

Obadiah jogs over happily.

Obadiah

The Lord blesses you good sir, and this meal that nourishes my body!

daniel

You too then follow in his footsteps?

Daniel holds up the bible once more, pointing to the cross.

Obadiah

Ah! Wonderful! I do! He has blessed me with this meeting to give me food, I do not think that is a coincidence!

daniel

I am glad to hear you believe as well! A man just passed by, as bitter as a rotten apple he was, about following in the path of the light!

Obadiah

That is unfortunate, I can only wish he finds and walks amongst the light as we do.

Daniel smiles to Obadiah, watching as he takes a chunk of the apple into his mouth.

daniel

I am but a servant but I, too, can wish he finds the light to walk in.

Obadiah takes the last bite of the apple, throwing it as far as he can across the prairie until it thuds in the high grass.

Obadiah

Well good sir, thank you for the apple, but I must be on my way to an important meeting in town. I wish you well in your endeavors, may his light shine upon you.

daniel

You too good sir! Good day.

Obadiah waves good bye, getting back on track to the town down the dirt road to the north. Slowly, Daniel begins falling asleep again, back off into a deep sleep. Creeping down out of the tree, a snake winds down the trunk, disappearing behind the trunk, opposite the side Daniel is laying against. Soon, a woman appears from behind the trunk of the tree. She touches Daniel’s cheek getting close, considering his closed eyes. Daniel stirs.

daniel

Woah woah woah! Too close!

Daniel scoots away, uncertain of the woman’s objective.

Lucifer

I will not hurt you, simply wanted to awake you. I see you are a follower?

Lucifer holds up the Bible, a sizzling sound coming from her fingers.

daniel

I am.

Daniel is wary of the sound coming from the woman’s fingers.

daniel

Are you in need of a blessing or help? Perhaps I can be of assistance.

Lucifer

No need. I am curious. Two men passed by this tree, headed into town, yet, you stay here, alone. Are you waiting?

daniel

I am waiting for my judge and master to appear once more so that I may be with him.

Lucifer

Ah! You mean your lord and savior then?

daniel

Yes! Him!

Lucifer laughs miserably.

lucifer

Your joy and excitement are wasted. You’ll be sitting here for ages, eons, eternity. He is never coming back. Especially for you, and only you. He cares nothing about you. What have you done for him? Even this holy book you have is full of blatant lies from his part. Forgive everyone? Where is that in this world? Have you seen what he did to m—-the devil? Cast the man out, without a second thought, to burn for eternity and watch over a realm of fire and brimstone, whilst he sits a top a golden throne watching over the world in all it’s glory. If the god of this world was so just, what explains the amount of death, disease, and crossness of others?

Daniel interjected, cutting off Lucifer.

daniel

You see I am but a servant. I am no judge. I do not make the decisions that the judge has.

Lucifer

You are complacent in following him though. The jury, too, so blamed for the guilty’s sentence. They take part in the trial just as much as the judge does.

daniel

I will not waver in the face of question. The lord is my savior and will always be.

Lucifer

You are complacent in not thinking for yourself and you refuse to waiver because your thoughts are being challenged. You are but a sheep in the flock that your god will harvest for his own benefit. When a sheep loses his wool, or his mutton, tell me, what does the sheep gain? The sheep gains nothing, and loses everything. What do you hope to gain?

daniel

I am to gain a spot beside him on his golden throne.

lucifer

Are you? Does a sheep sleep beside the farmer in his bed, or does a sheep sleep in the barn with the other sheep? You, boy, are a fool.

Lucifer disappears behind the trunk of the tree again, a snake seen crawling through the field of high grass, headed south away from the town. Daniel is left, now uncertain. His face puzzled, the bible on the ground away from him, upside down.

daniel

What am I to him? How do I know that I will join him when he comes? The book says if I give generously, and love the people around me, I will join him, yet, I am blindly following that doctrine on faith. Has that blinded me? If I am blinded, and I walk away, where does that put me? If where I am is where I should be, and my patience is needed, and I walk away, does that mean I lose everything I had before, or can I gain it back?

Daniel looks up to the sky, grey clouds gathering in the distance over the south, while the northern end of the prairie was bright and shiny, almost mocking his newly found uncertainty.

FAde Out:

The End