

Scene setup: Jak (the main character) has finally found Thaddeus, an old wizard who can hopefully give him some answers about the powerful magics used by Sandrakk (the antagonist).

A video of this scene can be seen [here](#).

Meeting Thaddeus

Jak's busted his way into Thaddeus' fortress. The latter surveys the wreckage, fists on hips, shaking his head. When he speaks, it's with a slight Texan accent.

THADDEUS

Hnnnng. Look at this mess. You are *paying* for this mess.

(fed up)

Hope you got an inheritance coming. This is one of them *for the rest of your natural born life* type debts right here.

JAK

I, uh, I really didn't mean to blow up your porch and... whatever this room is supposed to be. Just came here to talk. My name's Jak.

THADDEUS

It's called a parlor, *Jak*. Where you entertain guests? Would've done anyway, had I any actual burning desire to ever have guests.

Thaddeus shakes his head, disgusted, walking away to disappear into a kitchen.

THADDEUS (CONT'D)

I need some coffee in me or I'm gonna box your ears, I swear.
Want any?

JAK

(sheepish)

That'd be great. I really am sorry. I wish none of this had happened.

THADDEUS (OC)

If wishes were horses, beggars would ride.

JAK

What's a horse?

Thaddeus comes back, two cups of coffee floating behind him. One of them hovers over to Jak, who takes it.

THADDEUS

I dunno, never seen one. Died out in the early parts of the war.
That's what yer here about, right?

JAK

(confused)

I don't need a horse.

THADDEUS

No, dummy, the war. You a deserter? You look scared.

JAK

What, no, I'm-- why would you think that?!

THADDEUS

Some men's eyes, they got a little bunny in 'em.

(beat)

Yours do. Hoppin' around. Maybe not always, but right now?
Something's got you scared outta your mind.

Long beat. Thaddeus is mostly right, Jak realizes. He's been holding in fear for a while now.

JAK

We're going to lose the war. No one knows how to stop Sandrakk.
I'm afraid of what comes after.

THADDEUS

You should be. What he's done to Seren, to Kalthus? He wins,
that's what he'll do to everyone.

Thaddeus downs his coffee. Swirls a finger on the rim of the cup, eyeing Jak.

THADDEUS (CONT'D)

So how's he doin' it? Snuffing out the Fonts.

JAK

You know about that?

THADDEUS

Kid, I got scrystones in every damn corner of Aveum. You start seein' leylines winking out in all the wrong places, it gives you pause. If I had to guess, world's poorer by about three Fonts.

JAK

Three? He got to another one?

THADDEUS

Oh yeah. Soon as the Font in Rasharn went dark, he must have beelined for the one in Kalthus. His occupation woulda made it easy pickin's.

JAK

They're not really gone. Sandrakk's absorbed their power using some kind of artifact of Aristeya-- a Binding Stone. A Thrada-Kul. That's why I'm here. The Immortals believe you're the only one that might know what the stone really is.

Thaddeus nods a bit, thinks. Slaps his knees and goes to a nearby bookshelf. He rifles through papers and slides out books to read their spines a little easier. As he's searching--

THADDEUS

Kirkan still hate me?

JAK

I've heard she's not a big fan of yours, but she's never mentioned you to me.

THADDEUS

Mm. You got to be new then.

JAK

No, I've been her student for five years now.

THADDEUS

She must be working up to it.

Thaddeus pulls out a book, holds it open to a page with an illustration of multiple Binding Stones on it. Taps his finger on one of them.

THADDEUS (CONT'D)

Looked like this otherwise innocent bit of business, yeah?

Jak nods. Nervous now, Thaddeus chucks the book and arches his back, hands behind his head. Stands there staring at the ceiling, figuring out what to do. Whistles to see if it helps.

JAK

It's that bad?

THADDEUS

Walk with me. Easier just to show you.

As Jak starts to rise, Thaddeus materializes his sigil, its point seemingly stretching along a whirling blue magic aiming to pierce Jak's forehead. Jak rears back in alarm.

THADDEUS (CONT'D)

Calm yer tits. Won't hurt none, promise.

The scene is covered in a bright blue LIGHT as we transition to gameplay.