

Legacy of Kain: Soul Reaver 2 Story Script

Raziel arrives in past-Nosgoth

Raziel has leapt through the Chronoplast portal in pursuit of Kain – fueled only by blind rage and a desire for revenge. He appears in a different time and place – in the depths of the Sarafan Stronghold, in one of Moebius's time-streaming devices.

As the room fully coalesces, he sees that he is in a small, domed chamber – similar to the Chronoplast room he just left, but built on a much smaller scale. Moebius, the Time Streamer, is there in the chamber with him, leaning on his staff for support (as though feeble; but he's not). This is where the in-game cinematic starts.

MOEBIUS

(acting like a kindly sorcerer)

'Where am I?' is the usual question.

In your case, 'when?' might be more apt.

Raziel recognizes Moebius, and knows how dangerous he is. He raises the wraith-blade in defense, but as he does so the orb on Moebius' staff glows brightly, and the blade sputters out and retracts, the wisps of wraith energy receding completely.

Raziel is momentarily alarmed, and now even more suspicious of Moebius' motives. He begins to stalk toward Moebius –

RAZIEL

(alarmed; suspicious)

Very well, you old snake – if you'd prefer I use my bare hands...

Moebius stumbles backward in trepidation (feigned), still trying to play the part of a benign and addled old magician.

MOEBIUS

(feigned fearfulness)

This is completely unexpected!

This orb disables our vampire enemies, leaving them helpless and incapacitated.

Strangely, it seems to have the same effect on that peculiar weapon of yours.

But you must believe me – I mean you no harm.

Raziel lunges at Moebius and grabs him by his scrawny neck, throwing him up against the wall. Moebius feigns surprise and fear for a moment –

RAZIEL

(steely)

You can drop the benevolent façade, Moebius.

I know who – and *what* – you are.

I should kill you where you stand...

As Raziel speaks, Moebius's whole demeanor changes – he no longer appears to be an addled old magician. This Moebius is composed, confident, in control. He is completely unfazed by Raziel's physical threat – he knows exactly how history plays out, and thus has the composure of the omniscient.

MOEBIUS

*(chuckles;
his demeanor has changed completely)*

Perhaps you *should*, my boy. But you *don't*.

Raziel tightens his grip a bit on Moebius's throat.

RAZIEL

(icily)

Are you so certain of that, Moebius?

MOEBIUS

(completely unfazed)

My role as Time Guardian affords me a certain level of omniscience, Raziel.

(pause)

No, you don't kill me. That honor belongs to your *maker*, Kain, some thirty years from now.

Raziel releases him roughly.

RAZIEL

(disgusted)

Hmph. You two are a *pair* – you're just as fatalistic as he is.

Moebius rubs his throat and grins back at Raziel.

MOEBIUS

(laughs softly)

Death comes for us all, Raziel.

It's just matter of *time*.

Completely composed, Moebius turns his back on Raziel and moves toward the exit door, which slides open for him as he approaches. Raziel follows him into the chamber beyond, and the TSD door slides shut behind them.

RAZIEL

(suspicious)

How is it that you know my name? We have never met.

MOEBIUS

(earnest)

On the contrary, Raziel - I know you very well...

(pause)

And it grieves me to see how cruelly Kain has used you.

I knew you when you were one of the Sarafan brotherhood, Raziel.

We were even *close*.

RAZIEL

(revolted)

Oh, *please*.

MOEBIUS

(a bit rebuffed)

Fortunately, you need not love me now to be my ally...

They are now standing in an ornate, octagonal, domed room. The walls of this chamber are decorated with scenes memorializing the slaughter of six of the Circle at Vorador's hands, many centuries ago.

The slain Circle guardians are depicted in beatific imagery; the vampire Vorador is demonized. In the center of the room stands a distinctive basin engraved with arcane symbols.

RAZIEL

(intrigued)

Are we within the Stronghold of the Sarafan priesthood?

MOEBIUS

Yes, but the glorious days of the Sarafan have long since passed, I'm afraid.

This is a more... *cynical* and indecorous age.

My mercenary army now inhabits this stronghold - we strive to honor the memory of the Sarafan with our own humble crusade.

RAZIEL

(looking at the murals; intrigued)

Is this the vampire Vorador?

MOEBIUS

(with disgust)

Yes, the *scourge* of the Circle. The most depraved and decadent example of his whole degenerate race.

He slaughtered six of my fellow Guardians as they cowered, defenseless, in this room.

RAZIEL

(suspicious)

And you somehow survived this massacre?

MOEBIUS

I, and two others. The Circle was devastated; only we three were spared.

RAZIEL

(incredulous; sarcastic)

How convenient.

(pause)

You'll forgive me if don't naively devour every scrap of information you toss me.

You have a reputation for deceit.

MOEBIUS

(rhetorical)

And who has slandered me so?

Your malefactor Kain? The one who betrayed and destroyed you? Our common enemy?

Consider the *source*, before you judge me too harshly.

(pause)

We'll forget about rekindling our old friendship, then. But consider an alliance based on our common ground -

We both want Kain dead.

I can help you do it.

RAZIEL

(dismissive; almost amused)

You don't want to meddle in this, old man.

I know all about your sordid little schemes, but you're simply out of your depth on this one.

MOEBIUS*(slightly foreboding)*

You underestimate me, Raziel.

Let me show you...

Moebius lights the four candles that stand on the basin's edge – the arcane symbols surrounding the basin begin to glow, and an image slowly appears, reflected in the mystical waters of the basin.

The image coalesces, and we see Kain standing in the Pillars clearing, apparently waiting...

Raziel leans over the basin and looks, mesmerized.

MOEBIUS

Even now, Kain is lying in wait for you, unaware that I've snatched you out of the time-stream and brought you here, to me.

See how he lingers at the very Pillars he is destined to destroy... foolishly confident that he has eluded your grasp.

RAZIEL*(fascinated)*

The Pillars are still standing in this time?

MOEBIUS

Yes, Raziel – they are the embodiment of the divine force which preserves the life of our world.

We who serve the Pillars maintain their delicate balance – and Kain is destined to be the fulcrum upon which that balance turns.

(pause)

I believe you have already endured the wasteland wrought by his terrible, selfish decision.

Kain's very existence is a cancer upon this world. As long as he lives, all of Nosgoth is in peril.

The image in the basin wavers and fades out completely.

MOEBIUS

You may never again be human, Raziel...

But you can re-embrace the essence of your humanity, and the nobility of your Sarafan heritage.

Go to him, Raziel, and end this.

(pause)

But first you will need to find your way out of the Stronghold - and in this, I'm afraid, I cannot help you.

My soldiers will not understand your appearance here; they will try to kill you.

You needn't fear them, of course. They're no match for you.

Try to keep the casualties to a minimum, but do what you have to do.

(forebodingly)

All great movements require a few martyrs...

Moebius dissipates, leaving Raziel alone in the chamber. He looks curiously at the room's second time-streaming chamber - sealed, with a distinctive crystal mounted above the door.

RAZIEL V.O.

Alone now, I surveyed my surroundings and noticed a second time-streaming chamber, its entrance identical to the first, but with one distinction.

(camera shows distinctive crystal)

That *crystal* was significant, but *how* I had not yet discovered.

Soul Reaver 2 – Misc. Raziel monologue

Raziel feels the power of the Reaver returning, after being disabled by Moebius's staff

RAZIEL V.O.

Away from the influence of Moebius's cursed staff, I could feel the strength of the Soul Reaver slowly returning.

If that orb was as debilitating to vampires as it was to the blade, it gave Moebius a powerful advantage over his enemies.

I finally understood how Moebius's crusade could decimate the vampires so successfully. If he could

immobilize his enemies, they were at his mercy.

But why, I wondered, would the staff have any effect on the Reaver?

Soul Reaver 2 – Misc. Raziel monologue

Raziel sees imagery in the Stronghold, lionizing the Sarafan crusaders

RAZIEL V.O.

Throughout the Stronghold I discovered evidence of my former nobility, and my life as a Sarafan priest.

This was the heritage so foully stolen from me when Kain raided my sacred crypt and defiled me.

Soul Reaver 2 – Misc. Raziel monologue

Backstory on Janos Audron – Raziel sees a demonized image of Janos in the Stronghold, commemorating his murder at the hands of the Sarafan

RAZIEL V.O.

So this was the legendary Janos Audron - reputed to have been the most ancient and diabolical vampire to have ever existed.

According to folklore, he lived high in the cliffs of Nosgoth's northern mountains, and preyed mercilessly on the defenseless villagers below.

His reign of terror ended when the Sarafan finally hunted him down and tore his throbbing heart from his still-living body.

This relic came to be known as the 'Heart of Darkness', and was supposedly imbued with the power to restore vampiric 'unlife'.

The Sarafan therefore guarded it carefully, lest the Heart fall into the hands of their enemies.

But I wondered - could Janos Audron truly have been as monstrous as depicted here?

Or was this merely artistic license by the Sarafan, who sought to lionize

themselves by demonizing their
darkest enemy?

Raziel and Moebius meet a 2nd time inside the Stronghold

Raziel has entered the Relic Hall of the Stronghold for the first time, alone – as he approaches, he feels an inexplicable distortion which increases with each step closer to the end chapel.

RAZIEL V.O.

As I neared the Stronghold's inner sanctum, a strange sensation crept over me – an indescribable feeling of *displacement*, a sense of *vertigo* as reality itself appeared to warp and bend around me.

Raziel's VO continues as he nears the threshold of William's chapel.

The disturbance seemed to emanate from the sanctuary's furthest chapel. As I cautiously approached, the sense of dislocation intensified with each step.

Raziel crosses the threshold of the chapel, and sees the stained-glass window memorializing William's murder at the hands of a demonized vampire, Kain. Both are armed with the Soul Reaver, but Raziel doesn't comment on this. He sees the sarcophagus of William presented almost like an altar at the end of the chapel.

RAZIEL V.O.

So this was the tomb of the beloved King William the Just – beatified here as the martyr and catalyst of Moebius's crusade.

I was reminded of Kain's journey as a fledgling vampire –

How Moebius coerced him to travel back in history and assassinate William, thus igniting a genocidal hatred of vampires among the citizens of Nosgoth.

Raziel continues forward until he's standing in front of the sarcophagus, which he realizes now is also an altar – laid out on top, clutched loosely in the hands of William's effigy, is the Soul Reaver. It is broken, and the two halves are laid here like holy relics.

RAZIEL V.O.

And here I discovered the source of the displacement – the *Soul Reaver* itself, laid out like a holy relic... And *broken*, apparently in the battle between William and Kain.

I had not thought such a thing was possible...

Until, of course, Kain shattered the blade against me when he tried to strike me down.

Raziel holds out his right hand and looks at it.

Thus the captive spirit inhabiting the Reaver was released - and binding itself to me, became my symbiotic weapon.

Mesmerized and fascinated by the Reaver's presence here, Raziel reaches out to gently touch the sword, running his hand up the broken blade, to the hilt. As he does so, the wraith blade manifests itself of its own will, as if in sympathetic response.

RAZIEL V.O.

And so the Reaver met its former self, still imprisoned in this corporeal shell...

I watched, mesmerized, as the wraith blade uncoiled itself, and snaked down the length of the physical blade...

As his hand reaches the hilt of the sword, his hand involuntarily clamps down. This is the will of the Reaver, now - Raziel is no longer in control.

Embracing its twin, its mirror self, the Reaver's long-dormant spirit was now fully aroused.

And for the first time, I felt the true presence of this other entity - *willful, ravenous, and deranged* from thousands of years of imprisonment...

The Reaver was now in command - and I, now merely its helpless host, felt my soul being leached to restore the blade.

Raziel's soul-energy is being drained, down his right arm and through the Reaver. The broken halves of the Reaver come together and are instantly re-forged. Raziel watches helplessly as his energy is drained away to restore the Reaver - we see his health coil unwinding slowly.

Before Raziel is drained completely, the Reaver relents. Raziel begins to recover control.

RAZIEL V.O.

But the Reaver knew better than to destroy its host - and just as I neared the brink of oblivion, the blade released its hold on me.

As I recovered, I realized we were now bound together in a fragile alliance - the Reaver no longer merely my symbiotic weapon, but a *sentient parasite*, competing for control.

During this event, we have seen Moebius appear at the chapel's entrance – intensely fascinated by what's happening to Raziel. This is the confirmation of everything he deduced.

As the draining subsides, and Raziel returns to himself, he too notices Moebius watching with rapt attention. Raziel whirls on him –

RAZIEL

(enraged)

What have you done to me, Moebius?!

Is this *your* trap?!

MOEBIUS

(genuinely apprehensive)

How *mine*?!

Don't forget it was Kain who led you here, not I!

While you curse *me* – the only soul in Nosgoth ready to guide and assist you – Kain laughs at our folly and revels in your dismay.

Still recovering, Raziel raises the intertwined blades threateningly –

RAZIEL

These blades now coiled in sinister embrace have inspired terror in the hearts of creatures far more... *durable* than you, old man.

Bound together as they are, I can only imagine what they could do to your soul's fragile shell.

MOEBIUS

(genuinely apprehensive)

Raziel, I beg you to stay your hand.

This was none of my doing. I have sought only to aid you in your righteous quest.

RAZIEL

(taunting; insincere)

Why, you're trembling, Moebius. Has your confidence abandoned you?

You seem to have made a fatal error by leaving your precious staff behind.

Is that where all your courage comes from?

Raziel menaces Moebius with the blades –

MOEBIUS

(desperate)

Listen to me, Raziel - you don't know what you're doing.

I have taken an enormous risk by appearing here before you, so defenseless, yet eager to prove my good intentions.

If there's anything left of the Sarafan in you, you won't do this.

While you threaten me, your true enemy eludes you!

RAZIEL

(icy; mocking)

Don't concern yourself with Kain, old man. He'll join you in hell soon enough.

As you said, Death comes for us all...

Raziel raises the blades, fully prepared to strike Moebius down -

MOEBIUS

Yes... the Wheel of Fate demands it.

Moebius' statement stays Raziel's hand momentarily -

RAZIEL

What did you say?

MOEBIUS

The Wheel of Fate - the inexorable cycle of death and rebirth to which all men are compelled.

We serve the same god, Raziel.

(growing more confident)

To strike me down would be striking God's own attendant, and I don't believe even you would take that risk.

RAZIEL

I tire of your games, Moebius.

Raziel throws the Reaver blade away in disgust. The wraith-blade untwines itself and coils back onto Raziel's arm.

Now that I know you fear me, I needn't concern myself with you.

Kain is waiting for me.

MOEBIUS

Go, then, Raziel. Seek Kain out and destroy him, in the name of the One God we both serve.

You, who were once a Sarafan priest - murdered, profaned, destroyed and reborn again from His mercy...

You are now most powerfully equipped to be His agent - His instrument of restoration and retribution.

RAZIEL

My own vengeance is motivation enough.

Raziel exits the chapel in disgust.

Moebius slams and locks the gate behind Raziel, so that they are no safely on opposite sides of it. He breathes a sigh of relief as Raziel stalks away -

MOEBIUS

(to himself; Raziel can't hear)

By my soul, you almost had me, my little blue assassin.

But that'll be the one and only chance you get, I assure you of that.

Moebius dissipates (teleporting away), and we return to Raziel, who has stopped to examine his newly-enhanced symbiotic weapon -

RAZIEL V.O.

I could now summon the blade at will, regardless of my strength.

But once summoned, the blade's ravenous appetite could not be contained.

It devoured the souls of its victims... And if I allowed it to become over-aroused, the Reaver would now turn its hunger on *me*.

Soul Reaver 2 – Misc. Raziel monologue

Raziel sees the images in the Chapter House memorializing the Sarafan martyrs – his former brethren and himself.

RAZIEL V.O.

Strange, how my history came full circle...

This chapel, I realized, was a memorial to my former Sarafan brethren and myself... all of us martyred here, and then so cruelly profaned by Kain when he imposed his 'gift' on our noble corpses.

Raziel sees an heroic statue memorializing his Sarafan self

RAZIEL V.O.

For the first time, I beheld the image of my Sarafan self, memorialized here among my fallen comrades.

It tortured me to see how noble and pure I had been - and what a vile phantasm I had become.

And a profound sense of *injury* - of loss and betrayal - welled up in me, so overwhelming I could barely contain it.

All I wanted at this moment was to find Kain, and *destroy him*.

Soul Reaver 2 – Misc. Raziel monologue

Raziel emerges from the Stronghold and sees past-Nosgoth for the first time; the panorama foreshadows the location of the Light Forge.

RAZIEL V.O.

(awestruck, then steely)

I emerged... and for the first time beheld Nosgoth in its former glory. The land overflowed with abundant life and vitality.

And I knew with certainty then that the world I had left behind was nothing more than the *corpse* of Nosgoth - a lifeless husk, bled dry by the corruption of Kain's parasitic empire.

This was the fragile world Kain sacrificed to preserve his own petty life and ambition, heedless of the profound cost.

The sight only deepened my resolve...

I sensed that the Pillars lay to the northwest - if Kain truly waited to confront me there, I would not disappoint him...

Soul Reaver 2 – Misc. Raziel monologue

Raziel encounters his first checkpoint-marker.

RAZIEL V.O.

As I passed this arcane landmark, a wisp of the Reaver's energy was drawn into the ring, illuminating it.

This created a beacon of sorts in the spirit world - if ever I found myself depleted in the spectral realm, and my soul tossed on the ethereal winds, these beacons would draw me back to safety and restore me.

Soul Reaver 2 – Misc. Raziel monologue

Raziel discovers the first save-point milestone in the game.

RAZIEL V.O.

These ancient obelisks were mysteriously attuned to my spiritual essence.

By simply touching the symbol, I could safely preserve an imprint of my soul - and thus create a milestone to which I could return when weary, and *from* which I could resume my journey.

Soul Reaver 2 – Misc. Raziel monologue

Raziel sees the Stronghold entrance for the first time, and realizes he will need the Light Reaver to re-enter the main gate.

RAZIEL V.O.

While I had only just escaped the Stronghold, I sensed that in time my journey would return me full-circle to this place.

Infiltrating the fortress, however, would be no small feat.

The balcony that had provided my escape was now well beyond my reach - leaving this massive gateway as the only means of entry.

The gates were sealed, but like the time-streaming chamber I had seen earlier, their operation was undoubtedly linked to that odd crystal mounted above the entrance...

Soul Reaver 2 – Misc. Raziel monologue

Raziel fails to enter the Light Forge, and realizes the Dark symbol is significant.

RAZIEL V.O.

I did not yet possess the means to unlock this barrier... but this enigmatic symbol was clearly the key.

Soul Reaver 2 – Misc. Raziel monologue

Raziel sees the vampires of past-Nosgoth, and the Vampire Hunters' barbarity –

RAZIEL V.O.

These vampires had nothing in common with the deranged jackals I left behind in Kain's derelict empire – they seemed to retain much of their former humanity.

In this era, vampires were clearly not the uncontested predators we had been... these creatures were hunted mercilessly, and oppressed.

And while I still believed that vampirism was a plague, and had to be wiped out, there was nothing *noble* or righteous in *this* crusade – this was simply ruthless *persecution*.

Raziel confronts Kain at the Pillars

Raziel reaches the Pillars clearing, the site where Moebius told him Kain would be waiting.

Raziel pauses momentarily, struck by the beauty of the Pillars in their pristine state – he has only seen the Pillars in their dilapidated state, the columns toppled and broken like jagged teeth. In this era, before the destruction of the Pillars, the columns stand straight and rise infinitely into the sky, their white marble gleaming in the sunlight.

RAZIEL V.O.

The Pillars of Nosgoth... pristine, whole, and uncorrupted.

I had never beheld them in this undefiled state – yet something

profound and indelible resonated
within me at the sight.

(then, seeing Kain)

And there, waiting at the very heart
of the Pillars, was the canker that
was destined to destroy them.

Raziel sees Kain standing on the Pillars platform, his back to the clearing's entrance. He appears to be surveying the Pillars calmly, waiting for something.

Raziel stalks up behind him, readying the wrath-energy of the Reaver blade.

Kain addresses Raziel without turning around. He is completely composed and unafraid.

KAIN

(calmly)

I know you are *there*, Raziel.

RAZIEL

Moebius led me to you, Kain - though
I might have guessed you'd meet me
here.

Kain continues to speak with his back turned to Raziel, turning his head only slightly.

KAIN

And if Moebius told you I was hidden
on the underside of hell, would you
throw yourself into oblivion to
pursue me?

(pause)

Moebius trawls for the ignorant and
unwary, hauling his gasping prey from
the streams of their destinies.

Stay out of his *net*, Raziel -

Raziel interrupts - he is impatient and tired of this chase.

RAZIEL

Spare me your elaborate metaphors,
Kain.

I have pursued you here for one
purpose - you will pay for your
betrayal, and Balance will thus be
restored to Nosgoth.

KAIN

And whose will is satisfied then, the will of Raziel, or Moebius?

RAZIEL

Would I be better manipulated by you, Kain?

Now turn and face me; the chase is over.

Rather than turning, Kain starts to walk slowly forward, approaching the central Balance Pillar while he speaks.

KAIN

This isn't a chase, Raziel - we are merely passengers on the wheel of destiny, describing a perfect circle to this point. We have been brought here for a reason.

I have seen the beginning and the end of our story, however - and the tale is crude and ill-conceived.

We must rewrite the ending of it, you and I.

RAZIEL

(growing frustrated)

Face me, Kain. Even you shouldn't die a coward's death.

Kain responds; he has delayed Raziel as long as he needed to.

KAIN

Isn't it customary to grant the condemned a final request?

RAZIEL

I recall no such courtesy from you.

KAIN

Indulge me, Raziel.

Kain finally turns to completely face Raziel.

All I ask is that you *listen*.

At this moment, an unearthly wailing begins to be audible, increasing in volume as it fills the clearing.

KAIN

(slightly loud, to be heard above the wailing)

This is the sublime moment of our undoing, Raziel - the ineffable fulcrum upon which swings the entirety of our history.

This is where all Nosgoth is betrayed.

In this instant, Ariel - the Balance Guardian - is murdered by dark forces bent on overthrowing the Pillars.

Her spirit is just now tearing free, lost in the ether, trying to find its way here.

You have already seen how she comes to haunt these Pillars -

RAZIEL

(interrupting; angry)

- bound here by your refusal to die. You are the reason this land becomes diseased - as long as you remain alive you condemn Nosgoth to an eternity of decay.

Kain gently raises his hand to silence Raziel.

KAIN

(gently; but intense)

Be still, Raziel. See this.

Something seems to be on the verge of happening. The sky is darkening, birds are scattering; a low, almost sub-audible rumble seems to be building

KAIN

(with some urgency)

As Ariel dies, I am being born to take her place as Balance Guardian.

Such is my destiny.

Suddenly, the entire clearing is rocked by an indescribable force -

RAZIEL

...my god...

A telepathic blast bursts across the clearing with a thunderous rumble, and distorting waves of energy ripple across the landscape.

Kain visibly tenses as he absorbs the onslaught of this psychic attack.

*The Pillars, initially white and pristine, begin to crack and then crumble as they turn gray with corruption.
Kain begins to speak again as the telepathic assault recedes.*

KAIN

At the moment of my first cry,
Ariel's beloved - the Guardian
Nupraptor - finds her corpse.

Wracked with grief and tormented by
suspicions of treachery, Nupraptor
plunges into a madness which
overflows and infects all of the
Guardians, who are symbiotically
bound.

Including *me*.

The repercussions of Ariel's
assassination were expertly
calculated...

The entire Circle descends into
madness, and I am tainted at the
moment of my birth - instantly
rendered incapable of fulfilling the
role destiny has prepared for me.

RAZIEL

Shall I show you the same mercy you
showed the *rest* of the Circle, then?

You blithely murdered *them* to restore
their Pillars, yet your hand faltered
when it came to the *final* sacrifice.

What makes *you* exempt, Kain? You're
merely the last man standing.

Why condemn me for simply carrying
out what you hadn't the courage to do
yourself?

KAIN

(getting angry)

Let's drop the moral posturing, shall
we? We both know there's no altruism
in this pursuit.

Your reckless *indignation* led you
here - I *counted* on it.

Kain sees that Raziel is bristling at this insult.

There's no *shame* in it, Raziel -
revenge is motivation enough. At
least it's *honest*.

Hate me, but do it honestly.

Kain returns to his monologue – he's trying to enlighten Raziel here.

KAIN

30 years hence, I am presented with a
dilemma - let's call it a two-sided
coin.

If the coin falls one way, I
sacrifice myself and thus restore the
Pillars.

But as the last surviving vampire in
Nosgoth, this would mean the
annihilation of our species. Moebius
made sure of that.

If the coin lands on the reverse, I
refuse the sacrifice and thus doom
the Pillars to an eternity of
collapse.

Either way, the game is *rigged*.

RAZIEL

We *agree* then that the Pillars are
crucial, and must be restored?

KAIN

Yes, Raziel - that's why we've come
full-circle to this place.

RAZIEL

(incredulous)

So after all this you make my case
for me. To end this stalemate, you
must die so that new Guardians can be
born.

KAIN

The Pillars don't belong to *them*,
Raziel...

On "them," Kain gestures derisively, indicating humanity in general.

...they belong to us.

Raziel pauses briefly, absorbing what Kain is saying.

RAZIEL*(disgusted)*

Your arrogance is boundless, Kain.

KAIN*(chuckles)*

There's a *third* option - a monumental secret, hidden in your very presence here. But it's a secret you have to discover for yourself.

Unearth your destiny, Raziel. It's all laid out for you here.

RAZIEL*(impatient)*

You said it yourself, Kain - there are only two sides to your coin.

KAIN

Apparently so. But suppose you throw a coin enough times...

...suppose one day, it lands on its edge.

Kain dematerializes, leaving Raziel standing in the clearing alone.

Soul Reaver 2 – Misc. Raziel monologue

Raziel proceeds to explore Nosgoth after his encounter with Kain at the Pillars –

RAZIEL V.O.

I didn't know what impulse stayed my hand - why I had so willingly allowed Kain to escape me, when I had pursued him for so long.

I had no reason to trust Kain, after he had valued me so little.

And yet I found myself intrigued by his words.

I had been too cruelly used to so gullibly play his pawn - but if this world truly had secrets to divulge, I was determined to expose them.

Soul Reaver 2 – Misc. Raziel monologue

Raziel senses he is being watched

RAZIEL V.O.

From the moment of my arrival, I had the constant and palpable sensation of being *watched*.

Someone, it seemed, was keenly interested in my presence here.

Soul Reaver 2 – Misc. Raziel monologue

Raziel discovers the surface-entrance to the subterranean Pillars chamber –

RAZIEL V.O.

From the look of it, this door had been sealed for centuries.

I began to realize it was no mere coincidence that I found myself standing here – beneath this winged figure, with blue skin and cloven hands so like my own... and bearing this *unique key*.

Soul Reaver 2 – Misc. Raziel monologue

Raziel unlocks and enters the door to the subterranean Pillars chamber –

RAZIEL V.O.

And so it was with a sense of gravity and trepidation that I unsealed that ancient door, and crossed the threshold.

Raziel discovers subterranean Pillars Chamber and Elder God

Raziel has just discovered the long-sealed entrance to this mysterious place, and is cautiously descending an ancient, subterranean passageway. As he descends, we begin to hear the voice of the Elder God, barely audible at first, then gradually growing louder as Raziel descends deeper.

(We need multiple versions of the Elder God speaking Raziel's name – e.g., quietly and loudly; whispering and resonating; different inflections. We will intercut these to create a layered, otherworldly effect.)

ELDER GOD

Raziel...

Raziel pauses as the voice becomes audible, not knowing if he's hearing the voice in his head, or if it's rising from the chamber below. He then continues his descent.

Raziel reaches the final bend of the passageway, and finds himself at the threshold of a magnificent underground chamber. The Pillars descend into this chamber, intersecting a platform engraved with arcane symbols. Water surrounds the platform, and dappled reflections are cast on the surrounding walls.

Raziel steps onto the central platform, and marvels at the scenes depicted on the surrounding architecture – murals depict an ancient race of blue-skinned, winged, three-fingered beings at war with another mysterious race. In one panel, the winged figures appear to be summoning the Pillars, and their enemies are banished. In another panel, the fallen foes appear to curse their winged victors – the blue-skinned figures are depicted in agony, transforming into blood-drinking predators. Throughout, imagery of the Reaver prevails.

Raziel walks around the platform, surveying the images. He recognizes his own ragged form in these heroic figures – the blue skin, the wings, the cloven hands. He holds up his hand, mentally comparing his anatomy to theirs; he looks at the Reaver imagery... he's putting the pieces together.

RAZIEL V.O.

As I entered the chamber, I sensed that it had been sealed for hundreds – perhaps thousands – of years.

And while this room was clearly built when the Pillars were erected, I knew that no *human* hand could have shaped this place... and that perhaps it had never been seen by human eyes.

The surrounding murals depicted a winged race, their features so like my own – but beautiful, where mine were grotesque... and *angelic*, while mine were *demonic*.

I tried to decipher these images...

...a great war, but with combatants like none I had ever seen...

...the Pillars, raised by this winged race, who thus defeated their adversaries...

...the winged beings again, writhing in agony, apparently afflicted with the same blood-thirst I had so recently suffered...

And throughout the chamber, inscribed everywhere, images of the Reaver itself.

Was *this* what Kain had urged me to discover?

I wondered...

The voice of the Elder God bubbles up from the depths of the chamber, as if in answer to Raziel's unspoken question –

ELDER GOD

Lies, Raziel...

The Elder God's voice breaks Raziel's reverie, and he realizes it's not in his head this time – the voice is coming from the depths of the chamber. The camera pulls back as Raziel steps to the edge of the platform and looks down. In the watery depths beneath the platform, we can see the Pillars descending out of sight, into the murk, and – for the first time – the tentacles and amorphous mass of the Elder God.

ELDER GOD

(warning)

Do not be deceived.

RAZIEL

(sarcastic)

Ah, my ancient 'benefactor'...

And I dared to hope we had parted ways forever. Your silence was refreshing, while it lasted.

No doubt you have a conveniently inexpressible reason for your presence here?

ELDER GOD

Do not be insolent, Raziel.

I am eternally present – here and everywhere; now and always.

I am the still center of the turning wheel, the hub of this world's destiny.

RAZIEL

(distrustful; taunting)

But perhaps not so omnipotent as you'd have me believe.

Your hold on me appears to be tenuous. I no longer seem to need you, yet I'm guessing you still need me.

ELDER GOD

This impudence is unworthy of you, Raziel.

Do not forget that you have a task to fulfill here.

You are *indebted* to me.

RAZIEL

(incredulous; disgusted)

Indebted? You would have me show gratitude for a 'gift' I didn't ask to be bestowed?

Do you forget that you *forced* me to inhabit this vile carcass -

ELDER GOD

(interrupting)

- I restored you to yourself, Raziel.

It was *Kain* who destroyed you.

The very enemy you have just let slip through your grasp.

(threatening)

Do not fail me, my *servant*...

RAZIEL

I serve no one - not you, not Kain... and not your lackey, Moebius.

ELDER GOD

(ominously)

Moebius is my good servant.

I have many.

RAZIEL

(sarcastic)

And if I tell Moebius that he's worshipping a giant squid, do you think his faith will falter?

ELDER GOD

(a little peeved; he's sensitive about the squid thing)

You have grown willful, Raziel.

But beware - to embrace a serpent is to invite poison into your heart.

Kain is a sinuous beast; he will seduce and deceive you.

You pride yourself on your free will, yet you let that degenerate deter your resolve.

RAZIEL

I harbor no illusions about his integrity, nor anyone else's.

In fact, I am beset by manipulation on *all sides*. I merely seek the *truth*.

ELDER GOD

These are the fathomless truths, Raziel:

The agony of birth and death and rebirth - *this* is the Wheel of Fate, the purifying cycle which sustains all life.

Vampires are an abomination, a plague which leeches this land of its spiritual strength.

They obstruct the flow of life and death - their souls stagnate in their wretched corpses.

But the Wheel must turn; Death is inexorable and cannot be denied.

Your destiny is irresistible, Raziel - you are my soul reaver, the scourge of the vampires, reaper of their apostate souls.

Remain steadfast. End the vampires' parasitic curse, and restore Nosgoth.

Kain's blood belongs on your hands.

RAZIEL

Kain indeed deserves to die, for condemning me to this repugnant form.

But if and when I kill him, it will be for *me*, alone, to decide.

ELDER GOD

Kain destroyed you without a flicker of remorse.

He tore the soul from your noble corpse, and after you had served him faithfully for a thousand years, he discarded you in the Abyss on a jealous whim.

(pause)

Remember your *rage*, Raziel - let it guide your hand.

Soul Reaver 2 – Misc. Raziel monologue

Raziel emerges into the Swamp for the first time –

RAZIEL V.O.

I surfaced into a very different landscape – the daylight barely penetrated the dense canopy of this forest.

Here I discovered an ancient ruin – unmistakably one of Moebius's time-streaming chambers, but long-ago sealed and abandoned to the encroaching swamp.

I didn't currently possess the means to break this seal – but I thought, in *time*, that I might.

Soul Reaver 2 – Misc. Raziel monologue

Raziel sees Vorador silently watching him from the parapet of the Dark Forge ruins

RAZIEL

(to himself)

Vorador?

RAZIEL V.O.

So, my lurking observer was exposed.

The creature vanished when he realized he was discovered – but I caught a glimpse of him, and his features were distinctive enough.

This was the vampire Vorador – the monstrous assassin depicted in the Stronghold.

Strange that a creature brazen enough to assault the Circle single-handedly would avoid confronting *me*.

Very well – if Vorador would not come to me, I would go to him. But first I needed to find some means of reaching that terrace.

Soul Reaver 2 – Misc. Raziel monologue

Foreshadowing: Raziel discovers the passage into the northern mountains, but realizes it is currently blocked.

RAZIEL V.O.

There appeared to be a passage here,
leading northward into the mountains.

The opening, however, was obstructed,
and too high for me to reach.

Perhaps later I would find the means
to bypass these obstacles.

Soul Reaver 2 – Misc. Raziel monologue

Raziel reaches the Dark Forge entrance –

RAZIEL V.O.

My lurking friend was nowhere to be
seen, but I found these ruins even
more intriguing.

I recognized these arcane symbols
from the chamber beneath the Pillars,
and realized that this shrine, too,
was sealed to all but the bearer of
the Reaver.

Soul Reaver 2 – Misc. Raziel monologue

Inside the Dark Forge

RAZIEL V.O.

Throughout this ancient shrine,
murals depicted the winged race, and
the apocalyptic war against their
mysterious - and equally inhuman -
adversaries.

These winged beings, it seemed, were
not only the architects of the
Pillars but of *this* enigmatic place,
as well.

And just as in the Pillars chamber,
this shrine was adorned throughout
with imagery of the Reaver - depicted
with the reverence of a *holy icon*.

Soul Reaver 2 – Misc. Raziel monologue

Raziel forges the Reaver with Darkness

RAZIEL V.O.

As I neared the altar I suddenly felt
the Reaver quickening of its own
volition.

Just as in William's chapel, the balance of power tangibly shifted - voracious and willful, the Soul Reaver was now in control, and I, merely its helpless puppet.

The Reaver plunged itself into that mysterious altar - and devouring the energy that emanated from within, drained this place of its power.

Thus sated, the Reaver released me. And I realized, as I recovered control, that these ancient shrines were *forges*, each purpose-built to enhance the Reaver with elemental power.

Soul Reaver 2 – Misc. Raziel monologue

Raziel describes the elemental fonts

RAZIEL V.O.

Now I understood the purpose of the mysterious basins I had seen throughout my journey.

They were *elemental fonts*, each attuned to a fundamental essence.

When I forged the blade, every font in Nosgoth with the same elemental attunement was simultaneously quickened.

The Reaver's enhancements were never *permanent*, but these fonts enabled me to re-imbue the blade by bathing it in the elemental energy distilled therein.

Soul Reaver 2 – Misc. Raziel monologue

Raziel realizes he can now enter the Light Forge

RAZIEL V.O.

(seeing the Dark symbol)

Concentric circles, one eclipsing the other...

I recognized this symbol from the door sealing that other ancient shrine - the one I had seen in the lake, outside the Sarafan Stronghold.

Perhaps now, armed as I was with the elemental power of darkness, I could return and gain entry.

Raziel meets Vorador outside the Dark Forge

Raziel has successfully completed the Dark Forge – he has seen the ancient murals depicting the wars between the Vampires and Hylden, and experienced the first elemental-forging of the Reaver. Using the Reaver as a key, he exits the Forge – as the massive stone doors slide open, he sees Vorador standing on the esplanade, apparently waiting for him.

VORADOR

(ironic)

You're a ragged excuse for a savior.

RAZIEL

(acknowledging him)

Vorador.

VORADOR

(still ironic)

I see my reputation precedes me.

RAZIEL

(cautious)

It does.

VORADOR

(ironic; he knows he's reviled)

All good, I hope.

(pause)

Vorador begins to walk slowly around Raziel as he speaks, examining him. He looks at Raziel's three-fingered hands – so like his own – his blue skin, his ragged wings. Raziel stands still and lets him look him over.

I've been watching you since you emerged from that accursed stronghold.

(challenging; sarcastic)

Strange that your arrival coincides with the corruption of the Pillars.

But I'm wondering – are you the catalyst of these events, or the answer to them?

RAZIEL

(cautious; steely)

I don't know what you mean.

VORADOR

(a little harsh)

I will speak plainly, then.

I distrust your origins, stranger.
Seeing you crawl from the putrid
depths of Moebius's Keep makes me
question your purpose here.

And what should I make of your
appearance? Not human, clearly - and
more demon than *vampire*.

And the *Pillars* - it is no mere
coincidence that your arrival in that
clearing heralded the Pillars' decay.

And so I ask you plainly: are you
the instrument of the Pillars'
destruction, or their *salvation*?

RAZIEL

(cautious)

Neither.

VORADOR

(slightly perturbed at Raziels obtuseness)

Very well, let us look at the other
side of the coin -

I have followed your journey, and
watched as you blithely unlocked
secrets that have been sealed and
forbidden for thousands of years.

The path you have been treading is
open to only *one* being...

(he trails off with a realization)

You don't know *what* you are, do you?

RAZIEL

(cautious; slightly sarcastic)

I have been *many* things...

(pause)

If you find me ignorant, *enlighten*
me.

VORADOR

(laughs; disgusted)

What's the *point* - this world is
beyond redemption.

Let the human cattle *have* it.

RAZIEL

I would expect better than meek capitulation from *you*.

VORADOR

(disgusted)

Centuries of persecution have taught me well.

(pause)

500 years ago, our race was nearly exterminated by the fanatical crusades of the Sarafan.

And now the same sick drama unfolds again. In merely a decade, Moebius's cutthroat citizen army has nearly accomplished what the Sarafan could not.

(then, to himself)

Vampires meddling in the affairs of men...

Look where it has brought us.

RAZIEL

(changing the subject)

What am I to make of these secrets I've uncovered, then? The depictions of the winged race, the Pillars, and the Reaver?

VORADOR

(disillusioned)

Fairy tales, boy.

The delusions of an ancient culture, clinging to hope long after the world had discarded them.

Their bloodline trickled away, until only *one* of the Ancients remained - sustained solely by obligation and his unfaltering faith in the old prophecies.

VORADOR

(dark; cynical)

But you see, even if you are who you appear to be, it no longer matters -

(pause)

You're simply too late.

(pause)

Janos Audron - the Reaver Guardian, the last of the Ancients, and my *maker* - was murdered by the Sarafan nearly five centuries ago.

He alone would have the answers you seek, but his secrets died with him.

I don't know how you've come even this far without his guidance - or without the *Reaver*, stolen these 500 years ago by the Sarafan.

(pause)

I am afraid, my friend, that you - and all of us - are *out of luck*.

Raziel's conclusion after meeting Vorador outside the Dark Forge:

Vorador disappears, leaving Raziel alone on the terrace. Raziel walks to the edge of the terrace and looks out at the swamp, and after a little pause we hear his VO narration.

RAZIEL V.O.

I had no *less* reason to trust Vorador than anyone else I had met. In fact, the ancient vampire was the most forthright being I had encountered thus far.

If Janos Audron was the key to all this, then I would find him.

And Moebius's time-streaming device would provide me passage.

But first I had to find a way back into the Stronghold... and I suspected I would find the means within the lake's mysterious shrine.

Raziel encounters the Elder God a second time

Raziel re-enters the subterranean Pillars chamber for the second time (in the initial time period). He has met the ancient vampire Vorador, unearthed the secrets of the Dark Forge, and learned more about the Ancient Vampires who were apparently the architects of the Pillars.

ELDER GOD

Ah, my wayward child returns...

RAZIEL

Having unearthed more than you'd like, I suspect.

What am I to make of these ruins that litter the land, and these images here in this chamber?

ELDER GOD

Merely the deceits of a failed civilization.

(pause)

You are being misled, Raziel.

This Ancient race hoped to manipulate the future with these scrawled misdirections.

(pause)

You must tread carefully.

There are dark forces at work in this world, bent on subverting your true destiny.

RAZIEL

(suspicious)

I have no doubt of that.

The question is: am I in their presence *right now*?

ELDER GOD

(bristling)

Your arrogance will spell your demise, Raziel.

Deny my will, and the arc of your destiny will reach a sudden conclusion.

RAZIEL

Your threats are unmoving.

Even now I'm beyond your reach.

ELDER GOD

(ominous)

My reach is longer than you realize.
This is a very dangerous game you're
playing, Raziel.

Soul Reaver 2 – Misc. Raziel monologue

Raziel sees the murals in the Light Forge

RAZIEL V.O.

These murals left no room for doubt –
these winged creatures were indeed
the architects of the Pillars.

And while the images were difficult
to decipher, the Pillars appeared to
banish or diminish their enemies
somehow...

Soul Reaver 2 – Misc. Raziel monologue

Raziel forges the Reaver with Light

RAZIEL V.O.

I plunged the Reaver into the forge,
and imbued the blade with the
elemental power of Light.

(pause)

Thus armed, I now had the means to
re-enter the Stronghold, and finally
use Moebius's time-streaming device
to accomplish my own ends.

Raziel meets Kain in the Relic Hall of the Stronghold

As Raziel enters the Relic Hall within the Sanctuary, he discovers the fresh corpse of one of Moebius's guards. Raziel kneels to examine the body – his neck appears to have been snapped, his throat is unmistakably punctured, and the pallor of his skin suggests that the victim has been drained of blood.

Suspecting Kain, Raziel glances up and begins to rise. He addresses the darkness of the apparently-empty hall –

RAZIEL

Show yourself, Kain.

Kain's voice emerges from the shadows of William's chapel –

KAIN

Here, Raziel.

Raziel approaches, and as he nears the chapel entrance we see Kain inside, silhouetted against the stained glass of the far wall.

KAIN

Everything is decided here...

Kain's voice sounds unusually detached, almost melancholy. This unexpected change in demeanor is enough to make Raziel pause. Kain continues, stepping into the light.

You cannot comprehend the magnitude - the rapture and the tragedy - of this moment...

And yet you *must* if Nosgoth is to be dragged from the wreckage of its damnation.

Whatever game Kain is playing, Raziel is tired of it. He responds irritably -

RAZIEL

I understand only *this*, Kain -

That you and Moebius have impelled me to this moment simply means I can trust *neither* of you.

I don't know who's pulling the strings, but it no longer matters - because I'm cutting them.

I set my own course from here.

Raziel turns to leave. Kain pauses for a moment, watching him go, then responds -

KAIN

If it were only that simple.

Raziel stops and turns back to Kain, exasperated.

RAZIEL

Your fatalism is tiresome, Kain.

KAIN

- and profoundly ingrained, Raziel.

KAIN

You must understand, our presence here doesn't *alter* history. You and I meet here because we are *compelled* to - we have *always* met here.

History is irredeemable.

Drop a stone into a rushing river - the current simply courses around it

and flows on as if the obstruction
were never there. You and I are
pebbles, Raziel, and have even less
hope of disrupting the time-stream.

The continuum of history is simply
too strong, too resilient.

Kain stops in front of William's sarcophagus, which serves double-duty here as an altar on which the Soul Reaver is ensconced.

KAIN

(rhetorical)

Except... then how do we explain
William, here?

Kain gestures to the effigy laid out on William's sarcophagus. He then gently lifts the Soul Reaver from the casket, the hilt in his right hand, the blade resting on his left palm.

The beloved boy-king turned tyrant.

In my youth, I witnessed William's
rise to power, and his transformation
into the 'Nemesis' who laid waste to
Nosgoth.

Kain slowly approaches Raziel as he speaks, Reaver in hand – the temporal-distortion of the convergence grows increasingly stronger.

Raziel grows more agitated as Kain approaches, and warns him to stop – but Kain seems oblivious, almost detached, as he recounts his story.

RAZIEL

(steely)

Keep your distance, Kain.

Kain continues, slowly closing the distance between them. He speaks in a detached way, absorbed by his reverie..

KAIN

Years later, I stumble upon a chance
to journey back in history, unaware
that the entire affair has been
carefully orchestrated by Moebius.

In my *wisdom*, I seize this
opportunity to murder the young king
before he can ravage Nosgoth...

...and thereby provide the catalyst
Moebius needs to ignite a genocidal
war against our race.

Raziel grows more agitated as Kain continues to advance.

RAZIEL

I warn you – no further!

Kain presses forward without hesitating, his voice taking on a greater sense of urgency.

KAIN

This one reckless act unravels the skein of history.

The Nemesis never *becomes* the Nemesis; William dies a martyred saint.

I, the vampire assassin, become the author of my own species' extinction.

And Moebius profits from it all. I destroyed a tyrant only to create one far worse.

But *how* can it be so? How, if history is immutable?

Kain gestures toward the stained glass window, which depicts a lionized William and a demonized Kain in combat, both armed with the Soul Reaver.

The answer is here in this room, Raziel.

Moebius propelled William and me together - but ensured first that we were *both* armed with the *Soul Reaver*.

The Reaver is the key.

Two incarnations of the blade meet in time and space... a paradox is created, a temporal distortion powerful enough to derail history.

Kain stops in front of Raziel, the Reaver still in-hand; they are face to face.

The convergence-effect has reached its peak, distorting the surrounding architecture.

RAZIEL

(apprehensive)

Is this your sorcery?

KAIN

Not mine, Raziel - *yours*.

Kain turns the blade and extends it to Raziel, hilt first. Raziel looks at him like he's insane - this must be another trick. Kain urges him -

KAIN

You have nothing to fear from me, Raziel.

You hold all the cards.

Raziel reaches out tentatively and takes the Reaver from Kain, keeping his eyes locked on him. Kain releases the blade willingly, and extends his hands to show that there's no deception. As Raziel grips the hilt, the convergence-effect intensifies around them.

Raziel addresses Kain icily. As he speaks, the wraith energy of the Reaver manifests and begins to twine itself around the physical blade.

RAZIEL

Then perhaps I should test your sincerity.

Swiftly, Raziel brings the point of the blade up to Kain's throat. Kain takes a step back, and Raziel steps with him, keeping the sword at his throat.

If what you say is true, you should be terrified. I could kill you here and now.

Raziel doesn't really intend to kill Kain here; he's just trying to rattle him, to turn the tables on him. A trickle of blood begins to run from Kain's throat, where the blade has nicked him.

Kain responds, clearly apprehensive, but also strangely resigned –

KAIN

And so you do, Raziel.

(Kain's inflection here must convey absolute sincerity – there's no deception here; he's opened himself up completely to Raziel. He's saying yes, this is where I die.)

The blade begins to tremble slightly, as if Raziel is struggling against some irresistible compulsion. Raziel is confused and alarmed –

RAZIEL

What's happening?

KAIN

We are hurtling toward our destinies, Raziel. What you feel is the pull of history rushing to meet us.

This is where history and destiny collide.

The trembling intensifies as Raziel struggles against the pull of the Reaver. The blade presses more insistently against Kain's throat.

Kain is urgently earnest here; everything depends on him getting through to Raziel.

KAIN

(tense; earnest)

If you truly believe in free will, Raziel, now is the time to prove it.

Kill me now, and we both become pawns of history, dragged down the path of an artificial destiny.

I was ordained to assume the role of Balance Guardian in Nosgoth, while you were destined to be its savior. But the map of my fate was redrawn by Moebius, and so in turn was yours...

Raziel struggles to maintain control.

RAZIEL

This is madness!

KAIN

Fight it, Raziel... This moment does not have to be an ending - it can become a *prelude*.

The pull of the Reaver is too powerful; Raziel is losing strength.

RAZIEL

I can't...

KAIN

You *can*, Raziel - look inside and see that it is so. You have the power to reshape our inevitable futures.

Raziel raises the Soul Reaver and brings it down violently. Kain winces, sure that this is the end, that he's failed. There is a loud crash and a blinding flash of light --

-- and then we see that Raziel has avoided Kain by inches -- he has plunged the Reaver into William's sarcophagus, fracturing the stone. Raziel staggers backward, and the blade remains poised there, like Excalibur (and just as stuck).

Kain can scarcely believe he survived this. He rises shakily and looks at William's impaled, splintered casket.

KAIN

(shaken; a weak attempt at a joke)

...poor William.

Immediately, their senses are overcome by an indescribable disturbance -- the sensation of the historical continuum straining to reshuffle itself. The room warps and distorts, and a low rumbling can be heard as reality labors to admit this alteration.

Raziel -- just as shaken as Kain is -- looks around the room in confusion, his hand to his head. He looks to Kain for an answer --

RAZIEL

What is this?

KAIN

(recovering)

History abhors a paradox, Raziel.

Even now, the time-stream strains to divert itself, finding its old course blocked by your refusal to destroy me.

The future is reshuffling itself to accommodate your monumental decision.

The distortion begins to settle down and the scene returns to its previous state.

KAIN

This is where we restore ourselves,
Raziel, and reclaim our intended
destinies.

It may yet be possible for me to
assume my role as Balance Guardian
and return the Pillars to their
rightful inheritors -

RAZIEL

(disgusted; incredulous)

- to the *vampires*.

(pause)

And this is the destiny you have
urged me to discover?

Raziel is growing more incensed as he considers what Kain is telling him -

I don't know what game you and
Moebius are playing, Kain - but I
refuse to be your pawn.

Unlike you, I still revere whatever
shred of humanity I've managed to
preserve.

You will not use me as the instrument
of your messianic delusions.

Raziel turns to exit the chapel, leaving Kain behind.

KAIN

Very well, Raziel. I'll not ask you
to trust me - your truths are for you
to discover alone.

Raziel pauses briefly to respond -

RAZIEL

(sarcastically)

Humble words for one who presumes to
teach me a lesson at every turn.

KAIN

Then continue your journey and learn
your *own* lessons, Raziel.

Remember - Moebius led you here, but
you walk away unfettered. A champion

of free will, and conqueror of false histories.

Raziel turns his back on Kain and strides away now. If Raziel had a middle finger, he'd flip Kain off.

Kain's voice continues as Raziel leaves him behind.

KAIN

There is much more for you to unearth, if you have the heart for the truth and the will to see it...

Raziel encounters Moebius again, in the Circle's meeting-room

Following Raziel's history-altering encounter with Kain in the Relic Hall, he returns to the Circle's meeting-room – now armed with the Light Reaver, Raziel can open the Time Streaming Device which has been sealed since the beginning of the game.

Just as Raziel opens the TSD door, Moebius comes rushing into the room, looking shaken and alarmed. He thought he had successfully orchestrated Kain's murder at Raziel's hands, but now everything has gone horribly wrong. Kain and Raziel have managed to change the course of history – which means they both know about the Reaver-convergence which, up to now, Moebius believed was his little secret.

Raziel turns to face Moebius, and begins walking slowly toward him, the Reaver still active and intentionally threatening.

RAZIEL

(cocky)

Ah, yes - I like that look on your face, Moebius. You really don't know what to do now, do you, old man?

Here you are - caught without your damned staff - and I suspect things aren't progressing quite as you'd hoped.

You're not used to the fly turning to confront you in your web, are you?

Moebius's distress is half-genuine, and a half an act. He is genuinely shocked by their alteration of history, and he's struggling to regain control of the situation. But he also knows precisely how history has reshuffled itself, and is deliberately appearing vulnerable here to let Raziel think he's in control.

MOEBIUS

(entreating)

Kain's devious influence has poisoned your mind, Raziel.

Now you see betrayal everywhere, even in your closest allies.

Raziel brandishes the Reaver menacingly, enjoying having the upper-hand on Moebius.

RAZIEL

(irritated)

We were never allies, Moebius.

Conspirators, perhaps. Briefly.

MOEBIUS

(upset)

Why did you not kill Kain when you had the chance? He was at your mercy!

RAZIEL

(confident; enjoying this)

Precisely. I had a *choice*, and I chose *mercy*.

(pause)

And now I know your sordid little secret - the significance of that... *displacement* I felt when the two Reavers came together.

Strangely enough, I was enlightened by the 'devious' Kain, not by *you*.

In fact, I've learned much more than you counted on - I understand now how you've tried to manipulate all of history for your own personal gain.

But now all your little schemes are whirling in ruin around you, aren't they?

All because I chose to exert *my will* for once, rather than obey the demands of sorcerers and spirits and demons all singing the same tiresome refrain: '*kill Kain!*'

I'm setting my own path from here, Moebius.

I intend to discover the *truth* behind all of this.

MOEBIUS

But you condemn us all with this impetuous act!

RAZIEL

Hardly impetuous; it took all the will I could muster.

Has my refusal to kill Kain reshuffled your carefully stacked deck of cards?

MOEBIUS

(angry)

You really think that you're exercising your *free will*, Raziel?
You're simply Kain's *servant* -

RAZIEL

(steely)

I do not *serve* Kain. I merely did not *kill* him.

MOEBIUS

(recovering himself)

Raziel, do not forget your purpose here - you are destined to be the savior of Nosgoth!

RAZIEL

(angry)

Oh, I'm *sick* of hearing that particular phrase.

As for saving Nosgoth, so far I see precious little reason to bother.

And I'll choose my own 'purpose' from here on out, Time-Streamer.

Right *now*, I choose to manipulate you, for a change.

Go - in *there*.

Gesturing threateningly with the Reaver, Raziel ushers Moebius toward the Time Streaming Device chamber. Moebius refuses to move -

MOEBIUS

(feigning surprise)

What are you doing?

RAZIEL

(sarcastic)

Come now, Moebius - you're a cunning serpent... you'll piece it together, I imagine.

Raziel moves Moebius into the chamber, using the Reaver as a goad.

This era is of no further use to me. You will operate this device to provide me passage.

I want to see the world in a simpler time - before the Sarafan began their crusade.

Moebius begins setting the dials and switches of the arcane device, but continues to entreat Raziel to reconsider –

MOEBIUS

And what about Kain? You're leaving your quarry behind!

RAZIEL

You kill him, if it's so damned important.

Moebius exits the room now, and stands at the threshold –

MOEBIUS

You need only touch the two poles of the switch, and the device will transport you.

But I urge you to reconsider –

RAZIEL

(interrupting)

You've lost your powers of persuasion, old man.

Raziel throws the switch –

Rot here and forget me.

– and the device begins to activate. As the doors slide closed, Moebius breaks into a cunning grin, and Raziel realizes – too late – that he's been tricked again.

Soul Reaver 2 – Misc. Raziel monologue

Raziel arrives in Nosgoth's bleak future, having been deceived by Moebius

RAZIEL V.O.

Even as I emerged from that infernal time-streaming chamber, I suspected treachery.

The Stronghold was vacant – derelict and abandoned...

Soul Reaver 2 – Misc. Raziel monologue

Raziel sees memorials commemorating Moebius's murder at Kain's hands, and the climax of the vampire purge – Vorador's execution

RAZIEL V.O.

If I had any doubts about the era I now occupied, this grotesque tableau certainly eliminated them.

For here was Moebius - long since murdered by Kain - lionized and beatified as the martyred leader of his bloodthirsty crusade.

And if I required *further* evidence, I needed only to behold the gruesome trophy Moebius held aloft: the severed head of Vorador, the final triumphant kill of Moebius's cutthroat mob. His execution marked the annihilation of the vampires.

Far from channeling me into Nosgoth's past, Moebius had propelled me over a century into its ghastly *future*.

2.1.2b – Then Raziel establishes his next goal: to proceed to the mountain-pass, and see if it's now open in this era. After, Raziel pauses – he turns away from the statue, and begins to walk toward the gate that leads into the nave of the Sanctuary. He continues with...

RAZIEL V.O.

The intent behind this little detour was unmistakable.

Having failed to make me his obedient assassin, Moebius intended to keep me ignorant of my *true* destiny, which clearly lay in Nosgoth's *past*.

While his deception only reinforced my purpose, Moebius had effectively stranded me here.

This left me no course but to explore the era I now occupied, and see what changes the century had wrought following Kain's ill-fated decision.

Perhaps time had cleared a path for me into the mountains, where I might unearth more clues behind the mystery of Janos Audron.

Raziel meets the "Ghost" of Moebius in Nosgoth's future

As Raziel exits the Stronghold Time-Streaming Device, he realizes that Moebius has tricked him. Instead of sending him back into Nosgoth's past, he has been propelled into its ghastly future. The Stronghold is abandoned, and has been overrun by demons. It is night, and a cataclysmic storm rages outside.

As he works his way through this nightmare Stronghold, Raziel encounters the ghost of Moebius, who has been dead for a century (killed by Kain). This isn't really Moebius' ghost – this is past-Moebius who has traveled forward in time to deceive and influence Raziel. He's masquerading as a ghost.

MOEBIUS

(anguished, withered voice)

Raziel...

RAZIEL

What pathetic charade is this now,
Moebius?

MOEBIUS

No charade, Raziel. Only the
entreaties of this martyred spirit.

RAZIEL

Your pleas mean nothing to me, after
all your deceit.

You have propelled me into Nosgoth's
future, Moebius - and left me
stranded here.

MOEBIUS

I am truly sorry, Raziel, but it was
necessary. Consider it the last
valiant act of a doomed man.

You have strayed from your purpose,
and now behold the result - gaze upon
the wasteland you and Kain authored
together!

RAZIEL

I fail to see how *I'm* responsible -

MOEBIUS

(anguished)

You spared Kain! And by doing so,
you have released a multitude of
horrors upon this world.

(pause)

I can accept that Kain has murdered
me, Raziel. As the Time Guardian, I
foresaw that incident long before it
occurred.

And I take some small comfort in the
fact that Kain remains the sole
survivor of his vile breed.

But you have single-handedly made my
sacrifice meaningless.

RAZIEL

Your argument is disingenuous, Time-
Streamer.

I cannot see how killing or sparing Kain's *future* self would alter these events.

This wasteland was created by Kain's original refusal at the Pillars - and amidst all these twists and turns, *that event* has never changed.

You are cunning, Moebius - but I think you've gotten tangled in your own web.

MOEBIUS

As Kain clings to his precious seat of power, the Pillars sink into a mire of decay, dragging all of Nosgoth down with them!

RAZIEL

I don't think this has anything to do with the Pillars or Kain's failure to sacrifice himself.

I think you're simply afraid - *because you don't know what he's up to.*

He's a wild-card, isn't he, and you don't want his influence in your game.

Which is why you wanted me to eliminate him.

Now that he's survived, you have no idea what's coming, do you? Maybe for the first time in your entire life.

You're terrified that he may have truly found a third option out of the dilemma you orchestrated for him.

MOEBIUS

(angry)

Kain's lies have addled your mind.

Leave this place, and trouble my spirit no more!

RAZIEL

(incredulous)

If you even are a spirit.

(pause; taunting)

You've forgotten I have a way to tell
for sure...

Raziel grabs his cowl and makes as though he's going to suck up Moebius' soul –

... if you're willing to risk it.

Moebius vanishes.

I didn't think so.

Either way, you lose.

Raziel meets Ariel at the ruins of the Pillars

Raziel enters the ruined Pillars clearing for the first time, and sees the devastation wrought by Kain's fateful decision at the Pillars, a century ago. The columns have toppled and litter the clearing; the sheared-off stumps that remain protrude from the platform crookedly, like broken teeth. The scene is apocalyptic. It is night, pouring rain; lightning and thunder crash.

Raziel enters the scene from the south, and stands in stunned silence for a moment as he surveys the scene.

RAZIEL V.O.

*These were the Pillars so familiar to
my blighted eyes.*

*But now that I had begun to learn
their true significance, I regarded
the Pillars' destruction with a new,
enlightened sense of horror.*

*And I questioned now whether Kain's
simple refusal – his mere ambition –
could truly have caused such
devastation.*

*I felt that some darker influence was
at work here.*

(Raziel approaches the Pillars)

*As I approached, I discerned the
spirit of Ariel – bound here now for
more than a century.*

He then sees the spirit of Ariel floating among the toppled Pillars, lamenting to herself –

ARIEL

(detached)

*Forever am I bound, hope abandoned,
my spirit tethered to this place...*

(pause)

What destroyed the Circle could not touch me. For I was newly *dead*, and beyond harm's reach.

I alone was spared the descent into madness, and Kain alone was spared the pain of death.

When Nupraptor's poison seized Kain even in the safety of the womb, much more than just his *destiny* was lost. All of Nosgoth lost Balance.

Consider us now... both of us less than we once were.

I, *pure* but insubstantial; and Kain terribly real, but *corrupted*.

Raziel approaches her as she speaks – she paces around the decayed Pillars like a cat in a cage, bound and restless.

RAZIEL

Your imprisonment here has deranged you, spirit.

You fixate on Kain because you believe *he* is the tether that binds you here. But we both know he is not the *author* of your agony.

The Pillars were subverted by dark forces, *invited* by the *Guardians themselves*.

The more I learn of your Circle, the more I see a tangle of nested manipulations -

ARIEL

(she interrupts; upset)

- Kain *handed* them their victory.

They sought to topple the Pillars, and he was their willing instrument.

RAZIEL

(insistent; a little cruel)

Or was he their unwilling pawn?

Would it blunt your wrath to know that Kain's dilemma was calculated to bring the Pillars down, *regardless* of the choice he made?

And that the devastation would have been even greater had he chosen the path *you* would prescribe for him?

ARIEL*(disturbed; angry)*

You are a subtle, deceitful creature.

But your clever arguments do not absolve Kain.

He *must die* for the Pillars to be restored; there is no other way.

RAZIEL*(persistent; more cruel)*

Then consider *this* more ominous possibility - *what if Kain's death does not restore the Pillars?*

Consider that it may simply be too late. That this world may be beyond redemption.

(pause)

And that you may be bound here eternally.

Ariel doesn't want to hear this; she tries to escape Raziel by dematerializing, but he follows her into the spirit realm (which she wouldn't have foreseen).

ARIEL*(distracted)*

Why do you hound me, demon?

You can see that I am captive here. Show me some mercy.

RAZIEL*(sarcastic)*

Like the mercy you showed your fellow *Guardians* when you set Kain on them?

Or the mercy you showed *Kain* when you kept him ignorant of his destiny while you used him as the scourge of the Circle?

Or perhaps like the mercy you showed your beloved *Nupraptor* when you made him Kain's *first kill*?

ARIEL*(upset; feeling trapped)*

You are cruel. Why do you torment me?

RAZIEL*(impatient)*

I'm merely looking for answers,
Ariel.

(pause)

Very well - I'll leave you in peace.

But know this - about *you*, and this
purgatory from which you long to
escape -

- *you're merely at the threshold.*

Raziel encounters Elder God in the Subterranean Chamber again

Having traveled forward in history 130 years, Raziel encounters the Elder God a third time

Raziel enters the subterranean Pillars chamber for the first time in this future era - and is shocked to see how the Elder God has encroached into the room. His tentacles are wrapped chokingly around the shattered, broken Pillars, and the room's murals have been almost completely obscured by his spiral "footprints" of his grasping tentacles.

ELDER GOD*(greeting Raziel disdainfully)*

Raziel, the failed assassin.

You had Kain at your mercy but lacked
the courage to fulfill the act.

And now you see the wasteland wrought
by the tyrant's hand. By his selfish
decision to preserve his own life,
even when it meant sacrificing the
whole world.

*This is the fate of Nosgoth, as long
as Kain remains alive.*

RAZIEL

An ironic condemnation, given *this*
guilty scene.

One would think you'd torn down the
Pillars single-handedly.

What are you trying to obliterate as
you drag your loathsome body through
this chamber?

And why, as Nosgoth descends into
madness and misery, do you appear to
thrive?

(pause)

Things in this world, I am learning,
are rarely what they seem.

You, apparently, are no exception.

ELDER GOD

(getting wrathful)

I am the Engine of Life, the source
of Nosgoth's very existence.

I am the hub of the Wheel, the origin
of all Life, the devourer of Death.

RAZIEL

(disdainful)

...Or maybe you're just *hungry* -
could it be as simple as that?

Wouldn't that be poetic irony? The
great adversary of the vampires turns
out to be the biggest parasite of
them all.

ELDER GOD

(threatening)

Do not test my patience, Raziel.

I made you, and I will *unmake* you if
I become so inclined.

RAZIEL

(mocking)

As your agent, I am beyond death.

ELDER GOD

(ominous)

There are fates worse than death,
Raziel.

RAZIEL

(disgusted)

Oh, I see you now as you truly are.

A *cancer* - a spooling parasite
burrowed deep in the heart of this
world.

ELDER GOD

(ominous)

Go now.

Play out your pitiful rebellion, and
take your place among the destroyed,
the used, and the damned.

Raziel turns to leave the chamber – the Elder God interrupts with a final statement.

But know this... you are mine for
eternity.

You have always been, and will always
be, my soul reaver...

Soul Reaver 2 – Misc. Raziel monologue

Returning to the swamp in the future era, Raziel comments on the still-sealed entrance to the time-streaming chamber.

RAZIEL V.O.

Beyond this edifice lay my sole hope
of escaping this demon-infested
wasteland.

The time-streaming device contained
therein offered my only prospect of
journeying back into Nosgoth's early
history.

Unless I discovered some means of
breaking this seal, I was condemned
to be stranded here eternally.

Soul Reaver 2 – Misc. Raziel monologue

Raziel discovers that the mountain pass is open in this era; he can proceed to explore the northern mountains, beyond.

RAZIEL V.O.

The passage of time had indeed
cleared my way forward, enabling me
to explore the northern mountains of
Nosgoth.

I was anxious to discover if some
evidence of Janos Audron's existence
might still remain.

Soul Reaver 2 – Misc. Raziel monologue

Raziel enters the ruined village of Uschtenheim for the first time.

RAZIEL V.O.

(with a touch of sarcasm)

Here I discovered the quaint hamlet
of Uschtenheim, now long-abandoned
and collapsing into ruin...

Legend claimed that Janos Audron terrorized its villagers until the Sarafan hunters ferreted him out and destroyed him.

If there was any truth to the old tales, the lair of the infamous vampire could not be far away...

Raziel meets Kain at the ruins of Janos Audron's Aerie

Raziel enters the canyon, and discovers the ruins of Janos Audron's Retreat – in this era, the majestic facades of the Vampires' ancient cliff-dwellings are collapsed and toppled, as though some great cataclysm occurred here ages ago.

Raziel stands at the threshold beneath Janos' Retreat, surveying devastated architecture.

RAZIEL V.O.

This edifice was clearly not crafted by *human* architects. As the figure beneath the balcony silently attested, these were the aeries of *winged* beings.

Undoubtedly, I stood before the mountain refuge of the legendary Janos Audron – but the entire sanctuary lay in ruin, collapsed under the force of some ancient cataclysm.

As I suspected, the Time-Streamer's deception ensured that I was centuries too late to unearth anything of consequence here.

The camera pans over the canyon, and we see the pathway leading off to the west (leading to the Air Forge). Raziel comments –

RAZIEL V.O.

With nothing behind me but the wasteland I had traversed, I resolved to press on and explore these canyons further.

Raziel hears footsteps behind him, and turns to see Kain approaching.

RAZIEL

(sarcastic; but slightly good-humored)

Oh, no. Every time you turn up something monumental and terrible happens.

I don't think I have the stomach for it.

KAIN

(chuckles)

No drama *this* time, Raziel.

RAZIEL

You are persistent, crossing time like this to follow me.

Still waiting for that coin of yours to land on its edge?

Kain has climbed the stairs and now stands with Raziel on balcony which overlooks Janos' canyon.

KAIN

I'm biding my time.

He looks up at the ruins of Janos Audron's Retreat –

I see that Moebius has played a little trick on you.

RAZIEL

Yes - he clearly doesn't want me to meet this 'Janos Audron'.

KAIN

(knows better)

Perhaps...

(then with sarcasm)

Or maybe he merely hoped that it would harden your heart against me to see this *wasteland* which I *single-handedly authored*.

RAZIEL

My heart doesn't need hardening, Kain.

If I even *suspected* that destroying you would make *any* difference, I would do it this instant.

KAIN

(laughs approvingly)

I knew you'd see through them, Raziel.

Janos is indeed the key to your destiny, but you'll need to find your own way back into Nosgoth's past.

Make no mistake though, Raziel - you and I are now in great danger.

We are *irritants* here - malevolent forces are being marshaled to eliminate us.

RAZIEL

You talk as though we're allies.

KAIN

Regardless of *your* sentiments, Raziel, in *their* eyes - *we* are.

RAZIEL

Well, they're certainly trying to eliminate *you*, Kain, there can be no doubt of that.

I am assaulted relentlessly with demands for your demise.

Whatever it is that you're plotting, they're scared to death of you.

(pause)

As for me, I suspect they made a grave error when they allowed my *unique* resurrection.

I don't think they know *how* to destroy me.

KAIN

(knows better)

You mustn't underestimate them, Raziel.

RAZIEL

And who exactly is this diabolical 'they' to which we keep referring?

If there's some grand conspiracy going on, the right hand doesn't appear to know what the left is doing.

Even *Moebius* seems to be caught out at every turn.

KAIN

Moebius is a *puppet*, Raziel - haven't you realized that yet?

That's the *sweetest* irony in all of this - Nosgoth's 'great manipulator' is their *plaything*.

(pause)

But the ones pulling the strings haven't shown their faces, yet.

RAZIEL

They don't like us *unwriting* their carefully choreographed history, though, do they?

KAIN

(correcting him)

You must understand, Raziel - we haven't *unwritten* history, we've merely *rewritten* it.

The future flows around our petty actions, finding the path of least resistance while admitting only the slightest alterations.

This is the *reshuffling* you felt, when you refused to kill me.

And remember, Raziel, we are *irritants* in *this* regard, as well - history will not allow the introduction of a paradox.

RAZIEL

And if events cannot be reshuffled to accommodate the change?

KAIN

It is the *irritant* who's *expelled*.

Bear in mind that this may be *exactly* the outcome our enemies are trying to provoke.

(pause)

We must tread very carefully.

Soul Reaver 2 – Misc. Raziel monologue

Raziel sees the ancient Vampire murals in the Air Forge

RAZIEL V.O.

The scenes I discovered here were unambiguous...

This race of winged beings - the architects of the Pillars, and the creators of the Reaver - were *Nosgoth's first vampires*.

Their blood-thirst appeared to be a curse, inflicted upon them by their vanquished enemies.

These images confirmed the truths that Kain had divulged to me, but I had been too incredulous to accept.

(pause)

I struggled in vain to see how the pieces fit together...

How Kain intended to escape the dilemma of his destiny, and what role he had plotted for me...

And why Moebius, and the dark powers with which he seemed to be allied, were so desperate to see Kain *dead*, and so intent on *me* being the instrument of his execution...

Soul Reaver 2 – Misc. Raziel monologue

Raziel forges the Reaver with the elemental power of Air

RAZIEL V.O.

As the Reaver drained the forge of its vital energy, the tempest receded...

I recovered myself, and paused to admire my newly-forged weapon, now imbued with the elemental power of Air.

Thus armed, I hoped that I now finally possessed the means to escape this wasted land.

Soul Reaver 2 – Misc. Raziel monologue

Raziel earns the Air Reaver and realizes he can now break open certain barriers –

RAZIEL V.O.

This elemental Reaver, I discovered, had the power to obliterate barriers that were cracked or compromised.

At last, I had the means to open that ruined time-streaming chamber I discovered so long ago in the swamp.

Now perhaps I could leave this wasteland, and return to an era when Janos Audron still lived.

Soul Reaver 2 – Misc. Raziel monologue

Raziel activates the time-streaming device in the Swamp

RAZIEL V.O.

I had no choice but to act purely on blind faith.

There was no way to tell what era this device was tuned to, and I had neither the knowledge nor the means to set the machine myself.

I hesitated only briefly... then, throwing the switch, I hurled myself into oblivion, and relinquished my will to the hand of Fate.

Soul Reaver 2 – Misc. Raziel monologue

Raziel emerges from the Swamp TSD into Nosgoth's early history

RAZIEL V.O.

(suspicious; wary)

Beyond all hope, and against all probability, it seemed that the device had unerringly delivered me to the era I sought.

For these were *Sarafan* banners - and these vampires, apparently the victims of their crusade.

The coincidence seemed too convenient to naively ascribe to Fate - but whether my opportune arrival had been orchestrated by Moebius, or some other influence, I didn't know.

If Janos Audron still lived, I would find him - but I was wary of further

deception, and resolved to tread carefully.

Soul Reaver 2 – Misc. Raziel monologue

Raziel's first encounter with demons, in Nosgoth's early history.

RAZIEL V.O.

So, these demonic pests were not merely the product of Nosgoth's corrupted *future* - for here they were, hurdling back over five centuries to pursue me.

These creatures, I suspected, were minions of the unseen forces that had hoped to control me.

This was the tangible expression of their displeasure - these demons were unleashed as the penalty for my disobedience.

Soul Reaver 2 – Misc. Raziel monologue

Raziel sees the vampire-victims of the Sarafan for the first time

RAZIEL V.O.

For all the butchery of Moebius's crusade, *this* massacre was somehow more chilling...

The killing fields of the Sarafan betrayed a kind of orderly ruthlessness - the cold-blooded righteousness of the true believer.

Soul Reaver 2 – Misc. Raziel monologue

Raziel sees Sarafan warriors for the first time

RAZIEL V.O.

Here at last, in the flesh, I beheld my former brothers-in-arms - the warrior-priests of the Sarafan order, their lives devoted solely to the annihilation of the 'vampire plague.'

And while I confess I felt a twinge of longing, a pang of grief for what

I had believed was my lost virtue, I regarded them now with none of the reverence I formerly felt.

For I had seen the human face of the vampires - and now I beheld the monstrosity of these men.

Soul Reaver 2 – Misc. Raziel monologue

Raziel sees the pristine exterior of Janos Audron's Retreat for the first time

RAZIEL V.O.

After my long journey, I finally stood on the threshold of enlightenment.

For here was Janos Audron's mountain retreat, intact and unblemished. The upheaval that would one day topple this ancient edifice had not yet occurred.

And while I had no certainty that Janos still lived, this scene boded well - for I presumed that the collapse of the retreat must have followed the ancient vampire's demise.

There was only one obstacle: *how* to reach the balcony suspended at that maddening height, so far beyond my reach?

For this was the architecture of winged creatures, and the tattered ruins of *my* wings were of no use.

I would need to devise some other means into that mountain...

Soul Reaver 2 – Misc. Raziel monologue

Raziel enters the Retreat Interior, sees the balcony leading to Janos' chamber

RAZIEL V.O.

The mountain's interior was hollow, I discovered, and graced with soaring architecture unique to its creators.

As with the outer facade, these balconies and galleries could only be reached by those gifted with flight.

With only my ruined wings to carry me, this towering labyrinth seemed impassable... while the object of my quest lay just beyond my grasp.

For here, suspended at the apex of the chamber, was the threshold that surely led to the great vampire himself.

I didn't know whether Janos Audron was the monster depicted in the Stronghold, or one of the noble creatures memorialized among the ruins of the ancient vampires - and I didn't care.

Demon or angel, he alone held the key to my destiny.

Raziel meets Janos Audron

Raziel opens the double-doors leading into Janos' chamber, and we see a striking figure standing at the other end of the room, on the balcony, silhouetted by the bright, wintry morning light of the canyon beyond. Because he's in silhouette, the only distinguishing features visible are his height and leanness, and his dramatic wings.

The figure turns as Raziel enters the chamber, but remains in silhouette -

Raziel is a bit uneasy - he has crossed the world, and crossed time, to meet this being; but he doesn't know what to expect from Janos. The only things he knows about him are the rumors and legends which demonize him. He has seen only the image of Janos in the Stronghold, which depicts him as a demonic beast.

RAZIEL

(slightly uncertain)

Janos Audron?

Janos begins to cross the room slowly as he responds - he wonders if this could actually be "the one" that he's been waiting for all these centuries.

JANOS

(wondering who this visitor is)

It is heartening, after all these years, to hear my name spoken without contempt.

As he speaks, he gradually steps out of the harsh back-lighting of the balcony, and into the fire-lit glow of the chamber - as he does so, his features are revealed. This is no demon; he is beautiful - a dark angel.

Janos has a priest-like demeanor, and radiates a kind of infinite, long-suffering patience.

As Janos approaches, and Raziel steps out of the shadows of the entryway, Janos sees his features for the first time - his ghoulish, emaciated body and ragged wings.

Janos is clearly disheartened - this is not the heroic figure described by the prophecies. His features are right - the blue skin, cloven hands, and wings - but this ragged specter looks like he has been nearly destroyed.

Janos approaches Raziel gently, almost paternalistically –

JANOS

(with horror and pity)

Raziel?

My child, what have they done to you?

RAZIEL

I have been dragged through hell and back – all, it seems, to reach *this* moment.

But I don't yet know *why*.

Janos wants to explain it all to him, but isn't sure where to start –

JANOS

For thousands of years, I have waited... alone here, losing faith...

(pauses)

At the time of the Binding, nine guardians were called to serve the Pillars. And I was summoned as the *tenth* guardian – the keeper of the Reaver, the weapon of our salvation.

Over time, our race died out. Until I alone remained... sustained only by my obligation to you, and by my guardianship of the blade.

RAZIEL

And the other nine? Why did their guardianship not sustain *them*?

JANOS

(considering; wistful)

I don't know.

Janos walks slowly toward the balcony again, surveying the landscape beyond as he continues to speak –

JANOS

As our race dwindled, the humans prospered. I have watched, over the centuries, as our history faded into myth, and finally receded altogether.

The humans have forgotten us entirely, and claimed the Pillars for themselves - wholly ignorant of their true purpose.

To them, I am merely a devil; the origin of their vampire 'plague'.

RAZIEL

Why would the Pillars summon *human* guardians, then, if they are meant to be served by vampires?

JANOS

The Pillars choose their guardians from birth, Raziel - and vampires are no longer *born*.

This is the crux of our dilemma.

And *this* is the terrible irony - with their vampire purge, the members of the Circle have assaulted the very architects of the Pillars they are sworn to protect.

They have embarked on a treacherous path. With every vampire they kill, the humans are *slitting their own throats*.

Janos is standing at the edge of the balcony now, looking down at the canyon below.

JANOS

(softly)

They know I'm up here, beyond their reach, and it terrifies them.

Janos gestures to the killing fields of the Sarafan, below. A forest of impaled vampire corpses litters the canyon below, planted here to defy and intimidate Janos.

You can see how they flaunt their kills to torment me... or perhaps simply to lure me out.

They have this foolish notion that destroying me will somehow topple our entire bloodline.

Thankfully, we're not that fragile.

RAZIEL

I have seen them mustering their forces in the village, below.

JANOS

Yes. I don't know what they're plotting... but I fear our time may be bitterly short.

RAZIEL

Mankind seems to have brought you only torment and grief.

You must hate them.

JANOS

They fear what they don't understand; and they despise what they fear.

(pauses)

But *no* - I do not hate them.

RAZIEL

Vorador does.

JANOS

(considering for a moment)

He has suffered much. He cannot forgive them.

RAZIEL

Should they be forgiven?

JANOS

(thinks for a moment)

They don't understand what they're doing.

They are simply unenlightened... and vulnerable to manipulation.

Raziel considers this silently for a moment, then asks the question that's been tormenting him

RAZIEL

(half to himself)

So it's all true, then - what Kain and Vorador have told me - I really am some kind of unholy vampire messiah...

JANOS*(gently correcting him)*

Unholy? - no. Messiah... perhaps.

RAZIEL

I don't like that word - it smells of martyrdom.

JANOS

Raziel, your role in this world's destiny is more crucial - and more *benevolent* - than you've allowed yourself to believe.

Your journey will not be easy - dark powers are allied against you.

(considers Raziel's appearance)

But I think you already know this... you appear to have been cruelly tested.

(pause)

The Binding must be secured, Raziel.

The Pillars are the lock -

RAZIEL*(completing the thought)*

- and the Reaver is the key.

JANOS*(pleased)*

Yes.

Janos turns to a decorative chest set against the wall, and opens it - revealing the Reaver, laid out like a holy relic.

Raziel is uneasy - every time he has encountered the Reaver during his journey, he has felt the "convergence-effect", the temporal distortion created when two Reavers meet in time and space. And now - nothing. As disconcerting as the convergence-effect feels, this nothingness is worse...

RAZIEL*(troubled)*

The Reaver is here? Why do I feel nothing?

Janos lifts the blade gingerly and carries it to Raziel, to present it to him.

JANOS*(reverently)*

The most formidable weapon ever
forged by our swordsmiths...

They infused the blade with vampiric
energy, empowering the Reaver to
drain our enemies of their precious
lifeblood.

RAZIEL (VO)

(narration)

As Janos presented the blade, an
inexplicable sense of dread crept
over me, more palpable than anything
I'd felt before.

I was at once horribly repelled by
the sword and yet irresistibly
compelled to touch it, to take it up.

RAZIEL

(fearful)

Please - take it away from me.

Suddenly we hear the unmistakable sound of armored soldiers rapidly approaching. With a sudden sick recognition, Raziel realizes that he has opened the Retreat to the Sarafan, and has exposed Janos.

JANOS

(dismayed; but resigned)

I fear you have been followed...

With this, the door crashes open, and a squad of Sarafan warriors burst into the room. Their leader is armed with a cruel-looking weapon, and they are bearing Moebius' staff - Raziel realizes at this moment that he has been duped and betrayed.

Janos turns to Raziel, quickly before the Sarafan are upon them -

JANOS

You must save yourself, Raziel.

Laying his hands upon Raziel, he teleports him to safety, away from the chamber. Raziel resists, not wanting to leave Janos to face the Sarafan alone -

RAZIEL

Janos - no!

But it's too late - and Raziel finds himself transported to an adjacent chamber within the Retreat - safely away from the Sarafan, and helpless to save Janos.

Raziel finds himself in the Fire Forge, on the other side of the sealed Fire Reaver door.

RAZIEL V.O.

My surroundings whirled sickeningly,
and I found myself transported safely

away from the ambush, to an adjacent chamber.

Janos had delivered me from the Sarafan, selflessly forfeiting his own safety to preserve my life.

And now I feared that my newfound mentor would be slaughtered by the very crusaders I had so recently revered.

The irony pierced me, and with dawning horror I realized that I had been duped by Moebius from the beginning...

For the Sarafan had simply followed the path I gullibly blazed through this sanctuary, and had arrived bearing Moebius's staff. Thus armed, they had Janos at their mercy.

Through the door, I could hear them battling, less than a dozen paces away - but it may as well have been a thousand miles, for this barrier was sealed by elemental forces I did not possess.

It seemed Janos had conveyed me into the heart of the Fire shrine. I thought perhaps if I could galvanize the forge and imbue the Reaver in time, I might have a slim chance of saving Janos from his grisly fate.

Soul Reaver 2 – Misc. Raziel monologue

Raziel forges the Reaver with Fire, and can now return to Janos' chamber

RAZIEL V.O.

I plunged the Reaver into that furnace, and forged the blade with elemental Fire.

With the Reaver thus imbued, I was now armed to unlock the elemental barrier, and rescue Janos from his executioners.

Raziel witnesses Janos' murder

Having solved the adjacent Fire Forge, and earned the Fire Reaver, Raziel can now re-enter Janos' chamber. Opening the sealed door which separates the chambers, Raziel emerges like an avenging angel bearing his fiery sword.

But he has arrived too late – the Sarafan are clustered around Janos' prostrate body, having rendered him helpless with the aid of Moebius' staff. The head inquisitor (Sarafan Raziel) raises his cruel-looking weapon –

SARAFAN RAZIEL

(commanding)

Hold him!

– and tears Janos' chest open.

JANOS

(screams of pain; various)

The head inquisitor reaches into Janos' open chest and tears his living heart out with his hand. He raises it triumphantly for the others to see –

TUREL

Look at his black heart, how it still
beats!

Raziel prepares to leap into the fray, and then is frozen – as the head inquisitor turns, raising the heart and placing it in the waiting reliquary, Raziel gets a good look at his face. And realizes that he has just watched himself – his Sarafan self – murder Janos.

Blue-Raziel and Sarafan-Raziel lock eyes on each other – B-Raziel in horror at recognizing his Sarafan self; S-Raziel recognizing something in this blue demon, but not knowing what.

Janos begins to die – as he shudders, a tremor strikes the entire landscape. The Retreat rocks with the impact, some beams and rubble fall.

DUMAH

(frightened)

The fiend intends to bury us alive!

Then, trying to snap Sarafan-Raziel out of his daze –

Raziel, we must get out of here!

Sarafan-Raziel cannot tear his eyes from Blue-Raziel. With his gaze still locked on this apparition, he commands his fellow Sarafan –

SARAFAN RAZIEL

(commanding)

Remember the sword!

One of the Sarafan grabs up the Reaver from where it lies on the ground, and the Sarafan rush out of the Retreat before it can collapse around them. With them they take Moebius' staff, Janos' heart in its reliquary box, and the Reaver.

Raziel, heedless of the Sarafan, leaps down to where Janos lies. Incredibly, he's still alive, but barely. Raziel kneels next to him – bereft at the loss of his new-found mentor, and horrified at this latest epiphany: that he himself was Janos' murderer.

RAZIEL

Forgive me; I'm sorry... I failed you.

JANOS

(gently)

No, Raziel.

Perhaps this was my true purpose - simply to save your life this once.

RAZIEL

(distraught)

While I have taken yours...

JANOS

(dying)

Embrace your destiny, Raziel...

You must reclaim the Reaver - it was forged for you and you alone...

Without it, there is no hope...

As Janos dies, the Retreat is rocked by a massive tremor. Beams topple; vaults crumble. The exits are filled by cascading rubble, until the chamber is completely sealed off.

Oblivious to the devastation around him, Raziel stays by the corpse of his would-be mentor - destroyed by these new revelations, and nursing a growing ember of hatred. He will avenge Janos' death, retrieve the Reaver and the heart, and set things to rights.

RAZIEL V.O.

(disgusted, resolute)

As I backed away from Janos's body, I was overwhelmed by a sense of self-loathing so deep, I could barely contain it.

In that instant, I rejected all that I ever was, and embraced the role Janos had safeguarded for me so patiently throughout the centuries.

I knew then what I had to do - the task for which I was uniquely prepared...

I would pursue the Sarafan dogs to their loathsome fortress, and avenge Janos Audron's murder.

Moebius would pay dearly for his treachery, and my Sarafan brethren would reap the horrors they had sown.

I would retake the stolen Reaver, which was rightfully mine.

And finally, when all these debts had been paid, I would reclaim Janos Audron's heart from their filthy, unworthy hands.

If the heart was truly imbued with the power to restore vampiric unlife, its highest purpose was *clear* to me...

I would restore the heart to Janos, and thus undo the vile crime committed by my abominable former self.

Subterranean Chamber beneath the Pillars

Raziel passes through the subterranean chamber for the final time, on his way to the Stronghold

ELDER GOD

(ominous)

You have failed me, Raziel.

RAZIEL

(rhetorical; cynical)

I wonder, Old One...

Did you truly resurrect me, or were you simply *there* when I awakened from my torment in the Abyss?

I suspect you found me merely convenient. Dropped in your lair by Kain, indestructible for some reason. A durable and gullible tool for you to manipulate.

This one thing I readily admit - I have been used by others time and again. But always I seem to stray from their path... what is it about me, *Demon*, that makes me such an unreliable instrument?

Why do I survive one trial after another... on and on in an endless succession of humiliating deaths and resurrections?

It seems there is much more to my destiny, and my history, than I know.

Perhaps more than *you* know, as well...

Raziel leaves the chamber without waiting for a reply.

Soul Reaver 2 – Misc. Raziel monologue

Raziel realizes that the frozen lake prevents him from entering the Stronghold

RAZIEL V.O.

The frozen surface of the lake had bound the gates of the stronghold shut.

The Sarafan surely had some other means of entry, but this was the only one known to me.

To infiltrate the fortress, I would need to find some way to release these gates from their icy bonds.

Raziel cornered by Moebius and Malek in the Stronghold

Raziel has infiltrated the Stronghold in his pursuit of the Sarafan – he is here to avenge Janos Audron's murder, and to reclaim his heart, and the Reaver.

He finds himself channeled through the Stronghold's corridors, until he ends up at in a dead-end – an antechamber off of the cloister, where the far door has been bolted. The Reaver has been laid out here on a platform in the middle of the room – as though planted here for Raziel to discover.

Raziel stops short – this is the blade that gave him such a odd, unsettling premonition when Janos presented it to him. Still, he feels no convergence-effect in its presence, and he finds himself troubled by it – both repelled and afraid, yet irresistibly compelled to pick it up.

RAZIEL V.O.

Suddenly and inexplicably, I discovered the *Reaver*, suspiciously laid across my path.

Again, I sensed nothing of that 'temporal distortion,' the peculiar sense of displacement I had felt when I encountered the Reaver in William's chapel.

Cornered here with the blade, I suffered the same nameless dread that I had experienced when Janos first presented the Reaver to me.

I felt at once repelled by the blade, and yet overwhelmingly compelled to seize it.

Suddenly Moebius and the Sarafan Malek appear in the doorway behind Raziel, cutting off his exit. He's been trapped.

Moebius is here with his staff (intentionally) – he intends to stall Raziel long enough to drain his reaver- energy (thus forcing him to take up the Reaver that's been laid out for him here, despite his misgivings).

This is a very different Moebius than the character we've encountered up until now. Gone are all signs of the sniveling, pandering magician – this Moebius is cold, focused, and completely in control.

MOEBIUS

So, Raziel – here we are, finally.

You have no choice but to confront *me* now – and I am not so foolish as I've let you believe.

(pause)

We have business to conclude.

RAZIEL

(extremely angry)

You *knew* I would lead the Sarafan to Janos, you vile bastard!

You've been orchestrating my every move!

MOEBIUS

(just laughs)

RAZIEL

My destiny is an *amusement* to you?

MOEBIUS

It was fun while it lasted.

Raziel makes a threatening move forward, and Moebius motions to Malek –

MOEBIUS

(threatening)

I think not, Raziel.

Malek, do not let this creature leave. He poses a danger to the Circle.

MOEBIUS

Poor, deluded Raziel... did you somehow imagine you had the guile to change history on *me*?

I'm the Time-Streamer – I knew your every intention before *you* did, you imbecile.

Suddenly, from far off we hear a disturbance – this is the same moment in history where Vorador infiltrated the Stronghold to take his revenge on the Circle (also for Janos' murder). We can hear Vorador laughing and mocking the Guardians, and hear their screams and cries for Malek.

MALEK

Lord Moebius, there is trouble
within. The Circle is under attack -

MOEBIUS

(completely cold; focused)

Hold fast, Malek.

This one is the real danger to us.

RAZIEL

What are you trying to concoct here,
Moebius?

MOEBIUS

(hateful)

You *toxic* creature – did you imagine
I'd simply allow you to run loose,
corrupting everything you encounter?

With his wraith-blade completely drained by the presence of Moebius' staff, Raziel has no choice but to take up the Reaver. He grabs the hilt and advances on Moebius and Malek.

RAZIEL

I admit that I've underestimated you
to this point, Moebius – but it's a
mistake I won't repeat.

This is the moment Moebius was waiting for –

MOEBIUS

(ominous)

Wrong again, Raziel.

(pause)

Now, Malek! Bolt the door!

Raziel finds himself sealed in the antechamber, now armed with the Reaver.

RAZIEL V.O.

Using his staff to disable my wraith-
blade, Moebius effectively disarmed
me, leaving me with only one choice
of weapon.

And yet I confess, it was not the lack of options, but blind rage that made me take up the Reaver - in my fury, it felt as though my hand had acted of its own will.

And now that same hand clutched the hilt with unyielding strength - and I felt a constrained tingling, a remote but palpable sense of *longing* as the disabled wraith-blade tried vainly to embrace its physical twin.

Raziel confronts Melchiah and Zephon in the Cloister

During Raziel's final pursuit of the Sarafan through their Stronghold, he confronts each of his former brethren in turn, exacting revenge for Janos' murder.

As he enters the cloister, he finds himself confronted by Melchiah and Zephon. Zephon and Melchiah taunt him -

ZEPHON

Come to take your revenge, demon?

MELCHIAH

Back to hell with you!

And Raziel has the following internal monologue before the battle ensues -

RAZIEL V.O.

(reveling in this; gloating)

I recognized these two as my former brethren... in life, as Sarafan; and in *unlife*, as Kain's vampire 'sons.'

Melchiah and Zephon, the weakest of Kain's brood... These bastards had no idea what future lay in store for them - how they would become the very thing they so despised.

The Reaver hummed with ravenous anticipation - Janos had called it a 'vampiric' blade, endowed with the power to drain its victims of their lifeblood.

I was eager to see what the Reaver would do to these two...

Soul Reaver 2 - Misc. Raziel monologue

Raziel defeats Melchiah and Zephon, and notices that the Reaver seems to be sustaining his health

RAZIEL V.O.

As Melchiah and Zephon fell before my blade, I felt the Reaver's blood-thirst as keenly as I ever had when I was still a vampire.

I could sense the boundary between us dissolving - the Reaver was consumed with my rage, and I was intoxicated by its bloodlust.

The blade had a vitalizing effect on me - my physical energy no longer decayed over time, and the wounds inflicted by my foes healed almost instantly.

The Reaver had made me *invincible*.

Soul Reaver 2 – Misc. Raziel monologue

Raziel comments that he cannot put down the Reaver (it won't let him)

RAZIEL V.O.

Now that I had taken it up, the Reaver and I were inescapably joined.

The harder I tried to release the blade, the more tightly my hand gripped the hilt, as if possessed of its own will.

Soul Reaver 2 – Misc. Raziel monologue

Raziel comments that he cannot drop to spectral while carrying the Reaver, and he can't summon the wraith-blade, because it's been disabled by Moebius's staff

RAZIEL V.O.

The Reaver exerted some mysterious power over me...

It sustained my energy, enabling me to prolong my physical manifestation indefinitely. In fact, bonded to the blade as I was, I could no longer shift into the spirit realm at will.

Nor was I able to summon the Reaver's twin, for my wraith blade had been

disabled in the confrontation with
Moebius.

Raziel confronts Rahab and Humah in the Sanctuary

Next, Raziel is confronted by Rahab and Dumah in the nave of the Stronghold's Sanctuary.

Dumah and Rahab taunt Raziel –

DUMAH

Have you come to reclaim the
monster's black heart?

RAHAB

You'll have to get through *us*, first.

And Raziel has the following internal monologue before the battle ensues –

RAZIEL V.O.

My former brethren Dumah and Rahab
confronted me next – this all seemed
so elegantly choreographed.

Exhilarated by the Reaver, I was
drunk with revelations...

I could finally appreciate the
delicious irony of Kain's
blasphemous, private joke – and I
reveled as I colluded with him across
the centuries.

For it was *I* who put these bastards
in their tomb – thus providing the
corpses for Kain to raise as his
vampire sons a millennium from now.

Raziel confronts Turel in the Relic Hall

Finally, Raziel confronts Turel – alone – in the Relic Hall of the Sanctuary.

Turel goads Raziel –

TUREL

Get back to the pit you crawled from,
demon!

And Raziel has the following internal monologue before the battle ensues –

RAZIEL V.O.

(derisive)

And here at last was my brother
Turel, who along with Dumah would

bear me into the abyss without questioning Kain's command.

So dutiful and righteous, even as a vampire... I guess some habits die hard.

The vampire Turel had eluded my vengeance; the Sarafan Turel would not.

Raziel confronts his Sarafan self in the Chapter House

After confronting and killing each of his former Sarafan brethren in turn, Raziel finally comes face-to-face with his Sarafan self in the Chapter House of the Stronghold. This is a dead-end, a trap calculated by Moebius – the entrance door locks behind him, and there is no way out.

Sarafan Raziel is here alone, armed and ready for combat. This is of course an intense psychological event for Raziel, who knows that he's facing down his own former self, his shadow-self. Sarafan Raziel is blissfully ignorant of Raziel's identity.

Sarafan Raziel should be really unlikable – he embodies all the negative, "shadow" aspects of Raziel's personality. He is hateful, arrogant, self-righteous, and bigoted.

SARAFAN RAZIEL

(hateful; says "vampire" like a dirty word)

So, vampire – here we are.

You've destroyed my brethren – and now you've come for me?

You'll find I am not such easy prey.

Raziel is somewhat taken aback and intimidated to come face to face with his Sarafan self like this. At this point, he sincerely doesn't want to become his own murderer (though he realizes it's probably inevitable).

RAZIEL

I don't want to kill you, but I will if I must.

Return the heart to me, and we can end this now.

SARAFAN RAZIEL

(hateful; taunting)

So you've come to avenge that *filthy* parasite, and reclaim his *foul* heart?
(mocking)

You're a *righteous* fiend, aren't you?

RAZIEL

(referring to Sarafan Raziel)

Apparently I am.

SARAFAN RAZIEL

(icily)

No, vampire. This *is* where it ends,
but you won't be leaving this room.

(pause; insincere)

Now let's finish this - I'll make it
mercifully quick.

RAZIEL

(angry; sarcastic)

As you did for Janos.

SARAFAN RAZIEL

(cold laughter)

No, that beast had eluded us for *far*
too long.

(sadistically)

It would have been a *shame* to end *him*
too quickly.

(pause; then hatefully goading)

It's ironic, really - the 'great
Janos Audron' turned out to be no
challenge at all... *thanks to you*.

Did you hear his cowardly screams
when I tore that *black heart* out of
his *carcass*?

This is too much for Raziél. He launches himself at Sarafan-Raziél and the battle ensues.

At the conclusion of the battle, Raziél runs Sarafan-Raziél through with the Reaver. With Sarafan-Raziél transfixed on the blade, they are face to face. This act is the explicit expression of Raziél's rejection of his Sarafan origins, and marks his complete adoption of his newly-discovered Vampire destiny.

The two Raziéls are face to face in this deadly embrace, Sarafan-Raziél impaled on the Reaver blade. Raziél speaks his next line slowly, with the solemnity of a curse or an oath -

RAZIEL

(with revulsion and finality)

I *renounce* you.

SARAFAN RAZIEL

*(gasping, his blood being drained completely;
and then he dies)*

RAZIEL

(quietly, to himself)

And so it ends. My history comes
full circle.

The cinematic transitions seamlessly into the next sequence - the wraith-blade manifests itself, and twines around the physical Reaver blade. With no other foes remaining, the conjoined blades turn themselves on Raziél.

Raziel confronts his Destiny within the Chapter House

After defeating each of his former Sarafan brethren in turn, Raziel's journey finally comes full-circle. He confronts his Sarafan alter-ego (his shadow self) in the Chapter House of the Stronghold – and kills him.

With all its foes dead, the Reaver turns itself on Raziel. The wraith-blade uncoils from Raziel's arm and coils itself around its physical twin. Raziel is no longer in control here – the blade is.

The blade turns itself on Raziel and impales him – forming a perverse vicious-circle: Raziel still holding the blade as it drains his own soul.

At this moment, Kain reveals himself, stepping out from the shadows of the Chapter House. Raziel sees him, and believes he has been tricked – that this is a trap set by Kain.

Kain approaches, watching with an intense fascination that looks sinister –

RAZIEL V.O.

Sensing its twin, the wraith blade uncoiled itself from me – and instead wound lovingly around its former self.

I felt its grip loosen, and as the blade left me, its *absence* chilled me more than its *presence* ever had.

A foreboding sense of emptiness and loss stole over me... and a terrible revelation gathered like a storm at the edge of my awareness...

The wraith-Reaver has abandoned its symbiotic grip on Raziel, and has coiled itself around its physical twin, its former self, instead. Thus joined, the twinned Reavers turn on Raziel. The blades still bound to his hand, Raziel is puppeteered helplessly as the Reaver exerts its own will. Raziel struggles, but is powerless to avoid the blades as they turn inexorably toward him.

The conjoined-blade turns itself on Raziel and impales him – forming a perverse vicious-circle: Raziel still holding the blade as it drains his own soul.

RAZIEL V.O.

(a horrible epiphany)

With all other foes exhausted, the conjoined blades turned themselves on me. And I realized, finally, why I had sensed *nothing* when Janos offered me the blade.

The Reaver was never *forged* to be a *soul-stealing* weapon...

...the ravenous, soul-devouring entity trapped in the blade was – and always had been – me.

This is why the blade was destroyed when Kain tried to strike me down – *the Reaver could not devour its own soul*. The paradox shattered the blade.

So - this was my terrible destiny -
to play out this purgatorial cycle
for all eternity...

I could not bear it - despair
overwhelmed me.

Raziel remains transfixed by his own blade, wielded by his own hand. His soul is gradually but relentlessly being drained away, absorbed slowly and torturously into the Reaver. Raziel strains against the blade, trying vainly to escape this fate.

At this moment, Kain reveals himself, stepping out from the shadows of the Chapter House. Raziel sees him, and believes he has been tricked - that this is a trap set by Kain.

Kain approaches, watching with an intense fascination that looks sinister -

RAZIEL

(seeing Kain; agony and betrayal)

You!

RAZIEL

(in agony)

Are you enjoying this, Kain?!

KAIN

(intense)

Don't fight it, Raziel...

KAIN

(intense; urging)

Give in to it...

RAZIEL

(in agony)

Was this your destiny for me, all
along?!

KAIN

(intense; urging)

Trust me...

Raziel cannot hold out any longer; the blade is winning. In agony, he has a final, horrible realization - he is, and always has been, the soul-devouring sentience trapped in the blade. This is his historical destiny; this is where it ends.

RAZIEL V.O.

I felt myself weakening... unable to
hold on any longer.

The Reaver was too strong... the
compulsion to simply let go too
great...

RAZIEL

(agony; his soul is being devoured by the blade)

RAZIEL V.O.

And then... a growing sense of
vertigo, and the familiar
displacement -

- the paradoxical moment when my
twinned soul hovered both *outside* and
inside the Reaver blade...

This was the instant - the *glimmer* of
temporal distortion - Kain had been
counting on all along.

This was the *edge of the coin* - the
minute flicker of probability upon
which Kain had gambled *everything*.

This is the moment - a split-second convergence, a brief temporal distortion - Kain has risked everything for. He lunges in - and, with a massive, history-defying effort, tears the Reaver away from Raziel.

KAIN

(big effort sound)

The Reaver blade, torn from Raziel's grasp, goes flying across the room. Raziel's wraith blade retracts, and Raziel is rescued from the brink of oblivion. He sinks slowly to his knees, almost completely drained.

KAIN

(exhausted, but triumphant)

Now you are free to reclaim your true
destiny, Raziel.

Then, history begins to strain to reshuffle itself - this is almost too much. As events reshuffle themselves, a look of horror begins to dawn on Kain's face. New memories are blooming in his brain, and he realizes he may have just made a terrible mistake -

As history strains to find a course around this new obstruction, Raziel's VO continues -

RAZIEL V.O.

Behind Kain's eyes, I could see new
memories blooming and dying, as
history labored to reshuffle itself
around this monumental obstruction...

And I could see by the dawning horror
on his face that perhaps we had
strained history too far this time...

...that by trying to alter my fate,
he may have introduced a *fatal*
paradox.

Then the reshuffling begins to settle, as history finds its new course. But the horror on Kain's face remains, as he realizes what price he has paid by restoring Raziel's future.

KAIN*(quiet, awestruck horror)*My god... the *Hylden*...

...we walked right into their trap...

Then, with a sudden realization – Kain tries to warn Raziel:

Raziel! Janos must stay dead!

*But Raziel, drained almost to the point of oblivion, is losing consciousness. Already on his knees, he begins to waver out of existence as he sinks into the spectral plane.***RAZIEL V.O.***(foreboding)*

But Kain's warning was lost as I slipped into the spirit realm, too weak to maintain my physical form...

And there, waiting for me as always, was the *Reaver*... the wraith blade - my own soul, twinned and bound eternally to me.

And I realized that I could never escape my terrible destiny...

I had merely *postponed* it.*(then, ominously)**History abhors a paradox.**This is the last paragraph, and the last line, in the game. Therefore it should be delivered with appropriate gravity. The last line can be drawn way out to be a final, punctuating moment.*