

TEASER

OPEN ON

A GOLD STATUE OF ALEXANDER THE GREAT

The 12-foot-tall statue of the young king stands as the centerpiece of a grand hall adorned in a Middle Eastern style.

SUPER TITLE:

EPHESUS (TÜRKIYE) 187 B.C.
15 YEARS AFTER HANNIBAL'S WAR WITH ROME

WIDEN TO REVEAL

Hannibal (52) dining in the torchlit hall with ANTIOCHUS III (40s), a vain, fat king with wavy black hair.

ANTIOCHUS III

(mid-conversation)

It's a problem. The king of Pergamon may attack any day now, and he has an army I can't possibly match. I invited you here hoping you could advise me as to an effective strategy, given my circumstances.

HANNIBAL

You're outnumbered. How badly?

ANTIOCHUS III

Three to one, at least. Perhaps more.

HANNIBAL

You have ships, don't you?

ANTIOCHUS III

Yes, as many as Eumenes himself.

HANNIBAL

Then fight him at sea. Stop his army before it reaches land.

ANTIOCHUS III

What good will that do? I still don't have enough men to win a battle at sea.

Hannibal takes a drinks.

HANNIBAL

Then do without them. Have your people gather as many venomous snakes as

(MORE)

HANNIBAL (CONT'D)

they can and put them into earthen jars. When your enemy comes near, launch the jars onto their ships. Let the serpents be your men.

Antiochuss III laughs.

ANTIOCHUS III

Oh, that's brilliant! Brilliant. What a wonderful mind you have. Who but the great Hannibal would think of such an idea?

Hannibal, immune to flattery, sloughs off the compliment and shoves back his chair to leave.

HANNIBAL

By your leave, King. I think I'll retire. Sharmila is waiting.

ANTIOCHUS III

Oh no, not yet. Please. You mustn't go. I have prepared a surprise for you. I have another guest, one I'm sure you'll want to meet.

Hannibal is intrigue.

Antiochus waves to a servant waiting attentively in the shadows. The man pulls back a purple drapery and

SCIPIO (41)

steps into the light. Older, slightly gray, he strides to the table and takes a seat across from Hannibal.

The two legendary generals take the measure of their great adversary in a moment of marked silence.

DISSOLVE

To a fire burning low, conveying a passage of time.

FIND HANNIBAL AND SCIPIO

still at the table with the king now dozing in his chair.

SCIPIO

Tell me something, Hannibal. In your opinion, who was the greatest general?

HANNIBAL

The greatest?... Alexander.

SCIPIO

Why?

HANNIBAL

Because in most of his battles he fought a superior force, and yet he never lost. He was young, but he was a great tactician, bold and swift. And who can argue with the scope of his conquests.

SCIPIO

And the second greatest?

Hannibal takes a moment.

HANNIBAL

Pyrrhus, for his tactical brilliance and use of terrain.
(quickly adds)
And his ability to inspire his men.

Scipio gives Hannibal a frustrated fixed from-under stare. Dives in deeper for what he hopes to hear.

SCIPIO

And the third?

HANNIBAL

Myself, no doubt.

Scipio, disappointed, sits back in his chair. Speaks matter-of-factly.

SCIPIO

And if I had not defeated you?

HANNIBAL

Oh, then I should be first.

Scipio chuckles at the backhanded compliment and raises a toast to Hannibal.

GO WIDE

To a shot with the aspect of a painting that depicts the two great generals sharing a drink and mutual respect.

DISSOLVE and FADE OUT

END TEASER

Here ends the website excerpt. If you'd like to read the full script contact: johnroyan@tahoefilmgroup.com.