

Screenplay

YASIR (V.O.)
Waking is itself a daily death.

In a mirror we can see Yasir sleeping. He opens his eyes, blinks twice, sees himself with his emerging scars and greying skin and yellowing eyes. He growls, throws a pillow against a wall, and then punches the mirror. Yasir's image in the glass cracks up and down. One by one, we see jagged glass pieces of Yasir fall apart from his face.

YASIR (V.O.)
Every morning since that day I wake
up knowing that I've lost
everything. I spent my youth
yearning for peace, and lost. Then
I found belonging and purpose in
fighting, but in all my
zealousness, I lost that too.

We see Yasir walking toward the kitchen.

YASIR (V.O.)
I am a wretched creature. To the
Israelis I'm a criminal. To my own
people I'm a pariah. My life has
been tragic, absurd.

Yasir picks up a kitchen knife.

YASIR (V.O.)
As a child, I read of King
Sisyphus, who took pleasure in
killing mercilessly to maintain his
power. The gods condemned him to
push a huge boulder up a hill
repeatedly, meaninglessly, for
eternity.

Yasir fingers the knife, running it over his hand, over his arm.

YASIR (V.O.)
Am I he? Holding true to that rock
I formerly called justice?
Steadfastly hoping for a rock of
peace, and ravenously throwing its
fractured pebbles at soldiers doing
nothing more than following orders?

Yasir is cutting into his hand, drawing blood.

YASIR (V.O.)

Amidst the absurd tragedy of it all, I sometimes wonder why I keep on at all. What greater question can there be? Why do we daily choose to live? What point is there, especially when the whole world now wants me dead? What cause do I now have?

He holds the knife to his neck.

YASIR (V.O.)

Failure taught me the absurdity of life. But absurdity taught me to shake my fists at the gods, who think they rule my fate. Each time Sisyphus, that absurd hero, rolled the rock up the hill, it rolled back down, and he was forced to do it again. But I see in him what is now in myself, that triumphal moment of consciousness when he grit his teeth against the heavens, and started his torturous task anew. I am Sisyphus, and today I take up a new rock.