

INFIDEL

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A full-length play

By Christopher Vened

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## CAST OF CHARACTERS

<u>John Norton:</u>	An American anthropologist kidnapped by terrorists
<u>Ahmad:</u>	A museum curator in Baghdad
<u>Amir:</u>	A terrorist who is a Muslim fanatic cleric
<u>Zakir:</u>	A terrorist who kidnaps for profit
<u>Kasim:</u>	An Arabic boy with a streak of cruelty
<u>Jamil:</u>	A confused British boy of Arabic heritage
<u>Myiesha:</u>	A clever Arabic girl with an inner sense of fair-play
<u>Robert Compte:</u>	An American ambassador in Baghdad
<u>The Bull of Heaven:</u>	A primordial monster in Sumerian mythology

## VOICES ON THE PHONE

<u>Kate:</u>	A secretary at the American Embassy
<u>Rebecca:</u>	John Norton's wife

### Scenes

Baghdad Museum  
Cave in the Mountain

### Time

The present.

ACT I

SET UP:

There is an empty stage with a projection screen in the middle that is flanked with two wing curtains.

SCENE 1

(JOHN NORTON, an American anthropologist, photographs statues in the Baghdad Museum, Iraq. He is guided by AHMAD, the museum curator. They stand in the center of the proscenium, and look above the audience.)

AHMAD

Here are the Annunaki, the oldest gods of the world.

(They see imaginary statues behind the audience. JOHN pretends to photograph them. Each time he takes the picture, a real image of the statue appears projected on the screen.)

A) A statue of An is projected on the screen.

AHMAD

(pointing)

This is An, god of sky.

B) A statue of Enlil

AHMAD

(indicates)

This is Enlil, god of air.

C) A statue of Enki

AHMAD

And this is Enki, god of water. Those three are the first triad of Sumerian deities.

D) A statue of Ninhursag

AHMAD

(indicates)

The fourth is Ninhursag, the goddess of the mountain. Now some scholars place her as an equal among An, Enlil, and Enki.

JOHN

Why only now?

AHMAD

To please the feminists, I suppose.

JOHN

Do you mind?

AHMAD

Not at all. After all she was the oldest mother figure in the Mesopotamian pantheon. She was the goddess of birth.

JOHN

Birth of what?

AHMAD

Of everything: plants, animals, humans.

JOHN

Well, so she deserves the honor.

AHMAD

Yes, she does.

JOHN

Let's see the rest of them.

E) A statue of Nanna

AHMAD

Over there is Nanna, god of the moon!

F) A statue of Utu

Next is Utu, god of the sun.

G) A statue of Inanna

AHMAD

And this is Inanna, goddess of love and war.

JOHN

What a contradiction of terms.

AHMAD

Like the cycle of life and death.

JOHN

What period is it?

AHMAD

1800 - 2000 BC.

(They contemplate the art in silence for a while.)

JOHN

Let's go to another room.

AHMAD

Let's go!

(The light and set-up changes. A sculpture of THE BULL OF HEAVEN is revealed upstage center.)

(In this production the Bull of Heaven is represented by a mask/puppet and performed/animated by an actor-mime. He enters during the light change, walks upstage center, and stands there as a statue.)

SCENE 2

SETUP:

Another Museum Room

(Ahmad and John approach a sculpture of the Bull of Heaven in the middle of the room.)

JOHN

What a magnificent creature!

AHMAD

The Great Bull of Heaven.