

CAIRO. SEVERAL YEARS AGO.

MANSHIYAT NASER.  
THE BAD PART OF TOWN.

YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE BROUGHT  
THE BOY, BATMAN. HE MAKES  
THIS SO COMPLICATED.

TOO BAD,  
SCARECROW. WE'RE  
NOT GOING TO LET YOU  
HURT THE PEOPLE OF  
THIS CITY.

THE POOR  
WRETCHES OF THIS  
GHETTO PROCESS THE *FILTH* OF  
TWENTY MILLION EGYPTIANS.  
THEY HAVE NOTHING TO LOSE!

YOU, ON  
THE OTHER  
HAND, HAVE  
SO MUCH  
TO FEAR!

ROBIN!

NO, BATMAN.  
I'M NOT FALLING  
BACK! NOT  
THIS TIME.

PSHHHHH

... THEN  
BRING HIM  
DOWN.





# BATMAN & ROBIN ETERNAL

## THE DYING JOKE

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SORRY, CRANE. NOTHING TO FEAR HERE BUT **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN**.

...UGH...  
...UGH...  
...UGH...



TAKE THE BATWING. GET CRANE BACK TO GOTHAM, ARKHAM WILL HAVE A CELL WAITING.

I'LL FOLLOW AFTER I'VE CLEARED THE CITY OF ANY REMAINING FEAR TOXIN. AND DICK...

I REGRET WHAT I SAID BEFORE.



YOU'RE AN EXCELLENT PARTNER.



Case File #141287.

One day, I hope he understands that wasn't a lie. But no matter how I feel about Robin, he cannot know the truth. He can't be a part of what happens next.

Mother's instructions were explicit and harrowing. A final test to prove my loyalty. The last payment in our deal.



If I'm to have one of her children--a true soldier, my better Robin--I have a dark choice to make.

One way or the other, this ends tonight.



"HOW DO YOU SHAPE A BROKEN MAN..."

"...INTO WHAT HE WAS ALWAYS MEANT TO BE?"



**NOW.**  
**THE SECRET CITY**  
**OF GNOSIS.**  
**THE CHAPEL OF**  
**ST. DUMAS.**




IT WAS  
**JONATHAN CRANE**  
THAT PROVIDED THE  
FIRST STEP.

THOUGH A VILE WOMAN, **MOTHER** SAW HIS FEAR TOXIN'S TRUE NATURE. INJECT **TRAUMA** INTO A CHILD'S LIFE, BATHE THEIR SYNAPSES IN **FEAR**, AND THEN USE HER METAHUMAN **SCULPTOR** TO SHAPE THE SUBJECT INTO A NEW FORM.

THAT WAS HOW **MOTHER'S** CHILDREN WERE BORN. UNTIL SHE REALIZED THAT SHE NEEDED A **BETTER** WAY.

UNTIL  
**ICHTHYS.**



WE BEGAN WITH A NEUROKINETIC BIOPROGRAMMING ALGORITHM. A SIGNAL THAT AGGRESSIVELY STIMULATES THE AREAS OF THE BRAIN THAT INDUCE **AWE**.



**AZRAEL'S WRATH OF GOD.** MY FORCED, FAKE RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE.

CRUDE, **RED ROBIN**, I'LL AGREE. BUT IT WAS JUST THE BEGINNING OF AN **ITERATIVE PROCESS**. A PROTOTYPE WE FOUND USEFUL AS A WEAPON OF **CONVERSION**.

THE **KEY** TO SUCCESS WAS NOT **AWE**.

IT WAS  
**PAIN.**

**THAT** IS WHERE **ICHTHYS** DOES ITS WORK. THE TARGET FACES THEIR GREATEST TRAUMA, BUT RATHER THAN FILLING THEM WITH FEAR, **ICHTHYS** HELPS THEM TO **OVERCOME**. RESHAPES THEM INTO **PERFECT WARRIORS**. **MOTHER'S** ENTIRE PROCESS, IN A SINGLE MOMENT.

THAT IS WHAT YOUR **RED HOOD** IS EXPERIENCING. HIS **BAPTISM**.

DO NOT FEAR FOR HIM, FOR AFTER TODAY...

HE WILL NO LONGER FEAR ANYTHING.

