

PHÒNG CHỜ
(WAITING ROOM)

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1 WHITE SPACE

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ĐẠO (58) sit lay in a hospital bed. There is only his bed in the empty spacious space. He suddenly opens his eyes and breath heavily. Đạo remove his mask and sit up.

ĐẠO
I can breath...

Đạo looks around. He feel his body.

ĐẠO
The pain is gone...

Đạo stand straight up on his bed.

ĐẠO
Oh I am dead...

He looks to his left

- THERE IS A STAIR LEADING UP TO A DOOR.

He looks to his right

- THERE IS A ANOTHER STAIR LEADING DOWN TO A DOOR.

LẠNH
Not dead yet, technically.

Đạo stares straight in front of him. LẠNH(58) sits on a chair in front of the bed - looking just like Đạo.

ĐẠO
Who are you?

LẠNH
People on Earth likes to call me
God.

ĐẠO
Where is this?

LẠNH
Waiting Room.

ĐẠO
Waiting for what?

LẠNH
Verification.

Đạo sit back down.

ĐẠO
But you are God, aren't you?

LẠNH
It's just the name people like to
call.

ĐẠO

So you are not the real God?

LẠNH

You mean the character that can decide everything?

ĐẠO

Yeah that's right.

LẠNH

That character doesn't exist.

Đạo freezes for a bit, then turns around looking at the breathing machine.

ĐẠO

So I am really dead.

LẠNH

Not yet.

Đạo turns back around.

ĐẠO

What do you mean?

LẠNH

Well we just wait... I don't know either.

ĐẠO

Well if you don't know then who does?

LẠNH

No one.

ĐẠO

Well then who are you really?

LẠNH

The character that created me named me Lạnh.

ĐẠO

Why Lạnh?

LẠNH

Because I have no blood.

ĐẠO

So who created you?...
That person must be God, right?
Right? right?
That's it right?

LẠNH

I told you there is no such character.

ĐẠO

Well then you created you?

LẠNH

Why do you want to know that?

ĐẠO

Well at least can you tell me what the hell I am waiting for.

Lạnh crosses his leg and hang one of his hand behind the chair, looking toward Đạo.

LẠNH

Just like an ordinary person, aren't you.

ĐẠO

Hey do you know who I am?

LẠNH

Yeah.

ĐẠO

What ?! How you you know that ?

Đạo stands straight up. Lạnh stays still.

ĐẠO

oh...yeh.... you do know who I am.

Đạo scratches his head. Lạnh crosses his arm and lean back. A little stove appear for him to rest his leg.

LẠNH

Tiền Thế.

ĐẠO

What? What money?

LẠNH

Tiền Thế is the character that created me.

ĐẠO

Oh right.
So I am here waiting for Tiền Thế, right?

LẠNH

No. You are here waiting for verification.

ĐẠO
Verification on what exactly?

LẠNH
Verification to see if you are
really Đạo.

Đạo scratches his head again.

ĐẠO
Well if I am not Đạo then how would
I be here.

LẠNH
It's just procedure. I am just
following order.

ĐẠO
Procedure...

LẠNH
Yeah. Procedure...

Đạo scratches his head again.

ĐẠO
Just like the ordinary, aren't you?

LẠNH
Very different.

ĐẠO
Different how?

LẠNH
It's a vital matter.

ĐẠO
(mumbling)
Seems more like a joke.

Đạo wraps his leg on the bed.

ĐẠO
Well what time is it now?

LẠNH
There is no time here.

ĐẠO
If there is no time, how am I
supposed to wait?

LẠNH
Just wait.

Đạo sit quietly for a bit and points his finger to the stair going up.

ĐẠO
So that stair is leading to heaven
right?

LẠNH
That's right.

ĐẠO
And therefore this one goes hell.
Lạnh nod his head. Đạo looks over to Lạnh.

ĐẠO
What if I just go up there will you
be able to stop me?

LẠNH
Yeah. But I don't have to.

ĐẠO
Why not?

LẠNH
Are you sure that's heaven?

ĐẠO
You just told me that, did you not?

LẠNH
I have never been up there.

Đạo scratches his head again.

LẠNH
Don't you want to live any longer?

ĐẠO
No.

LẠNH
Why not?

ĐẠO
The procedure down there are even
more complex than here.

LẠNH
Oh really?

ĐẠO
Yeah.

LẠNH
Why is that?

ĐẠO
To prevent disorder.

LẠNH
Why would there be disorder?

ĐẠO
Because of money.

LẠNH
That's a shame.

Đạo sits back and pulls the blanket up his chess.

LẠNH
You know, I've never met Tiền Thế.

ĐẠO
The person who created you?

LẠNH
Not a person. A character.

Đạo hesitates a little.

ĐẠO
Down on Earth, we call the people
who created us parents.

LẠNH
I just met a couple of parents.
Right before your case.

ĐẠO
Oh really?... At the same time?

LẠNH
Yeah. At the same time.

ĐẠO
(softly)
May I ask if they went up or down?

LẠNH
They went up.

ĐẠO
Well that's good for them.
But how was it possible for both
person to be here?

Lạnh pull out a piece of paper from his pocket.

LẠNH
Here is the court order - they
murdered their own child.

Đạo looks at Lạnh.

ĐẠO

You must have read that wrong.

Lạnh folds the piece of paper into a plane and throws it to Đạo.

ĐẠO

Well they must have gone to hell for this.

LẠNH

Go down is hell.

ĐẠO

No way that is. This is a serious crime on Earth.

LẠNH

Well, the verification order is never wrong.

ĐẠO

Of course there are mistake! Human always make mistake!

LẠNH

I told you it is not human. It's a character.

ĐẠO

What character?

LẠNH

Tiền Thế is a character.

Đạo stands straight up.

ĐẠO

I am sorry to say this but you are full of shit, sir!
Your whatever character doesn't exists!

(one beat)

Another paper plane falls from above.

LẠNH

Here is your verification order.

ĐẠO

I don't believe you.

LẠNH

It doesn't matter what you believe, procedure must be followed.

ĐẠO

Why would anyone follow such nonsense procedure?

LẠNH

Because at this Waiting Room, Tiền Thế is all powerfull.

ĐẠO

Non-sense!

Lạnh laughs out loud.

ĐẠO

What are you laughing at?

LẠNH

Down on Earth, you don't see it as nonsense then why do you have such attitude here?

ĐẠO

Procedures on Earth are always adjusted and improved to fit the moral of life. How are people who murdered their own child could still get to go up to heaven?

LẠNH

Oh there's way.

ĐẠO

Well then your Tiền Thế is an immoral character!

LẠNH

If I tell you before they died, they were slaves for an anonymous gang that supply children to entertain the upper class then would you say that when they squeeze the kid's nose they were being immoral beings?

Đạo freezes.

Lạnh gets up and picks up the paper plane in front of the bed.

LẠNH (O.S)

It's your turn now, your Honor...

CHÔNG MỜ: