

A X I O M

FADE IN:

INT. CELL

We slowly zoom into the corner of a dark cell, where a rat is sniffing through a pile of rotting food. The rat picks up a chunk of what looks like bread in its teeth and runs away. As we follow the rat along the cell wall, we move up and pass monitors and televisions, bleeping and showing various readouts.

We follow the monitor's wires upwards; they are attached to sensors on the shaven head of a half-naked MAN. He is in his early thirties with a ragged beard and dried blood around his mouth. He is asleep, chained to a metal bed.

o/s:  
CLANG, CLICK!

The MAN's eyes suddenly open and look past us.

The cell door opens. A WOMAN in white enters, followed by a DARK SUITED MAN and a nervous-looking overweight MAN in a grey suit. As the WOMAN in white slams and bolts the door shut, the SUITED MAN sits down in a shadowy corner of the room and removes his sunglasses.

WHITE:  
"Mr Golick, please take a seat"

GOLICK:  
(nervously)  
"Just what am I here to see?"

WHITE:  
"Impulse thought neurone-invasive technology. Please be seated, I will start the demonstration immediately."

GOLICK warily sits down as WHITE moves over to the MAN on the bed. As she switches on various knobs and buttons on the monitors, the MAN begins to shake violently. He SCREAMS.

FADE OUT

CUT IN

INT. TUBE STATION

The lights are dim and some flicker. In the foreground we see a CCTV camera spin around slowly. We focus on its target and we see the MAN walk around a corner carrying a bag. He approaches a wall and empties the bag, from which many spray cans and drawing equipment fall out onto the floor.

We watch as the MAN begins to spray paint the wall. Time is speeded up extremely fast so that we can see the graffiti in progress, and soon we can see the finished piece. It is artistic, detailed and intricate. It reads "ANGER".

FADE OUT

CUT IN

The MAN sits against a wall next to his painting. He is smoking a joint, and as he breathes out the smoke time slows down and the smoke slowly disappears into the air.

FADE OUT

CUT IN

The MAN is leaning against a pillar; we can see his work in the background. He exhales the smoke from the joint and this time lets it drift around his face. He closes his eyes and walks off screen. We can now see written on the pillar, the word "DISCONTENT".

V/O MAN:

"I'm tortured, blind, searching for pieces to fit this infinite jigsaw puzzle of my mind. Confusion runs through my veins, misunderstanding existence, the difference between love and hate. The rhythm of time rolls on, yet I hear no whispers or echoes from the sonic waves tearing apart my life. In a world dictated by rules and limitation, adherence to the heretic's policies halts my self-ascension. On the corporate labelled fame of life's terrain I see no sunrise, only darkness, death, rain. Then suppressed creativity explodes, a ladder of light materialising from a cityscape overcast with dark cloud and thunderous might. "

FADE OUT

CUT IN

INT. CELL

The MAN on the bed is now dribbling and sweating. His eyes are wide open in pain, but he is silent and still. GOLICK looks uneasy and slightly disturbed; he glances across the room at BLACK who has an eerie smile. WHITE puts a hand on GOLICK's shoulder.

WHITE:

"This technology enables us to view the brain patterns of the mentally disturbed... a very useful tool."

GOLICK shakes his head in disbelief. BLACK points his finger at WHITE. She nods and moves over to the monitors. She turns a dial.

FADE OUT

CUT IN

INT. LIBRARY- DAY

The MAN is sitting at a table in the middle of a busy library. Students and business people walk hurriedly around him. The MAN takes some scissors and cuts himself slowly across his knuckles, then licks the blood from his wound.

We see an older gentleman, possibly a professor; walk down the stairs and toward the table where the MAN sits. The Man suddenly gets up and stabs the older man repeatedly with the scissors.

A FLASH

We are back in the library, where this time the professor walks past the table. The Man remains silent, and we tilt over his shoulder to see the piece of paper in front of him. It shows numerous scrawled words but one predominantly: "DESPAIR".

We see a close up of the MAN. He closes his eyes and a tear rolls down his cheek.

FADE OUT

CUT IN

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V/O MAN:

"I'm invisible, a walking shadow of the former. Shadow realm samurais kill whatever good and positive thoughts there were. Spiritual UFO's destroy my senses, distorting my grip on reality, past, present, future tenses. I need my truth solution, the serum I need to shatter the eerie silence that has become my life's pollution. Political corruption blocks the air vents of my mind, and as I fight this life; pyramids of despair lie in front and behind."

FADE OUT

CUT IN

INT. CELL

GOLICK looks confused and his lip is now shaking. BLACK stands up and leans toward the MAN.

GOLICK:

(distressed)

"This... this is way beyond human rights, I want to leave N--"

BLACK:

(interrupting)

"MR GOLICK! I don't think you realise what this means. Please Mrs WHITE, if you would."

GOLICK walks to the door, then turns to face the television as WHITE presses another switch.

A television flickers on.

FADE OUT

CUT IN

EXT. STREET- NIGHT

A figure stands in a dark, empty street surrounded by concrete buildings. He wears a hood that obscures his identity. He sucks on a cigarette which lights up his face. We recognize him as the MAN.

At the other end of the street stand a BUSINESSMAN, holding a briefcase and mobile phone, on which he is talking loudly and laughing. We see the MAN pull from his trousers a sacrificial DAGGER, which glints in the light of the streetlamps.

The MAN begins to run, and his breathing gets LOUDER as he gets closer to the BUSINESSMAN. The BUSINESSMAN notices the MAN running towards him just before he is KICKED hard in the chest, making him fall over and drop his mobile phone and briefcase.

Over the BUSINESSMAN's heaped body see the MAN walk towards him, and as he raises the knife, we pan away to the briefcase on the floor. It has fallen and opened, scattering papers and files everywhere.

FADE OUT

CUT IN

We see the BUSINESSMAN's briefcase. A large word has been typed onto one of the papers. The word is "AXIOM". The MAN emerges from the background, his face splattered with blood. He throws the bloody dagger down a set of stairs, and we watch closely in slow motion as it falls and bounces down the steps.

CROSSFADE

The MAN is sitting on the steps. He closes his eyes and cries.

V/O

"Self manifestations, I am forced through the conventions of normality and become a prism of dark, travelling through time, space, emotions. Soon my elusive affirmation will be complete, my prophecy fulfilled and my theory obsolete. Maybe the eternal peace of nothingness can calm my soul. Maybe some omnipotence has made death my goal."

FADE OUT

CUT IN

INT. CELL

WHITE rips the sensors from the Man's head. BLACK standing over GOLICK, who is clearly upset by what he has just seen.

WHITE:

"We must stop the process now; the test subject is becoming critically unstable"

GOLICK stands, kicking his chair out as he rises.

GOLICK:

(angrily)

"I'm not surprised!! Watching someone's thoughts like that! It's insane! It's also in no way justified and downright immoral! I'm going to report this and ban its use FOREVER!"

BLACK:

(laughing)

"Hah ha! Crime has reached epidemic levels; the public of this country simply want stricter sentences and more people in jail. You really think people believe in "innocent until proven guilty!?" Ridiculous. Those images you just saw were OUR creation. We stimulate the subject's brain with various serums to induce psychotic and aggressive thoughts, and in court we present them as memories. If we believe someone is guilty but we lack the evidence, here is the solution to secure a conviction. Mr Golick, this new development in surveillance will help us dramatically reduce crime levels. Think of the voting power we could harness..."

We see GOLICK reeling after the revelation, and as he looks at the MAN, we zoom in slowly over his shoulder to the MAN's face. The look of horror on his face is evident. We pass his head and turn away to the heart/pulse monitors. The line goes flat with a beep.

FADE OUT

FADE IN

White text on a black background:

**“a’xiom:** n Self evident truth; established principle; (geom) theorem.”

FADE OUT