

LIBRARY : INT : NIGHT

where professor Larsen plays chess with his assistant Dr. Krishna.

PROFESSOR LARSEN is an old man. The type of Adenauer. Alert, active, and with an inner drive.

DR KRISHNA comes from India. Olive skin and a pitchblack beard. A face which seems to conceal a secret. While he considers the chess game, his hand fingers a string of amber pearls.

Professor Larsen is so deeply concentrated on his move that he is not aware of the entrance of his guests. Adams has to call his attention.

ADAMS

Do we disturb, professor?

LARSEN

(without looking up)

You do. This is a critical move, Doctor Krishna is pretty sure he's won the game.

KEN

We are concerned about your safety, professor.

LARSEN

Ha! ... The new secret agent! The government should send me money. Then I wouldn't have to depend on private funds.

ADAMS

Your enterprise might be privately financed. But your tests take place on British territory. We are responsible for the consequences.

KEN

We have reason to suspect some security leaks in your experiments.

DR KRISHNA

And you want to find the leak with us?

KEN

I didn't say that.

DR KRISHNA

But that's what you thought.

KEN

Are you a mind reader, doctor Krishna?

LARSEN

Before doctor Krishna became a physicist, he was a mystic. Studied human radiation, telepathy, thought transference.

ADAMS

(somewhat impatient)

It would be a great help for the major if you could grant him an inside look.

LARSEN

(a sarcastical smile)

This could be managed. He wouldn't understand, anyway.

The professor opens a BAROQUE CLOSET which hides a door. He presses a button and ---

AN ELEVATOR : INT : NIGHT

opens. They enter the lift and sink down. The depth and the speed are indicated by the needle of a MANOMETER.

Ken watches the needle. Then, surprised:

KEN

We are below sea level

DR KRISHNA

(a smile)

The best place for a secret laboratory.

The elevator stops. The door opens and they enter --

PROFESSOR LARSEN'S SECRET LABORATORY : INT : NIGHT

White tiles. Gleaming chromium. Switchboards and electrical devises. A temple of technique.

In front of a folding wall the professor stops.

LARSEN

Entrance to the pipe tunnel.
Which leads to the steel vault.
Please wait here.

The professor disappears behind the folding wall. Ken looks puzzled after him. Dr. Krishna is ready to explain.

DR KRISHNA
Nobody may be with him if the professor opens the vault. He alone knows the combination.

KEN
Not even you, doctor Krishna?

DR KRISHNA
Nobody. And the lock is constructed in a way that any tampering with it would automatically destroy the mirror.

We hear from the tunnel --

LARSEN'S VOICE
Now you may follow, gentlemen.

Dr. Krishna pushes the folding wall aside and they enter the --

PIPE TUNNEL : INT : NIGHT

At the far end professor Larsen has already opened the round safe-door. Without a word they enter the --

STEEL VAULT : INT : NIGHT

where the Death-Mirror is mounted on a rotating disk adjustable in all directions and angles.

For the laymen, the mirror looks like a mixture of a telescope and radar.

The professor grants his guests a moment for silent admiration. Then:

LARSEN
The operation room. Fifty meters below the surface. With the help of this periscope-like axis we can lift the mirror above sea level. And this sphaeroid-computer enables us to set the projector at any target.

He points to a globe formed of steel rings. The contours of the continents are indicated. Little light bulbs mark important points.

Larsen demonstrates with a certain pride:

LARSEN

The model of our planet. Combined with an electronic brain, A push on the button -- and the mirror is in focus.

The professor presses several buttons and on the globe different cities light up.

LARSEN

(continues)

London ... Paris ... New York ...
Moskow ... Peking ... Roma ...
Would be the mirror in action all those cities would simply evaporate.

KEN

Sounds like utopia.

LARSEN

Some of todays utopia are facts.

There is silence. Dr. Krishna looks for away while his fingers play with the amber perls. Then:

DR KRISHNA

He who owns this weapon owns the world.

KEN

(surprised)

Exactly what I wanted to say. You are a mind reader, doctor Krishna. You have a sixth sense.

DR KRISHNA

(modest)

Matter of training.

KEN

And how long takes such a training?

DR KRISHNA

About five- to six-thousand years.