

~~SECRETARY~~

~~Mr Jensen will see you now.~~

~~HOWARD~~

~~Thank you.~~

2.9. VALLHALLA

*Jensen's room - more like a cathedral than an office.
Howard comes in. Footsteps echo. He can't see Jensen in
the gloaming anyway Jensen has his back to us.*

JENSEN

Mr Beale.

*Then he switches on the lights, a spot light lights
Jensen on his seat. Jensen decorously clears his throat
then stands up.*

JENSEN (CONT'D)

You have meddled with the primal forces
of nature, Mr Beale and I won't have it.
Is that clear? You think you have merely
stopped a business deal - that is not the
case. The Arabs have taken billions of
dollars out of this country and now they
must put it back. You are an old man who
thinks in terms of nations and peoples.
There are no nations. There are no
peoples.

(MORE)

JENSEN (CONT'D)

There is only one holistic system of systems, one vast imane, interwoven, interacting, multi-variate, multi national dominion of dollars. Petro dollars, electro dollars, multi dollars, Reichmarks, rubles, pounds and shekkels. It is the international system of currency that determines the totality of life upon this planet. That is the natural order of things. And you have meddled with the primal forces of nature and you will atone. Am I getting through to you, Mr Beale? You get up on your little twenty-one inch screen, Mr Beale, and howl about America and democracy. There is no America. There is no democracy. There is only IBM and AT&T and Ford and General Electric, Union Carbide, Exxon. Those are the nations of the world today. What do you think the Russians or the Chinese talk about in their councils of state? Karl Marx? They compute the price-cost probabilities of their transactions and investments just like we do. We no longer live in a world of nations and ideologies, Mr Beale. The world is a college of corporations, inexorably determined by the immutable by-laws of business. The world is a business, Mr Beale. It has been that way since man crawled out of the slime. And our children, Mr Beale, will live to see that perfect world without war or famine, oppression or brutality - one vast and ecumenical holding company, for whom all men will work to serve a common profit, in which all men will hold a share of stock, all necessities provided, all anxieties tranquilized, all boredom amused.

Howard is in awe.

JENSEN (CONT'D)

And I have chosen you to preach this evangel.

Pause.

HOWARD

Why me?

JENSEN

Because you're on television, dummy.

HOWARD

I just saw the face of God.