Arabesque 1 by Claude Debussy

Video length: 05:05

Long ago, in the dark ages of Iraq, (00:12)

before there ever was a Persian Empire, (00:16)

there stood a mighty city on the Euphrates. (00:19)

Its name was Babylon. (Ba- on 00:22) (-by- on 00:22) (-lon on 00:23)

Prince Niiqquulamuusu could not focus on his clay scratching, or (00:28)

on his beer drinking, because he only had eyes for a lovely young lady, Gemegishkirihallat. (00:36)

All seemed fine and well, however. (00:40)

But (00:42)

one day, the hill-utukki captured her and took her to his hill, which was named Hill-utukki Hill. (00:49)

The Prince knew what to do. (00:52)

He suited up and left, after eating a leg of mutton without utensils. (01:01)

Much (01:13)

to the prince's dismay, there were no enemies to vanquish along the way. (en- at 01:18) How boring. (01:26)

The journey was long and bitter. (01:31)

The prince once had to rest in the shade, and twice got REALLY thirsty, (01:36)

but finally he made it all the way to Kish, a full twenty minutes away by horseback. (01:42)

Prince (01:45)

Niiqquulamuusu entered (01:47)

the city. (01:48)

He knew not where to look. (01:53)

Being Arab, (01:54)

he knew only how to fight (01:58)

and to ferment barley. (02:01)

So he decided to ask a passer-by. (02:04)

But here, the people had a strange language, and (02:08)

strange customs, and produced strange odors. (02:11)

The prince didn't understand his answer: (02:14)

"Gilgamesh and Enkidu at Uruk." (02:18)

With the inquisitiveness of a scholar, the prince asked: (02:22)

"What?" (02:23)

The man replied: (02:25)

"Kashtubila, when the walls fell." (02:29)
[walks away]

The prince was quite puzzled, until a kindly stranger offered unto him sage advice: (02:35)

"Hey, genius! Why don't you look for the hill-utukki inside the ONE freaking hill in all of Babylonia?" (ONE on 02:40)

The prince thanked this helpful man and set off. (02:48)

He found the hill at long last. (He on 02:53)

He raised his head and shouted: (02:57)

"Thank you, Ki! Praise to you, my glorious barbarian earth goddess!" (03:02)

He presently ascended the hill. (03:05)

When he came to an opening he stepped into the spooky cave. (03:12)

Spooooooooky! Oooooooooh! (03:18)

The hill-utukki jumped out and shouted (03:20)

"Bloody grody gross and blood!" or something like that. (03:24)
[The utukki flails around in a ridiculous attempt to be scary.]

[Cut to the prince, whose expression suggests boredom.]
I think it was "guts." (03:26)

Anyway, (03:27)

the prince knew that the hill-utukki was very forgetful. (03:32)

"How?" asked an audience member. (03:33)

Uh, he learned it in elementary school... probably. (03:36.5)

So (03:37)

the prince held his chin high and said "Aren't you forgetting your dentist appointment?" (03:42)

The hill-utukki shouted "Oh, yeah! (03:45)

How could I forget?" and ran out of the cave. (03:48)

The prince took Gemegishkirihallat in his arms and left. (03:54)

The hill-utukki was halfway to Kish (04:00)

when he exclaimed "Wait! I don't even have teeth! (04:04)

I kidnapped that girl so she could chew my food for me!" (04:09)

But when he got back, it was too late. (04:17)

[cut to prince carrying G. through city gates to tall arpeggio]
And when the prince and his love returned home, (04:25)

[show prince and G. in great hall. Everyone is drinking beer.]
they married. (04:28)

It was a grand occasion and all of Babylon joined in. (04:32)

And (04:37)

they both lived joyfully perpetually following that. (04:42)


The End (04:44)

[Fade out on penultimate chord]

[Fade in to poetry hall on ultimate chord]


After audience stands up, party stands around discussing it. Eskandar asks "Are the Arabs really like that?" Ahmad says "Certainly not." Paris says "Most of what we think we know of other cultures comes from stories and centuries-long prejudices." Dara says "Most Persians are still bitter about the Arabic takeover of Persia 300 years ago." Ahmad says "Even though Perisa took over Arabia prior to that." Dara says "I know, I'm just saying, is all."