

Encapsulated Season 5 - Episode 5

FADE IN:

Cue opening logo and theme song for the game show:
Who Wants to be a Deity?

Note: the format, music, setting, and layout are identical
to *Who Wants to be a Millionaire?*

INT. MAIN STUDIO - DAY

The audience cheers as the camera zooms in on the host,
who's sitting with their back to the camera. They have
shoulder-length blonde hair.

The host turns around - it's Gabriel. With a wig.

GABRIEL

Hello, I'm Gabriel Vieira, and welcome back to
Who Wants to be a Deity?

The audience cheers, and he smiles at the camera.

Note: he's pretending to be Meredith Vieira, in case that
wasn't abundantly clear.

GABRIEL

Let's meet today's contestants, shall we?

The camera cuts to the five remaining humans, who smile
excitedly at the camera as Gabriel lists their names.

GABRIEL

We have with us in the studio today: Savitri,
Helena, Mike, Jorge, and Nate.

Back to Gabriel.

GABRIEL

Now, you all are competing to be God. And if
you're going to be God, you should know what's
happening on Earth. Wouldn't you all agree?

The audience claps in agreement - Gabriel flashes his impression of Meredith's signature smile.

GABRIEL

So, each contestant will have a chance to answer questions about culture, geography, religion, history, politics, music, art... And whoever has the lowest score, unfortunately, will be sent back to Earth.

He pouts, the audience 'awww's'.

GABRIEL

I know, I know. But let's keep it positive, shall we? Because the other contestants will be one step closer to becoming God. Now THAT is worth getting excited about!

The audience cheers, he smiles again.

GABRIEL

Let's get started with our first contestant!

More cheering, cue theme music. Meanwhile, one of the angel technicians prompts Jorge to go up to the hot seat.

The other humans cheer for him - they're all sitting near the edge of the main stage area, with Pearl behind them, watching excitedly but also nervously...

Jorge is grinning as he looks around the room and spins in the chair. Gabriel chuckles to himself.

GABRIEL

Please welcome our youngest contestant: Jorge!

The crowd cheers for him. He's still trying to process all the lights and sounds, but he seems mostly comfortable.

GABRIEL

Glad to have you with us, Jorge. You excited to be on the show?

(Jorge nods and grins)

Alright. Let's go over the rules first.

Cut to a split screen, showing Gabriel/Jorge on one side, and a list of dollar amounts/lifelines on the other.

GABRIEL

So how this works, Jorge, is that we'll ask fifteen questions. You'll have three lifelines.

(they light up as he explains them)

You have 'ask the audience', '50-50', and 'phone a friend'. Make sense?

(Jorge nods)

Anything you want to say before we start?

(no response)

Maybe tell us a little about yourself?

Jorge pauses, then shakes his head 'no'. Everyone laughs.

GABRIEL

You're just ready to go, aren't you?

(Jorge nods enthusiastically)

Audience, are you ready?

(they cheer)

Let's play *Millionaire*. I mean *Deity*.

They laugh as the lights dim. Begin the first-round music.

GABRIEL

Alright, Jorge. For \$100.

(the question appears on screen)

Which of the following is NOT one of the gospels of the New Testament? Is it:

A: The Gospel of John?

B: The Gospel of Luke?

C: The Gospel of FRED?

(Jorge giggles, the audience laughs)

Or D: The Gospel of Matthew?

JORGE

Fred!

GABRIEL

Is that your final answer?

(Jorge nods)

You're absolutely right! It is not FRED.

Everyone laughs again. Jorge smiles and looks back towards the other contestants proudly. They all smile and applaud, and he turns back to Gabriel.

GABRIEL

For \$200. Famous for their golden arches, which fast-food restaurant has the most locations worldwide? Is it:

A: Subway?
B: McDonald's?
C: Burger King?
Or D: KFC?

JORGE

McDonald's!

GABRIEL

Right again, Jorge. You're on a roll!
(everyone claps)

For \$300. What is the largest planet in the solar system? Is it:

A: Saturn?
B: Mars?
C: Earth?
Or D: Jupiter?

Jorge thinks it over for a second, but he's confident in his answer.

JORGE

Jupiter!

GABRIEL

Final answer?

(Jorge nods)

Yes, of course it's Jupiter!

(Jorge grins)

Doing okay, Jorge?

JORGE

Yeah! Let's keep going!

The audience laughs as he bounces in his chair.

GABRIEL

Yes, let's! For \$500. Who plays Number 6 for the LA Lakers, and is the highest paid-

JORGE

LEBRON JAMES!

Gabriel is startled, everyone laughs.

GABRIEL

You sure it's LeBron? I haven't even listed all the options yet!

(Jorge nods excitedly)

Well, you're absolutely right! It is LeBron!

(they all cheer)

You're getting ahead of me, Jorge. Gonna put me out of a job!

(they all laugh)

Alright. For \$1000. Let's see how well you know your home country. Which river forms the border between Mexico and Texas?

A: The Amazon River?

B: The Rio Grande?

C: The Colorado River?

D: The Nile?

JORGE

Umm... It's the second one.

GABRIEL

The Rio Grande? Is that your final answer?

(Jorge nods)

Well, Jorge... You've just won \$1000!

The music turns triumphant as the audience cheers, and the lights go up for a moment.

Jorge is ecstatic - once again, he looks back over at the other contestants. Meanwhile, Gabriel takes off his wig, and pulls out a check for \$1000 from the monitor stand in front of him.

Note: Gabriel is no longer doing a Meredith impression, he's back to his usual self.

GABRIEL

Alright everyone, time to get serious.

(they settle down)

Now, Jorge, I have here a check for \$1000.

Because that's how the show works on Earth.

(he puts the check back)

But we're not really playing for money, it's-

It's just to make the show seem more fun.

(Jorge seems confused)

The real prize-

JORGE

Wait but why not?

GABRIEL

Well, the real prize is that you could be GOD.

Remember? That's what this is all about.

(Jorge nods tentatively)

Right? That's what all this is for.

JORGE

Oh, right!

GABRIEL

I just don't want you to get your hopes up that you're actually winning this money. It's like - it's like pretend money. Like when you play Monopoly or something.

(Jorge nods understandingly)

Got it? Excellent. So tell us, Jorge. If you get chosen to be God, what'll you do as God?

JORGE

Umm... I'd help everybody and stop bad guys!

GABRIEL

Help everybody and stop bad guys! I love it!

(the audience cheers)

Well Jorge, you're doing great so far. Let's see how many more questions you can get through.

Sound good?

Jorge nods. Gabriel turns to the audience with a smile.

GABRIEL

We ready, audience?

(they all cheer)

I thought so.

(he looks back at the camera)

Showtime.

The lights go down. Cue the more ominous theme music, which continues in the background for each question.

GABRIEL

Alright, Jorge. For \$2000 FAKE dollars.

(Jorge nods)

Which document, written in 1215, would become a pivotal reference point for modern government and democracy?

Was it A: The Declaration of Independence?

B: The Code of Hammurabi?

C: The 95 Theses?

D: The Magna Carta?

Jorge has no idea. He looks around nervously, and focuses on Mike, who's nodding encouragingly.

GABRIEL

Any ideas for what it might be?

(Jorge shakes his head 'no')

Do you want to use a lifeline?

(Jorge nods)

Which one? Ask the audience? Phone a friend?

JORGE

Yeah, I wanna call Mike.

GABRIEL

You wanna call Mike. Mike, the-

(Gabriel is confused)

You mean, the contestant Mike? The one sitting over there?

(Jorge nods and smiles)

Sure! Let's see if we can call Mike.

After a few seconds, there's the sound of a phone dialing. While it dials, a few angel technicians are scrambling to get a phone over to Mike.

Gabriel is very nonchalant about all this, and Pearl is puzzled why they don't just ask Mike, since he's sitting right there... But she goes along with it nonetheless.

Finally, Mike answers (from ten feet away). His voice fills the studio.

MIKE

Mike here.

GABRIEL

Hey, Mike. This is Gabriel, with Who Wants to be a Deity. How's it going?

MIKE

A little convoluted, but otherwise good.

Everyone laughs, including Gabriel.

GABRIEL

That's great, Mike. I'm here with Jorge, and he- He's a bit stuck. He's going for \$2000, and he needs your help on this next question.

MIKE

I'd be happy to help.

GABRIEL

Alright. Jorge, you have thirty seconds, and your time starts now.

Jorge doesn't say anything, nor does he have to.

MIKE

Hey buddy, it's D, the Magna Carta.

JORGE

Okay. D.

The call ends. Gabriel looks at him skeptically.

GABRIEL

Is that your final answer?

(Jorge nods)

You trust Mike?

(Jorge nods and smiles)

Well... Mike certainly knows his history. It IS the Magna Carta. You just won \$2000!

Jorge grins, the audience cheers, then the lights go down and the music intensifies.

GABRIEL

Moving up to \$4000. Which of these superheroes is part of the DC universe?

(Jorge's eyes light up)

You a big fan of comics?

JORGE

Yeah!!

GABRIEL

Perfect! Then this should be easy. Is it:

A: Superman?

B: Batman?

C: Spiderman?

D: Aquaman?

Jorge's smile fades. His brow furrows.

JORGE

Wait... Hmm...

GABRIEL

You seem stumped.

JORGE

Wait, you said, so which of them IS part of DC...

Wait, hmm... shouldn't it be, NOT DC?

GABRIEL

I don't- I don't follow.

Jorge is deeply puzzled as he talks it over.

JORGE

Yeah. Because Superman is DC, and Batman, AND Aquaman, they're the Justice League... So they're ALL DC, but Spiderman is Marvel.

GABRIEL

Okay, but the question is: which of them is part of the DC universe? Not the Marvel universe.

JORGE

Yeah. But Spiderman is the only... Wait...

(he's trying to explain it)

It's not, because only one is Marvel, and three are DC, so it's not-

GABRIEL

You're saying THREE of them are DC characters?

(Jorge nods)

But the question is, which of these superheroes is part of the DC universe?

JORGE

Yeah. All of them, but not Spiderman, because he's Marvel.

GABRIEL

But you have to pick ONE.

JORGE

But it's not one. It's three. I don't-

(he's confused)

Do you mean which one is MARVEL?

GABRIEL

Nope, which one is DC. That's the question.

Jorge is starting to breathe faster, and he's getting visibly upset from the confusion.

JORGE

But three of them are DC, so there's not- because they're ALL DC, except Spiderman, but the other three are Justice League, it's DC...

He looks at the other candidates for help, but Gabriel refocuses his attention.

GABRIEL

Jorge, no asking for help. You need to do this on your own, unless you use a lifeline, then-

JORGE

But three of them are DC!

(he thinks it over some more)

Yeah. It should be, which one is MARVEL.

GABRIEL

But that's not the question.

JORGE

But it doesn't-

(he's starting to tear up)

It doesn't make sense! I don't get it. It's-

GABRIEL

The question is right, Jorge. Which of these superheroes is part of the DC universe?

JORGE

Three of them! Batman, Superman, and Aquaman. Can I pick all of them?

GABRIEL

No, you have to pick one.

Jorge's trying not to cry, but he's very confused, and the other contestants are starting to get uncomfortable.

JORGE

But there's ONE Marvel and THREE DC, so it doesn't make sense!

GABRIEL

The question is: which of these superheroes is part of the DC universe?

JORGE

Can I pick three of them?

GABRIEL

Jorge, we've been over this. You can pick ONE.

Jorge takes a few deep breaths.

JORGE

But there's not... They're all...
(he's fighting back tears)
I don't... That, that doesn't...

He looks back at the other candidates, who all seem sympathetic to his struggle. Then back to Gabriel, who is completely straight-faced.

GABRIEL

So what are you going to pick?

HELENA

Jesus Christ, give him a different question!

GABRIEL

I'm sorry, I'm gonna have to ask the audience to stay silent.
(he looks intensely at Jorge)
Pick one.

Jorge is starting to cry now.

JORGE

I think it's supposed to be Spiderman.
(he's struggling)
Because he's the one by himself.

GABRIEL

So is that your final answer?

JORGE

I don't know...

He looks back at the contestants, then braces himself.

JORGE

Spiderman. I'm picking Spiderman.

He looks anxiously at Gabriel. Gabriel pauses, then his face drops.

GABRIEL

No, Jorge, I'm sorry... You could have said Superman, Batman, or Aquaman, any of those picks would have been correct.

Jorge is sobbing now.

JORGE

But you said pick one! You said ONE!

GABRIEL

I didn't say there was JUST one answer.

JORGE

But, but that's not-

HELENA

Alright, enough. Stop! STOP!

She storms into the center and embraces Jorge.

HELENA

It's okay. You had it right. You're okay.

JORGE

He said to pick one...

HELENA

I know. It's not your fault.

Mike also joins her onstage and glares at Gabriel.

MIKE

What is wrong with you?

GABRIEL

It's part of the game. It's a trick question, designed to-

MIKE

He's SEVEN, for Christ's sake!

GABRIEL

I don't really care how old he is. This is how the process works.

(he stares back at Mike)

If he wants the job, he will have to deal with FAR more complicated situations than that.

MIKE

Then why even pick him? Or ANY kid? They're not-

(he scoffs at Gabriel)

Does this- does he mean ANYTHING to you?

HELENA

Jorge, sweetie?

(he's still crying)

Do you want to go back home? To your family?

He nods and sobs even harder. Mike is fuming.

MIKE

This is child abuse.

GABRIEL

He was free to leave when he got here.

MIKE

He shouldn't have been chosen at ALL.

HELENA

Send him back home.

(she motions for Pearl to join them)

Now. Take him back home. This is enough.

Pearl tentatively walks towards them, but Gabriel stares intensely at her to stop.

GABRIEL

He's not going anywhere.

(he turns to Helena)

We need to follow the process. If we don't-

HELENA

Send him home. Now.

GABRIEL

Not until everyone else has had their turn.

HELENA

NOW!

GABRIEL

Or what?

Mike steps closer to Gabriel, while Helena leads Jorge over to Pearl and the others. The room is silent.

MIKE

Or we quit.

GABRIEL

You can't quit now.

MIKE

Yeah? Why not?

GABRIEL

It's not how this works.

MIKE

That's not my problem.

He walks away and joins the rest of the candidates.

MIKE

Alright, I guess we're all quitting.

HELENA

Fine with me.

SAVITRI

And me. I'm with them, this isn't worth it.

Nate nods in agreement, and turns toward Gabriel.

NATE

And you wonder why people hate religion.

(he scoffs at him)

Sadist...

They all try to leave, but several security guards are blocking the exit. Gabriel glares at them.

GABRIEL

We need. To follow. The process.

PEARL

No we don't, Gabriel. We built the process, so, we can decide NOT to follow it.

GABRIEL

But it works! It WORKS!

PEARL

Does it? This counts as it 'working'?

(she sighs in resignation)

Fine. They just won't play. We'll waste all this valuable time because the 'process' says so.

Gabriel keeps staring at her. Finally, he concedes.

GABRIEL

Fine. Send him home. Round is over. Happy?

He motions for the guards to let them out. Pearl and the five candidates leave. Gabriel calls out after them.

GABRIEL

Don't blame me if it all goes to SHIT!

(he shouts louder)

WE CANNOT CHANGE THE RULES EVERY TIME YOU DON'T
FUCKING AGREE WITH THEM!

He looks around at the speechless audience.

GABRIEL

WHAT ARE YOU ALL LOOKING AT?? **HUH?!**

He kicks over the monitor stand, then throws his chair angrily against the wall.

GABRIEL

WHY ARE YOU ALL STILL HERE? **GET THE HELL OUT!!**

INT. BLANK WHITE HALLWAY

Pearl is leading the others down a winding corridor.
Helena is still consoling Jorge.

HELENA

Don't worry, you're going back home soon.

PEARL

You're not going to remember any of this. Okay?

HELENA

Yep. And it'll all go back to normal

They stop in front of a large gray door. Pearl enters a combination code on the keypad, and it whirs open.

PEARL

Alright, you're sure you want to go home?

(Jorge snuffles and nods)

Okay. You want to say goodbye to everyone?

Jorge quickly hugs Helena and Savitri, then fist-bumps Nate and Mike.

HELENA

This'll all be over soon.

SAVITRI

Mm-hmm. You'll be back with your family before you know it.

NATE

Take care, bro.

MIKE

Hey, keep up that defense work. You'll be the next Ronaldo.

This makes Jorge smile. He hugs Mike tightly.

MIKE

You'll be fine. I'll miss you too, buddy.

Finally, he goes over to Pearl, who's waiting at the threshold of the door.

PEARL

Alright, you ready?

(Jorge nods)

Mm-kay. Here we go.

They all wave goodbye to Jorge, then watch quietly until the door closes behind him and Pearl.

FADE OUT.