

## **“Statue of Gudea” video transcription**

**We see the *Venus de Milo*, then the *Winged Victory of Samothrace*.**

[Narrator]

Time takes its toll on artworks made of stone: the *Venus de Milo* lost her arms, and the *Winged Victory of Samothrace* lost her head.

**The silhouette of a statue of a seated man appears. Three men approach it bearing weapons and swing at the statue until it falls and breaks. The statue’s head comes off.**

[Narrator]

But every statue of the poet-king Gudea...

**We see a close-up of the headless statue. It is made of diorite—a very hard, black stone with a green hue. The figure wears a long tunic over one shoulder, leaving the other arm exposed. The hands are clasped together and the feet are bare.**

[Narrator]

had its head chopped off deliberately, to erase all memory of his existence.

**An older man with a white beard wearing an elegant, pale suit, a hat, and leather boots appears. Looking at the statue, he seems mystified.**

[Narrator]

In 1877, an archaeologist found the headless statue of a king; many heads and bodies from this period had been found, but none of them matched.

**A number of sculpted heads appear above the body but none fit quite right.**

**We see another man—with a brown moustache, wearing a blue shirt—kneeling on the ground. At his feet, a sculpted, diorite head sticks out of the sand.**

[Narrator]

26 years later, *another* archaeologist found a head that yet *another* archaeologist fitted onto the body that had been found in 1877.

**In 1903, another man brings the two parts of the statue together. It is whole again at last!**

[Narrator]

This is the only complete statue of King Gudea, who lived twenty-two centuries before the Christian era.