

Title: GODS OF THE SUN, part 1.3 - Manipulating the meme stock narrative, RC's "Sears" tweet, Vulture Funds, Apollo Global Management, who Adam Aron really is, Epstein, Goldman Sachs, and the TOTAL ECLIPSE of the SUN. (Wow, eh?)

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Hey apes.

tldr: this post dives deeper into the bullshit.

Welcome to GOTS 1.3 and thanks for getting this far. We've found Epstein together, we've found his Apollo Global connection, the firm Adam Aron has been part of for 30 years, and we've discussed RC possibly pointing us toward the presence of so many Wall Street vulture funds lined up to pillage main street that it's absolutely disgusting. We've also seen the totality of market media FUD campaigns, FUD that seems to permeate the entire stock market conversation. We then drove this point home by exploring media coverage on Yahoo of Leon Black's Epstein relationship before and after Apollo Global leveraged \$5 billion to buyout Verizon, Yahoo's parent company. And why did we get to do this analysis? New r-ape allegation against Leon Black.

Is any of it real? Or is it all just Motley Hedge Fund bullshit where market media outlets flog their own positions in the markets or the positions of the banks and hedge funds that own them as if giving real market analysis to retail investors. Imagine. These Wall Street motherfuckers are literally destroying main street because company bankruptcy is lower risk than pursuing real and sustainable company success by innovating and developing an actual plan. And these are the people who go before congress to field questions about how to help main street and retail investors. Apollo Global even [contributed \$23,805 dollars to representative Maxine Waters in 2020](<https://www.opensecrets.org/members-of-congress/contributors?cid=N00006690&cycle=2020&recs=100&type=C>) to make sure we have the privilege. That puts a new slant on a certain congressional hearing, doesn't it?

I remember when we were so scared that talking to each other about stocks might be coordination or investment advice. And speaking of which... I make a wild date prediction at the end of this post that's meant to be fun. Don't take it seriously. It's not financial advice. I don't know wen moon, apes. Sorry.

Something curious did happen, though; this article from Fox Business hit the news about the [SEC considering 'gamification' regulations aimed at pushing paternalistic stewardship of retail investors](<https://www.foxbusiness.com/markets/sec-gamestop-amc-stock-gamification-crackdown-regulatory>) today, shortly after we started looking at this mess together. From the article:

>SEC officials have discussed whether they could impose upon brokerages, such as Robinhood, a regulation that could force the firms to warn investors about the pitfalls of buying these risky stocks before a trade is completed.

And:

>[Gary Gensler] has suggested that one way to deal with the "gamification" of trading epitomized in the wild run-ups in shares like AMC and GameStop is to force these brokers to act more like fiduciaries as opposed to passive trading platforms that merely process trades

That pairing of AMC and GameStop in the FUD narrative again... and finally,

>By imposing the regulation, known as "Regulation Best Interest" (Reg BI), Robinhood would have to "step in" and warn investors about the risk of trading some of these stocks, said one person with knowledge of Gensler's thinking. The SEC has begun to scrutinize the wild trading in shares of the meme names which only last year were trading as penny stocks.

Something to recognize first is that no part of this Fox article contains direct quotes from Gary Gensler. I think I counted 3 instances of "someone familiar with Gary's thoughts" so it's very suspect as to whether or not this regulatory plan is what's on Gensler's mind. However, we'll bulldoze through this FUD masterpiece because it's important (seeing this article today, I'm actually going to dedicate a full post to it asap. I didn't expect this "regulate the memers" push to hit media cycles this quickly).

Why should apes be concerned?

Give these Wall Street guys an inch, they'll take a mile. They have shown that over and over again. We're not the problem here. We know the market is a casino. We meme about it. We got to this point because we made losing money in a rigged game fun. So it's Wall Street that profits from pretending the market isn't a casino, and they rig the game. We're just being waved around like a smokescreen because most of the general public is still mystified by big finance and believes the FUD.

Why should apes be upset by this kind of projection?

We didn't cause the problems on Wall Street.

However, we have suffered the problems Wall Street creates.

We're attempting to deal with these problems in large part because the SEC has had Wall Street's thumb so far up its ass for so long they seem to think it's us that enjoys it, not them.

And remember, regulatory capture, we're the competition, and an ex-SEC commissioner replaced Leon Black on Apollo's board after he got skidded for paying Jeffrey Epstein \$158 million for god knows what.

My goodness. How embarrassing. The fact that these people have the hubris to show up to congress without shame on their faces... that's all we need to know about them to know the score.

And this "Regulation Best Interest"... riddle me this: best interest? Who's? And who would we trust to tell us what to buy and sell anyway? The SEC that has shown for decades that it regulates to help big finance at the expense of the apes whose tax dollars pay their SEC wages and the big finance bailouts when irresponsible and/or sinister sector crushing Wall Street yolos blow up? The hedge funds and banks that profit obscenely into tax concessions by bankrupting the companies apes rely on to support our families and communities? The market media that lies to us and misrepresents every story they touch because they have a vested financial interest in their own market investments? Or maybe we should trust the brokerages that took away our buy buttons in January and then advertised to us in April, "remember, apes, we didn't take away your sell buttons?"

Yeah. We remember.

So who do we trust?

And again, we know it's a casino, you Wall Street assholes. You've proved it. And you have no credibility because you pretend otherwise. None. And you don't deserve any.

So do your job, Gary. Or gtfo. You're not new. You've been deep in the game for decades. And your job is to regulate Wall Street. Start doing that, then come ask apes what we think might help make the markets a bit safer for everyone involved, especially considering that none of us whined for bailouts in January when Marge called and brokers stole our shares after cheating us out of a fairly won short squeeze because Wall Street fucked up.

I'm teetering on the edge of going full Bill Burr here, apes... so let's just look deeper into how corrupt Adam "Wall Street" Aron is and how dirty this AMC set up charade should probably look to you.

Let's go.

****ADAM ARON, APOLLO, B RILEY, GOLDMAN SACHS, AND AMC****

How deep do Adam Aron's Apollo Global ties go?

Deep.

And the ties might further indicate an incredible scam being pulled on retail with AMC.

We'll go quickly.

Here's [an article about Adam Aron getting announced as AMC's CEO after selling the company into debt a few years earlier through Apollo](<https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/2015/12/15/amc-theatres-name-adam-aron-new-ceo/77355638/>); from the article:

>****Aron is familiar with AMC, having served as a senior operating partner of its previous owner, Apollo Management, for nine years until 2015. Apollo was part of an investor group that sold AMC Theatres to Dalian Wanda for \$2.6 billion, including debt, in 2012.****

>Aron has spent his entire executive career in hospitality, travel and entertainment businesses. Prior to joining Starwood in 2015, he was CEO and co-owner of the NBA's Philadelphia 76ers basketball team from 2011 to 2013. Previously, he was CEO of Vail Resorts and Norwegian Cruise Line.

But surely he wasn't close with the Apollo founders? He just worked for them? I'm not close with my boss? So he's not either? Sorry, apes. He's a vulture too. For instance, who did he co-own the Philadelphia 76ers with? Here's [an article talking about Adam Aron being the 76ers CEO](<https://bleacherreport.com/articles/952113-exclusive-interview-with-philadelphia-76ers-ceo-adam-aron>); from the article:

>As a senior partner at Apollo Global Management, new Philadelphia 76ers CEO Adam Aron has a well-deserved ****reputation for turning around "distressed" properties****.

>There are those who would say that the 76ers would fall under that heading. After all, the franchise has only won one playoff series since its magical run to the NBA Finals in 2001.

And who else owns the 76ers? Here's [76ers' owner Josh Harris, one of the partners who co-founded Apollo with Leon Black](<https://www.forbes.com/profile/joshua-harris/?sh=a9cd7ce666c9>), the Epstein enthusiast. So Adam Aron was trusted with Apollo's favorite sport's team, the Apollo that [tried to buy the Mets and Devils](<https://www.phillyvoice.com/philadelphia-76ers-owner-josh-harris-david-blitzer-purchase-new-york-mets-devils/>), but got [beat through the gate by Steve Cohen at Point 72](<https://nypost.com/2021/01/05/new-mets-owner-steve-cohen-pocketed-1-6b-in-2020/>) (maybe this saga should be Upset Hedgie Titty Slap Battles, episode 1...) . And does Josh Harris, Apollo co-founder, have any GameStop ties? Yes, of course he does.

****Here's what might be the most important link in this entire post.**** The senior note debt RC paid off? Here's who it belonged to as laid out by [this July 2020 report about GameStop's \$216.4 million exchange offer](<https://www.globallegalchronicle.com/gamestops-216-4-million-exchange-offer/>); from the report:

>Simpson Thacher represented the dealer managers and solicitation agents in connection with an exchange offer and consent solicitation by GameStop. ****GameStop Corp ... executed an exchange offer and consent solicitation in which approximately \$216.4 million of outstanding aggregate principal amount of 6.75% Senior Notes due 2021 were exchanged for an equal amount of 10% Senior Secured Notes due 2023.****

>Approximately 52% of the 6.75% Senior Notes due 2021 were validly tendered and not validly withdrawn

prior to the expiration date. The exchange offer settled on July 6, 2020.

>GameStop is the world's largest video game retailer, operates approximately 5,300 stores across 14 countries, and offers the best selection of new and pre-owned video gaming consoles, accessories and video game titles, in both physical and digital formats.

>**Simpson Thacher represented the dealer managers and solicitation agents, led by J.P. Morgan Securities LLC and BofA Securities, Inc.** , with a team including Art Robinson (Picture), Marisa Stavenas, Benjamin Heriaud, Richard Ragusa, Elise Quinones and **Joshua Harris** (Capital Markets); Soogy Lee and Jonathan Pall (Security and Collateral); Nancy Mehlman and Gal Shemer (Tax); Genevieve Dorment and Bobbie Burrows (Intellectual Property); Michael Isby (Environmental); Jennifer Neilsson (Executive Compensation and Employee Benefits); and Andrew Pagliughi (Blue Sky).

Debt note vultures... with Apollo Management helping lead the push to eat GameStop with their banker friends.

And I don't say friends lightly, apes. Why? They're close friends at the highest peak of the shitbird pyramid. In fact, here's an article that [has Adam Aron giving a personal soundbite about Mark Rowan, the other Apollo co-founder, on his replacement of Leon Black as CEO when Leon got skidded for island hopping with Epstein while paying him \$158 million](<https://www.inquirer.com/business/josh-harris-76ers-apollo-leon-black-rowan-ceo-20210206.html>); from the article:

>"If you put a television camera in front of Marc, he would want to get away from the television camera," **said Adam Aron, the CEO of AMC Entertainment Holdings, the world's largest multiplex chain, who has worked with Apollo over the years.**

So they're close.

For instance, Mark Rowan also co-owns the 76ers with Josh Harris.

And remember, [Adam Aron and Leon Black absolutely dumpstered small businesses in Vail, Colorado together through a leveraged buyout of Vail Resorts](<https://www.forbes.com/forbes/1998/1019/6209070a.html?sh=6e4a5c9d2a78>); some highlights from the 1998 article:

>**Aron was brought in two years ago by Vail's controlling shareholder, dealmaker Leon Black. Black got control of the famous resort by buying deeply discounted junk bonds issued by the former owner.** At his boss' behest, Aron is fast turning this old ski resort into a leisure-time conglomerate.

>After just a few months on the job he and Black bought for cash and stock the former resort division of Ralston Purina Co. Then they paid for the deal by peddling a third of the company to the public in a \$266 million offering. Vail Resorts now owns four of the nation's most popular ski areas: Beaver Creek, Breckenridge, Keystone and Vail, all in Colorado.

And:

>**Aron is clearly doing what Leon Black is paying him to do, but it hasn't made him popular in Vail, a town of 4,400 year-round residents.**

>Local businesspeople at the resorts had lived well off the skiers, but now the restaurants and hotels and stores are feeling the competition from Big Brother. Sally Clair owned a children's ski rental and clothing shop on top of the children's ski school at Vail. When the school, which is owned by Vail Resorts, began adding its own clothing and rentals, Clair's sales tumbled. She sold her business to the company. "I just think they're going to take a lot of the personality out of the town," [she said].

And:

>This summer a local newspaper, the Daily Trail, ran an editorial that suggested that the "pudgy" Aron was

a bad spokesperson to reach outdoor-minded Coloradans.

> **Sour grapes, says Aron. "We'll have a mix of company-owned facilities and local entrepreneurs that will increase our profits while maintaining the creativity and passion." **

And:

> **Whatever the locals may think, Aron's boss, Leon Black, is happy. ** For the fiscal year that ended in July, Vail Resorts generated \$116 million in cash flow on revenues of \$435 million. That's a 19% increase in cash flow in a year when skier visits were down. A former Vail Resorts executive who still has a house in town and thus doesn't want to be identified sums it all up: ***Adam may be the most unpopular man in Vail right now, but he's making all the right moves.***

Right moves or not, what I'm driving at is that Adam Aron's history doesn't speak of a man who cares about the little guy which leads me further into the conclusion that he's serving big business interests with AMC at the expense of retail investors. Why? That 19% increase in cash flow despite there being less skiers indicates the predation of small business revenue. I also believe Aron is helping orchestrate a social media and market media FUD campaign to make AMC apes believe head pats from Silverback are good stock forecasts while openly serving Wall Street and mocking investors with free popcorn because we mocked Wall Street with popcorn emojis. For instance, this [article gives potential credence to the idea of AMC helping shorts

cover](<https://deadline.com/2021/06/amc-entertainment-stock-retail-investors-frenzy-1234768330/>) with the Mudrick Capital rip and flip share dilution that Adam Aron promised wouldn't happen. And we can couple this indiscretion with shareholder trust with the Silver Light \$700 million bond to share conversion. And it's not even the first time that shareholder trust has been violated at AMC by Adam Aron - [here's when the Justice Department had to get involved for shareholders in 2016 to help them protest a buyout of another theater company](<https://www.opensecrets.org/members-of-congress/contributors?cid=N00006690&cycle=2020&recs=100&type=C>). Back to the Deadline article:

> "I would try to sell all the stock I could to pay off debt," said another Wall Streeter.

> It's not clear how much stock AMC can sell ahead of its annual meeting scheduled for July 29. Stockholders will likely vote then on an authorization to boost its share count. **The company tried to boost the count by up to 500 million this spring** but retail investors protested and AMC dropped that request. New shares raise cash but dilute holdings of existing share owners. It's how Wanda's position was eroded.

> Meanwhile, Aron is treating investors to a free popcorn if they join AMC Stubs, which they can now do through a dedicated window on the site that reads, "Welcome AMC Stockholders!"

> "If you're a current stockholder, let us know. We'll send you special offers – starting with an initial FREE large popcorn, just for signing up – and the latest AMC Investor Connect updates. The popcorn offer will be conveniently added to your AMC Stubs account within 7 days, so you only need to scan your virtual card to receive the discount.■"

> "What Adam's just done is connect the dots" — between customers and shareholders, said one admiring industryite.

And the kicker that has retail bull trap neon signs written all over it beyond the test run share offering with Mudrick? The B Riley and Goldman Sachs ATM share offering plan with AMC that began in 2020 and has been accelerated in 2021 in response to retail chasing a squeeze; from the article:

> B. Riley is not well-known, but it has become a leader in selling shares using an at-the-market equity system, where a company announces plans to sell a certain number of shares without a roadshow. The sale continues until the shares are sold.

> "I think given a lot of negative views on the space **and that AMC was heavily shorted**, it might have been difficult to go to traditional institutional investors," explained B. Riley senior analyst Eric Wold.

> B. Riley in 2020 completed 113 of these ATM sale offerings compared to Goldman's 38 and Citigroup's

32, according to Dealogic.

>So Aron and Goodman hired B. Riley to work in tandem with Goldman on a new equity offering while Citigroup shifted gears to seeking other sources of bankruptcy funding just in case, sources said.

>**Goldman and B. Riley started their selling on Nov. 10, selling patiently and as long as the price was above what the company determined an acceptable level, sources said. "You are not selling \$1 billion a day, it's more like \$20 million,"** one source explained of the process.

>**Goldman would take the lead in selling shares one week, and B. Riley the next, the source added, and acted as equal partners.**

>The process not only saved the company from bankruptcy, it also saved AMC a lot of money. B. Riley and Goldman got paid a combined 2.5 percent of proceeds from the equity sales or \$18 million, plus expenses, according to public filings. **Apollo's loan, by contrast, would have cost the company more than \$300 million in advisory fees and interest payments, sources said.**

>And after announcing its **\$917 million fundraiser including debt, AMC raised an additional \$305 million via stock sales— or more than it would have gotten in bankruptcy.**

I think someone might have asked if they could sell more shares courting a retail roadshow...

And how has retail responded to this effort? Here's a [link to Citadel LLC's Reddit that talks Eric Wold saying "buy AMC because Godzilla"](https://www.reddit.com/r/CitadelLLC/comments/mp0t5v/wells_fargo_increases_stake_in_amc_meanwhile/?utm_source=share&utm_medium=web2x&context=3) and a link [to ape regions of Reddit declaring Eric Wold an ape](https://www.reddit.com/r/amcstock/comments/n72mfm/eric_wold_is_a_fellow_ape/).

We have to be careful with the ape declarations. Eric Wold is working in tandem with Goldman Sachs to sell AMC stock in an inflated share price bonanza as part of a plan that existed before #SaveAMC trended on Twitter, and the meme stock narrative is allowing them to hang overvalued shares on retail investors based on short squeeze projections that Adam Aron undermined with share dilution after promising not to. Remember what the Wall Street bro said: "I would try to sell all the stock I could to pay off debt." That's what's happening, in theory. But also remember that it's Adam Aron's Apollo Global vulture fund friends, among others, who are circling the inflated carcass of a failing theater company. Why? To benefit from delivering AMC from the brink and into the fire with debt investment, like with Sears and Toys-R-Us.

And what is this capital AMC raised being used for?

It's not being used to pay off debt. It's being used to gobble up other distressed theatre assets. What? Yes. From the Deadline article:

>Mudrick sold its shares immediately, calling them overvalued. "I've seen buying and selling on the same day in IPOs, but I can't remember anything like that," said one fund manager gobsmacked by Mudrick's fast turnaround and the buying frenzy around a stock that analysts who study fundamentals value at between \$1 and \$16. AMC closed up 95% Wednesday at \$62.55. Its market cap of \$28 billion was bigger than that of ViacomCBS.

>**It's a victory lap for CEO Adam Aron,** who had a rough 2020, raising funds piecemeal with theaters closed and, he counted, five brushes with bankruptcy. **Given a strong Memorial Day holiday box office last weekend and overall accelerated reopening he was confident enough to say earlier this week that he hopes this latest cash raise will go towards buying ArLight Cinemas and Pacific Theatres' locations.**

What does this bit of fuckery imply considering all of these corporate investors are, have spawned, or represent vulture funds?

**I'm assuming AMC is using the capital it's raising to buy up other distressed theater assets to place them at the mercy of their vulture fund friends when AMC reveals that they haven't been able to overcome their cash burn rate (something they're planning to accelerate by acquiring struggling assets). This cash

problem will dumpster their share price and that will allow them to declare the retail trading frenzy over while crushing retail investors at the end of an orchestrated pump and dump. Then, considering AMC's letter to the SEC (and odd details like the ex-SEC commissioner who just became the executive chairman of Apollo) where AMC asserts that they've warned retail not to invest in the company combined with media's framing of this meme stock event as a dangerous retail frenzy, I'm guessing they'll leverage their "expertise" to help the SEC regulate retail investors that are currently threatening their control of the casino.**

I'm also guessing that these share offerings are being made so shorts can cover. How? You create more shares and crash the share price into the bankruptcy bet, that pushes retail investors to sell and facilitates more liquidity, then you and your hedgeie friends walk away with the tendies and a "we're concerned for the safety of retail investors that are currently unregulated, uneducated, and our vulnerable competition in the markets" story. They [already tried that with GameStop](<https://www.cnbc.com/2021/02/06/what-the-game-stop-craziness-could-mean-for-the-stock-markets-future.html>). Didn't work. But now they might have set up the meme stock AMC-is-king narrative to facilitate the big brain move. What's obvious though is that short hedges, vulture funds, and big banks are in the meme stock/AMC narrative together and occupying the side that's benefiting the most. That corporate complicity makes every moment of AMC investment appear precarious for retail to me. And remember, Adam Aron is at the center of it all, retail's Apollo Silverback, and he walked back on his no dilution promise.

And what's different with AMC and GameStop beyond the tone of the media coverage?

Remember that RC settled GameStop's senior note debt to people like Apollo co-founder Josh Harris. Why is that important? It secured control of GameStop away from vulture funds that benefit most from company bankruptcy, a sharp contrast with what's happening with AMC through Adam Aron. Why? AMC is still under the control of whoever holds its debt notes and AMC is buying more distressed assets with the capital raise, not eliminating their debt investment, and burning through the cash like an out of control aerial skier ramping into Chapter 11 bankruptcy.

Why else is it important?

RC didn't [let shorts cover](<https://twitter.com/ryancohen/status/1397047791889879041?s=20>).

He just [asked the bears what they're smoking](<https://twitter.com/ryancohen/status/1375159657166209031?s=20>).

****TOTAL ECLIPSE OF THE SUN****

Now that we've seen a bit of the underbelly of this vulture fund mess we're in, let's have some pure speculative fun that we don't need to take seriously.

Apollo was the god of the sun.

[Cassandra](<https://thecollapseexperiment.com/2021/03/19/warnings-from-cassandra/comment-page-1/>) was a Trojan priestess in Apollo's temple.

Apollo desired Cassandra so he gave her the gift of prophecy to win her to his bed. A gift to entice, but still, though gifted, she rejected Apollo's advance and felt no love for the god.

How to react to this rejection, the god thought? Simple.

Curse the one who saw and spoke the truth to be met with constant disbelief.

Disbelief... considering the relationship of Apollo Global to the meme stock event, I find it curious that [there's a solar eclipse happening on June 10th, the day after the GameStop shareholder meeting](<https://thecollapseexperiment.com/2021/03/19/warnings-from-cassandra/comment-page-1/>), the end point of a Saros cycle. This type of annular eclipse is beautiful, the occultation of the moon between the earth and the sun creating the magic of a ring of fire in the sky, and to me, a dedicated and biased GameStop MOASS ape, a celestial event that looks like the GameStop logo. From the article:

>eclipses of the Sun and Moon occur every Saros — Greek for cycle. A Saros lasts for 6,585 days — 18 years, 11 days and eight hours. Every Saros the Sun, Moon and Earth come full circle and for a few brief minutes they line-up to cause a spectacular totality (or annularity, which depends on the distance of the Moon from Earth).

Wouldn't it be poetic if GameStop mooned the morning the moon blocks out the sun, the sign of Apollo? Pre-market after the shareholder meeting. GameStop logo painted in the sky. I don't know if it will or not. If it doesn't it gives me time to buy and hold more shares. And obviously [this observance of the eclipse timing isn't investment advice, **though some people on Wall Street probably see it that way**](<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/features/2018-07-27/is-the-key-to-beating-the-market-written-in-the-stars>), a truth that's actually stranger than fiction.

Myself, I don't know what's in the stars for the week, apes, but I wanted to give you this bit of fun at the end of this post to make up for the rest of what I just shared with you. It's painful to see the depth of the corruption we're facing just like it's painful to realize that we're the victims of the corruption. It's also frightening that we're barely scratching the surface and I think it's going to get way more disgusting the deeper we dig. My plan through it all, though: buy GameStop, hold GameStop, and I'm not fucking selling.

So I don't know if we flash crash or MOASS or both or go sideways this week.

I just hope some people [riding the AMC pump and dump decide to push the GameStop button despite getting steered away from it from so many angles](<https://twitter.com/TheRoaringKitty/status/1400863669895024643?s=20>).

[I actually think that's what's coming](<https://twitter.com/TheRoaringKitty/status/1400452208273944577?s=20>).

[In fact, I think it might be epic if more apes figure out what the song's about](<https://twitter.com/TheRoaringKitty/status/1400605796157775872?s=20>).

Regardless, part 2 of this series will be about Kenny G's obsession with ice cream and shorting the bond market because [Citadel hired Apollo's head of Credit Markets the week before the March flash crash](<https://www.bnnbloomberg.ca/citadel-hires-zachariah-barratt-apollo-s-head-of-corporate-credit-trading-1.1571698>). Should be fun [even though Bond Market Ben Bernanke will hate it](<https://www.wsj.com/articles/BL-MB-39960>).

Thanks for getting this far with me, you beautiful apes. Good luck in space if Wall Street goes brrrrrrrr before my next post.

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[GOTS, part 1.2](https://www.reddit.com/r/Superstonk/comments/nuud15/gods_of_the_sun_part_12_manipulating_the_meme/?utm_source=share&utm_medium=web2x&context=3)