

(Name of Project)

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BIONICLE
The Legend Reborn

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(First Draft)

November 21, 2007

(Second Draft)

December 14, 2007

(Third Draft)

Revised January 22, 2008

Cast out of his own universe, his stature gone, MATA NUI fights to unite a devastated land and find the secret to reclaiming his own lost empire.

(LEGO AND TINSELTOWN TOONS)

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. 'ISLAND' - DUSK

EXTREME AERIAL POV THRU BREAK IN CLOUDS - DOWN ON THE 'ISLAND' as the violent sounds of an <EARTHQUAKE AND ROLLING THUNDER ECHO THRU NEXT SHOTS>.

PUSH DOWN - storm clouds swirling INTO CAMERA.

DRAMATIC LOW UP ANGLE ON - MASSIVE FIGURE OF MATA NUI- slowly rising. Rocks and debris falling off the towering figure - raining down TOWARDS CAMERA with tremendous force (to emphasize his enormous height).

MATA NUI (V.O.)

Once I was a towering giant,
standing tall and proud above the
clouds...

HIGH DOWN ANGLE - as MATA NUI'S HEAD breaks through the top of the clouds (head tilted down - **face NOT seen yet**).

MATA NUI (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Ruler of my own universe, sovereign
protector of my people.

CLOSER - as his face slowly lifts - revealing his eyes are closed - a beat - then his eyes slowly open and brilliant GOLDEN LIGHT GLOWS INTO CAMERA.

MATA NUI (CONT'D)

Fearing nothing... needing no
one...

(beat)

Or so I believed...

DRAMATIC ON MATA NUI - towering above the clouds.

MATA NUI (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Then, in the blink of an eye, all
that I had known, all that I had
been was stolen away from me by an
unseen force...

CLOSE - as MATA NUI's head comes up again - the golden light begins slowly fading from his EYES as:

MATA NUI (V.O.) (CONT'D)
But I did not need to see the face
of my enemy to know that this
tyrant, this usurper was...

ECU - as his eyes go totally DARK for a beat - then on the
word "evil" his eyes GLOW fiery RED.

MATA NUI (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Pure evil...

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. SUVA TEMPLE STAIRS - CONTINUOUS

DRAMATIC UP ANGLE - several frightened MATORAN are at the top
of the temple stairs (*Ref: Christian's art "Suva Temple"*).

MATA NUI (V.O.)
Suddenly I was powerless to help
those I had vowed to protect.
Unable to prevent the darkness that
would now enslave them.

CLOSER MATORAN - looking up in terror as a tidal wave of
DARKNESS sweeps over them and they begin racing TOWARD CAMERA
as--

MATA NUI (V.O.) (CONT'D)
All I knew was that I had failed in
my duty...

MATORAN
(frightened walla)

MATA NUI
I could do nothing to stop this
evil from shattering everything
that I had once stood for...

FEATURE TEMPLE - as a RED LASER like beam cuts through the
darkness and hits the temple, which glows molten red for a
beat, then <EXPLODES> blasting up debris that FILLS SCREEN.

SMASH BACK TO:

EXT. ABOVE 'ISLAND' - CONTINUOUS

ANGLE FEATURING MATA NUI'S CHEST - as if it were where his
heart *might* be - his chest begins to GLOW from within as:

MATA NUI (V.O.)
All was lost, my life-force had
been extinguished...

DRAMATIC - as GOLDEN 'OBJECT' <EXPLODES> out of Mata Nui's
chest, rocketing straight AT CAMERA, and as it FILLS SCREEN
we see it is--

MATA NUI (V.O.) (CONT'D)
And yet, somehow I was still
conscious...

--THE MASK OF LIFE!

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE-LIKE VOID - CONTINUOUS

A fiery GOLDEN *METEOR* streaks through space TOWARDS CAMERA
and again we see that it is THE MASK OF LIFE - the eye holes
filled with molten flame--

MATA NUI (V.O.)
Somehow my spirit had been
captured, preserved inside of...

THE MASK - rockets PAST CAMERA--

MATA NUI (V.O.) (CONT'D)
The Mask Of Life...

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. BARA NUI - DESERT - NIGHT

THREE HUGE MOONS shed their unique brilliant light on the
sands of a scorched landscape, ringed by distant ice capped
mountains. The area is desolate except for the twisted and
decayed remains of what might have once been METAL ARCHES
leading into a city (*or the rib bones of a giant metallic
beast*).

MATA NUI (V.O.)
...Which was carrying me far from
my world...

THE FLAMING METEOR/MASK streaks through the night sky and--

MATA NUI (V.O.) (CONT'D)
And from my enemy...

--<CRASHES> into the sand <EXPLODING> into a FIREBALL.

CLOSER - the <SIZZLING> hot MASK OF LIFE - flames licking up from the eye holes as we hear strange o.s. <CLICKING>.

MATA NUI (V.O.) (CONT'D)
But to where...?

POV THRU MASK EYE HOLES - ON A SCARBAC (a biomechanical scarab-like creatures with glossy shell depicting a glyph-like symbol: a unique EYE) its pincers <CLICKING> ominously, as it moves ever closer TO CAMERA.

MATA NUI (V.O.) (CONT'D)
And what new enemies...?

ANGLE TO REVEAL DOZENS OF SCARBACS - their <CLICKING> becoming more intense as they begin to close in, surrounding the MASK. But they suddenly scatter as--

MATA NUI (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Before I could even begin to grasp
how I had become one with the
Mask...

--THE MASK OF LIFE - begins rising up, the sand around it swirling into a powerful <VORTEX> that whips up the ashen sand and stone.

LOW DRAMATIC - as the vortex slowly begins creating/piecing together--

MATA NUI (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Out of the ashen sands...

--A SHIMMERING FORM/BODY (*still undefined within the whirling vortex*).

MATA NUI (V.O.) (CONT'D)
I was given new life...

THE VORTEX - dissipates as the form solidifies into a new seven foot tall TOA MATA NUI, **now wearing the Mask Of Life.**

MATA NUI (V.O.) (CONT'D)
A second chance, which I must now
use to somehow find a way home and
free my people from the evil tyrant
enslaving them.

CLOSER ON MATA NUI - reaching up to touch the Mask Of Life.

MATA NUI (CONT'D)

Strange... this mask... it is meant to be worn by a Toa, a warrior, to give them special powers in battle. As a giant, my size was all the power I ever needed...

MATA NUI - touches his arms, as if appraising his new body.

MATA NUI (CONT'D)

But now, I am what...?
(decisive breath)
Lucky to be alive.

LOW UP ON MATA NUI - as he takes his very first step and his knees nearly buckle under him and he drops LEVEL WITH CAMERA.

MATA NUI (CONT'D)

(rye gasp)
I just hope I can stay that way long enough to get used to this new body.

MATA NUI - gets unsteadily to his feet and is about to take another test step when he reacts to <CLICKING> and looks down to see--

MATA NUI (CONT'D)

One step at a--

POV DOWN ON A SINGLE SCARBAC - its pincers raised protectively over head as Mata Nui's FOOT is about to crush it, but it pulls back at the last second.

MATA NUI (CONT'D)

Sorry, little one.

THE SCARBAC - is cowering back in fear.

MATA NUI (CONT'D)

Easy now... Do not fear... I have no reason to hurt you...

FEATURE SCARBAC - it lowers its pincers, cocking its head curiously as it stares up.

MATA NUI (CONT'D)

But you may have noticed, I am not too steady on my new feet yet.

MORE SCARBAC - begin surrounding MATA NUI - all their pincers <CLICKING - THRU NEXT SHOT> as if in communication.

MATA NUI - kneels, holding his hand to the original SCARBAC.

MATA NUI (CONT'D)
(more to himself)
This sound... it is how you
communicate...?

ORIGINAL SCARBAC - springs into MATA NUI's hand and starts
<CLICKING> insistently as it scampers up his arm.

MATA NUI (CONT'D)
Sadly, I do not understand...

CLOSE MATA NUI - as the <CLICKING RESONATES> around the Mask
Of Life, which GLOWS for a long beat.

MATA NUI (CONT'D)
But perhaps the Mask Of Life
does...

CLOSER - as the SCARBAC moves to touch the Mask, which begins
to GLOW and then as the glow turns into GOLDEN FLAME-

THE MASK AND SCARBAC - FUSE together, the EDGES of each
turning into what looks like GOLDEN LIQUID LAVA. Then, in a
BRILLIANT FLASH - the Scarbac is transformed into--

A GLADIATOR SHIELD - with the Scarbac glyph symbol of the EYE
in the center.

MATA NUI (CONT'D)
It... you... are magnificent...

FEATURE EYE ON SHIELD - as it suddenly BLINKS and MATA NUI
realizes with awe:

MATA NUI (CONT'D)
Which I suppose you can see for
yourself...?

A piercing <SCREECH> causes MATA NUI to look up just as--

DRAMATIC POV ON CREATIS - a large powerful, clawed
biomechanical beast (with thick stinger tail that is curled
over its back) is leaping through the air towards him.

MATA NUI - clumsily staggers clear just as the CREATIS
strikes, clipping his shoulder and knocking our hero onto his
back with tremendous force.

MATA NUI (CONT'D)
(impact grunt)

OTS MATA NUI - UP ON CREATIS - slashing its claws towards our unsteady hero <SCREECHING> savagely and--

MATA NUI - rolls clear an instant before being sliced by razor sharp claws that <SLASH> deep marks in the stone where Mata Nui's head had been a moment before.

MATA NUI (CONT'D)
(exertion grunts)

MATA NUI is trying to scramble back up as the CREATIS attacks again, whipping down its tail at him--

MATA NUI just has time to bring up his shield just as the tail strikes--

<CRACK> - the TAIL breaks off and falls to the ground--

THE CREATIS - <SCREECHES> as it flees into the night.

CLOSE MATA NUI - still on his knees rests his head on his shield as he catches his breath. He whips his head back as--

MATA NUI (CONT'D)
(breathless surprised gasp)

THE SHIELD AND MASK OF LIFE - GLOW for a quick beat - then with a blinding FLASH INTO CAMERA -

MATA NUI (CONT'D)
What...?

ON MATA NUI - his shield is gone - transformed back into the little SCARBAC that's now sitting on his forearm.

MATA NUI (CONT'D)
Before this day I never needed help
from anyone or anything. Thank you.

MATA NUI starts to lower the SCARBAC to the ground.

MATA NUI (CONT'D)
Well, Little One, I spared your
life once, you saved mine. Shall we
call it even and go our separate
ways?

FEATURE SCARBAC - fast, angry <CLICKS> in MATA NUI'S FACE.

MATA NUI (CONT'D)
Easy... it was just a--

The little bug points off with one pincer, while <CLICKING> with the other and Mata Nui looks towards--

POV - A DUNE CHARIOT (crudely pieced together with salvaged parts) is approaching - GALAX slows his vehicle as:

MATA NUI - picks up the thick (*now sword-like*) stinger-tail and quickly gets to his feet - the SCARBAC scampering onto his shoulder, then ducking around the back of his neck out of sight.

FEATURE GALAX - who takes in MATA NUI - who intuitively assumes a defensive pose, while he unconsciously twirls the Creatis stinger-tail like a veteran swordsman might.

GALAX

Who are you!?

GALAX - lifts his own impressive looking weapon into view.

GALAX (CONT'D)

And what are you after here?

FEATURE MATA NUI - he steadies the stinger-tail, but maintains his defensive pose.

MATA NUI

Just a traveller looking for the nearest city.

FEATURE ARCHWAY -

GALAX

(incredulous laugh)

Just start digging, you're bound to find the ruins of one or another.

FEATURE GALAX - lowering his weapon and gesturing for MATA NUI to get in.

GALAX (CONT'D)

But I'm heading for the nearest village. So you might as well get in. Figure if you meant me harm, you'd have tried by now.

MATA NUI hesitates so GALAX shrugs.

GALAX (CONT'D)

Unless you'd rather wind up captured by a pack of Bone Hunters, or worse, Skral.

MATA NUI cautiously gets in.

MATA NUI
Your enemies?

GALAX
Pretty much everyone's.

CLOSER MATA NUI AND GALAX - who suddenly swings a hand towards him, but Mata Nui manages to step back and bring up the Creatis tail defensively.

GALAX (CONT'D)
Relax! You've got a Scarbac on your back! I was just trying to knock the filthy little insect off.

MATA NUI - holds his hand protectively in front of the SCARBAC.

MATA NUI
(hint of threat)
Thanks. But I like him right where he is.

FEATURE SCARBAC - chest puffed, quick humph-like <CLICK>.

ON DUNE CHARIOT - with a shrug, GALAX guns it and speeds off.

GALAX
To each his own. By the way, the name's Galax!

MATA NUI
I am Mata Nui.

EXT. DESERT - NIGHT - MOMENTS LATER

GALAX'S DUNE CHARIOT - speeds across the sand in the bright light of the three moons - past silhouetted ruins that look like bizarre sculptures (*some are the half buried pieces of the Robot body we will reveal at the end*).

MATA NUI
What happened here? Why are your cities in ruin?

FEATURE MOONLIT RUINS

GALAX (V.O.)
Been so long no one knows what
really happened anymore. But what
usually causes the downfall of a
civilization? Greed? Pride? You
tell me?

CLOSE MATA NUI - as he stares off, his inner turmoil evident:

MATA NUI
(sotto)
Evil...

ON TWO - GALAX - gestures off towards the distant mountains.

GALAX
So I'm guessing you come from some
tribe on the other side of the
mountains...?

MATA NUI
I have travelled far.

On the word "Creatis" GALAX points to the stinger-tail in
MATA NUI's hand.

GALAX
(laughing)
Not only did you defeat a deadly
Creatis, but you're wise enough not
to trust the first Morg you meet.

MATA NUI
Morg?

WIDE ON DUNE CHARIOT - as it races along - PAN TO REVEAL--

GALAX
It's like this: You've got the
Morg, like me. Peaceful villagers
just trying to survive in this
wasteland...

--A SMALL BAND OF BONE HUNTERS - watching them from a sand
dune atop their ROCK STEED mounts as we hear:

GALAX (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Then you've got bands of
cutthroats, like the Bone Hunters
trying to steal the little we've
got.

ON DUNE CHARIOT - GALAX points ahead as we hear:

VILLAGERS (O.S.)
(cheering)

GALAX
Sounds like you're just in time to
see how we fight between ourselves
for whatever scraps are left.

CUT TO:

EXT. BARNU (VILLAGE #1) - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

By the light of the three moons and a number of bubbling LAVA POOLS - we can see this is a small village consisting of a giant metallic shelter, a few small dwellings made of VOLCANIC ROCK and BONE. At the far end of the village towering LAVA TORCHES blaze around a crude ARENA.

VILLAGERS (V.O.)
(cheers and shouts thru next)

GALAX'S DUNE CHARIOT - moves through the empty village towards the arena.

GALAX
See, whenever there's a dispute...
Usually about water rights or some
other scarce resource... each
village sends in their best
gladiator to see who wins it.

VILLAGERS (O.S.)
(excited cheers thru next)

GALAX - brings the DUNE CHARIOT to a stop as MATA NUI stares towards the arena as they hear the distinctive sounds of <WEAPONS CLASHING>.

MATA NUI
(incredulous)
The Morg risk the lives of their
warriors just to settle their
disagreements?

GALAX
(appreciative laugh)
Hey, it's better than the old
way... when entire villages battled
it out.

EXT. GLADIATOR ARENA (#1) - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

DOZENS OF MORG/VILLAGERS - are gathered around the very crude arena, which is in serious disrepair, but the jagged metal and skeletal shapes create a very cool effect, casting ominous shadows from the flaming torch light.

VILLAGERS
(ad-lib excited cheering
thru next shots)
C'mon, Akar!/Take him down!/Get him
Rakumb!

INSIDE THE ARENA - TWO GLADIATORS - AKAR - the RED FIRE gladiator, who holds a shield and a sword like weapon - battles against RAKUMB - the ICE gladiator, who has a shield and a huge axe-like weapon. (NOTE: At this stage neither has any elemental powers, so their weapons <CLASH> like steel against steel.)

THE MORG/VILLAGERS - throw up their arms and cheer.

VILLAGERS (CONT'D)
(wild cheers)
Akar! Akar! Akar!

VILLAGE LEADER'S BOX ON SIDELINES - like a crude 'royal viewing box' the floor is level with the arena wall, torches surrounding it (creating a three quarter BG of flames.) SACUU - the village leader sits in his official chair as--

GALAX (V.O.)
Akar, the red, used to be the
greatest gladiator in all *Bara
Nui.

--MATA NUI AND GALAX - enter and join SACUU.

SACUU
True enough, Galax. But sadly
everyone knows Akar's days are
numbered. I practically had to beg
him to fight tonight.

GALAX turns to MATA NUI.

GALAX
Mata Nui, meet Sacuu, he's the
leader of this village.

GALAX - turns his attention back to the arena.

GALAX (CONT'D)
But don't let him give you the
wrong idea about Akar...

FEATURE ARENA - as AKAR AND RAKUMB <CLASH WEAPONS>.

GALAX (CONT'D)
He's flat out the bravest there's
ever been. But he's lost his taste
for battle.

ON SACUU, MATA NUI AND GALAX

SACUU
And once a gladiator loses heart,
it's not long before he meets
defeat and must be banished. I fear
soon another will have to take
Akar's place as First Gladiator.
(looking Mata Nui up and
down)
No doubt that is why Galax brought
you.

MATA NUI
I do not--

GALAX
(interrupting, jovial)
Guess I forgot to mention my job's
recruiting replacement Gladiators.
(points to stinger-tail)
Kind'a figured you'd do well in the
arena.

MATA NUI - starts to speak, but GALAX holds up a hand.

GALAX (CONT'D)
Relax, check out the competition,
we'll talk later.

ARENA - AKAR AND RAKUMB - <CLASH WEAPONS>. Akar presses his
attack, showing his superior strength and speed as he dodges
his opponent's ax swings and delivers his own powerful blow,
sending the Ice Gladiator staggering back - his shield flying
out of his hand.

ON MATA NUI - watching the battle - fire from the torches
reflected on his mask.

MATA NUI

This red gladiator fights with the
courage of a true Toa...

IN THE ARENA - AKAR - is just ducking under RAKUMB's weapon slash - then Akar spins up, coming in close and <SLAMMING> his own shield into Rakumb's mid-section, knocking him off his feet and sending him sailing back--

AKAR/RAKUMB
(fighting grunts)

RAKUMB - hits the arena wall, dropping his weapon as he crumbles forward onto his knees.

ON MORG/VILLAGERS - cheering wildly.

VILLAGERS
(cheering)

IN THE ARENA - AKAR - moves in to stand over the unarmed RAKUMB, who is still on his knees.

AKAR
The battle is over.

AKAR - turns his back and walks over to pick up the Rakumb's fallen shield.

AKAR (CONT'D)
I claim your shield in victory.

RAKUMB - suddenly grabs up his fallen weapon and hurls it at AKAR'S back.

VILLAGERS (O.S.)
(alarmed gasps)

AKAR - spins around bringing up his shield but the weapon <CLANKS> the shield fast and hard, knocking him thru the air.

AKAR
(impact cry)

AKAR - lands hard and tries to roll up, but he's too stunned and collapses back down.

AKAR (CONT'D)
(impact grunt)

RAKUMB - is striding towards the fallen AKAR, grabbing up his weapon.

IN THE LEADER'S BOX - MATA NUI, GALAX AND SACUU

MATA NUI
You call this justice? Why doesn't
someone help him?

SACUU
Because we're just Morg, not
gladiators.

MATA NUI - hesitates only a beat, then as he leaps from the
viewing box - the familiar BRILLIANT SCARBAC TRANSFORMATION
FLASH--

IN THE ARENA - MATA NUI lands unsteadily and he is now
holding his SHIELD, but armed with just the stinger-tail.

CROWD (O.S.)
(startled walla)
Did you see that!?!/Where did that
shield come from?

VIEWING BOX - GALAX - REACTING - as he watches.

GALAX
(sotto, intrigued)
No wonder he's so fond of bugs...

IN THE ARENA - RAKUMB is moving over the dazed AKAR, clearly
about to deliver another blow, when--

RAKUMB
You're finished old--

--RAKUMB is tackled by MATA NUI and both sail THRU SHOT.

MATA NUI/RAKUMB
(impact grunts thru next shot)

RAKUMB - hits the ground hard, but he hangs onto his weapon
as he rolls back to his feet.

RAKUMB
I'll cut you down for this!

ON MORG/VILLAGERS - shouting excitedly.

VILLAGERS
(ad-lib frenzied cheering)

MATA NUI - brings up his shield just as RAKUMB delivers his first powerful <WEAPON BLOW>, which slams MATA NUI right off his feet, sending him hurling back.

MATA NUI/RAKUMB
(fighting/impact grunts thru next)

RAKUMB - presses his attack and MATA NUI stumbles about, desperately blocking <WEAPON BLOWS> with the shield.

IN THE BOX - GALAX - watches the battle shaking his head.

GALAX
Too bad... I'd hoped he'd bring a decent price...

IN THE ARENA - RAKUMB delivers a devastating <WEAPON BLOW> and MATA NUI is slammed off his feet-

MATA NUI/RAKUMB
(fighting/impact grunts thru next shots)

MATA NUI - lands hard, flat on his back, the tail held protectively in front of him, as he waits for the inevitable final blow.

ANGLE ON AKAR - still on the ground, but struggling up on one elbow and turning towards Mata Nui.

AKAR
(weak but urgent)
Rakumb no! Spare the stranger. Your fight is with me!

ON RAKUMB - his weapon still poised to strike MATA NUI.

RAKUMB
Forget it, Akar!
(snide, vicious)
He asked for it, now he's going to get it!

CLOSER MATA NUI - as the heavy stinger-tail lowers to rest against the brow of The Mask Of Life--

MATA NUI
(sotto determined)
I have come too far for it to end like this...

CU - MASK AND STINGER-TAIL - the mask begins to GLOW and then the strange fusing, LIQUID LAVA FX melds the two for a beat and then in a brilliant FLASH-

THE STINGER-TAIL - is transformed into an extraordinary NEW WEAPON.

EVERYONE - including MATA NUI - reacts with awed surprise.

VILLAGERS
(shocked gasps thru next shot)

RAKUMB - startled by this sudden turn of events - drops his guard for an instant.

RAKUMB
How in...?

MATA NUI - seizes the moment, striking out with a sweeping kick that brings RAKUMB down hard onto his back, his weapon falling a foot from his hand.

MATA NUI/RAKUMB
(fighting/impact grunts thru next)

FEATURE RAKUMB - before he can move - MATA NUI is over him, his new weapon poised to finish the job.

MATA NUI
Do you concede?

RAKUMB
(begrudging growl)
Yes...

ON THE SIDELINES - the MORG/VILLAGERS - reacting.

VILLAGERS
(ad-lib)
Who is this gladiator?/ Where did he come from!/ Whose village will he fight for?

IN THE ARENA - AKAR - moves unsteadily in beside MATA NUI, stepping on Rakumb's ax as his HAND inches towards it.

AKAR
(re:sword)
Don't even think about, Rakumb.
Your back-stabbing days are over.

RAKUMB - staggers to his feet, then O.S.

AKAR (CONT'D)
Get going!

AKAR - turns to MATA NUI and hands him Rakumb's shield.

AKAR (CONT'D)
His shield belongs to you now... it
was your victory.

MATA NUI - shakes his head and doesn't reach out.

MATA NUI
You won it first. It is rightfully
yours.

AKAR
In that case...

AKAR - tosses Rakumb's shield off with disgust.

AKAR (CONT'D)
Thing would just remind me of what
a deadly mistake I made.
(disgusted half laugh)
Not that anyone will ever let me
forget it. No, I'm finished here.
From now on, I'm an outcast.

ON MATA NUI AND AKAR

MATA NUI
I know how it feels to be cast out
of your home. But you fought with
honor, the disgrace is his, not
yours.

AKAR
(gesturing off)
They won't see it that way.
(lighter tone)
Never mind all that. I should be
thanking you for saving my life and
asking you how in--

WIDEN - as GALAX rushes in.

GALAX
(interrupting)
Nice going, Mata Nui! I had my
doubts there for a while, but that
trick with the tail. Not to mention
that shield of yours.
(MORE)

GALAX (CONT'D)
How in the name of The Great Beings
do you do it?

FEATURE MATA NUI - silent, he touches the edge of his mask.

GALAX (CONT'D)
Fair enough! I didn't really expect
you to share your secret!

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. BARNU VILLAGE - ONE OF THE CRUDE SHELTERS - NIGHT

PUSH IN as torch light glows from within the crude shelter.

MATA NUI (O.S.)
You won all these...?

INT. BARNU VILLAGE - ONE OF THE CRUDE SHELTERS - CONTINUOUS

GLADIATOR SHIELDS - dozens of them in all shapes and styles line the walls and corners of Akar's quarters. MATA NUI (no longer carrying his shield, but **the Scarbac is not visible** in the shot) gestures to the shields as AKAR drops a few small items into a crude satchel as he prepares to leave.

AKAR
(agreeing grunt)
And for what? I should have packed
it in long before this.

MATA NUI
Why didn't you?

AKAR
Sense of duty, or maybe it was just
my pride. But a Gladiator past his
prime is no good to anyone.

REAR ON MATA NUI - as he moves, we see the SCARBAC sneaking around his neck, staying out of AKAR's eye-line.

MATA NUI
I watched you fight, Akar. You have
the skill and instincts of a true
Toa.

AKAR
Toa?

MATA NUI

Where I come from... that is the
title given to a very select few...
Warriors worthy of--

GALAX enters saying to MATA NUI:

GALAX

(interrupting)

Mata Nui! You were brilliant! Sacuu
will pay anything we ask, or if
this village doesn't do it for you,
I'm sure I can get the other
leaders to bid for you.

MATA NUI

Thanks. But no. I have my own
battles to fight.

GALAX

You're passing up a sweet deal.
We're talking First Gladiator here!
(off his silent)
Okay, but if you change your
mind...

MATA NUI

I cannot.

As GALAX leaves shaking his head - AKAR turns to MATA NUI.

AKAR

So what will you do?

MATA NUI

I need to find a way back to my own
homeland...

AKAR

Mind telling me where that is?

CLOSER TWO

MATA NUI

You will probably think it sounds
crazy...

AKAR

More than a guy jumping into the
arena to save a stranger... armed
with just... a tail?

ANGLE FEATURING DOORWAY - as we see the SHADOW of a figure lurking just outside the door.

MATA NUI

All right... I once ruled an entire empire... but I lost it all to a powerful evil.

MATA NUI - stops waiting for AKAR to ridicule him.

AKAR

I'm listening.

MATA NUI

So now... I have to find some way to return to my own world.

AKAR

World...? As in...?

MARTA - the blue gladiator - suddenly steps from the shadow of the doorway saying:

MARTA

As in what I've been trying to tell everyone around here for years!

OTS AKAR AND MATA NUI - ON MARTA - who gesticulates her frustration.

MARTA (CONT'D)

But do you think anyone would even listen to me? Oh no.

(mocking)

Marta's a dreamer. There's no such thing as other worlds.

(to Akar)

Yeah, well this guy proves it.

(to Mata Nui)

You wanna get home? Well I might just be able to help you... for a price, of course.

FEATURE AKAR as MATA NUI turns to him.

MATA NUI

You trust this...?

MARTA

(indignant)

Gladiator! One of the best in the biz.

AKAR

True.

(to Marta, reprimanding)

My headstrong friend here may like
lurking in shadows...

(to Mata Nui)

But as gladiators go, Marta ranks
at the top. I'd trust her with my
life.

CLOSE - as MATA NUI looks at the SCARBAC on his shoulder.

MATA NUI

I have recently discovered what a
great gift it is to find someone
you can truly trust.

FEATURE SCARBAC as he gives a quick nod and <CLICKS> in
agreement.

MARTA

Oo-kay... I heard you did some
pretty strange stuff... So I
suppose you call him... Click?

ON MATA NUI AND SCARBAC, the little bug shrugs, then nods,
okay with his new name.

MATA NUI

Click? I like it. Click it is.

FEATURE MARTA - shaking her head at the SCARBAC.

MATA NUI (CONT'D)

You were about to share what you
know...

MARTA

Right. Okay, so there's this
place... a secret cavern filled
with ancient equipment, weird
looking glyphs and stuff. I
discovered it ages ago.

(to Akar)

It's the only thing that's kept me
from going nuts... believing there
was something more, someplace far
from this miserable excuse for a
wasteland.

(to Mata Nui)

And you are from another world, you
admit it.

FEATURE MATA NUI

MATA NUI

But I have no idea if there is any way to reach it.

MARTA

Wait! Then how did you get here?

MATA NUI

I was born here... For the second time.

FEATURE AKAR AND MARTA - exchanging glances.

MATA NUI (CONT'D)

Believe me, I am as perplexed as you. But I think the answers may be in this chamber. So how quickly can we get there?

MARTA

Nuh-uh. Not until you swear you'll take me with you when you leave. Otherwise... no deal.

MATA NUI looks from AKAR, who just shrugs, to MARTA.

MATA NUI

All I can honestly promise is that I will... if it is within my power.

MARTA - studies him for a beat, then:

MARTA

Good enough.
(pointing a finger at him)
But don't even think of pulling a fast one, 'cause you're my ticket outta this stinkin' pit.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. BARNU VILLAGE - DAWN

ESTABLISH - AKAR, MATA NUI AND MARTA - in her CRUDE DUNE CHARIOT, which is speeding away from the village - past a steaming LAVA STREAM that flows between a cluster of huge volcanic rock BOULDERS. The chariot is heading towards the MOUTH OF A CANYON in the distance.

MATA NUI

Where is this secret cavern?

CLOSER DUNE CHARIOT - MARTA gestures while AKAR is scanning the horizon for threats.

MARTA

Taajun, that's my village. It's on the other side of that canyon up ahead.

As they head towards the distant canyon mouth - CAMERA PANS BACK TO:

THE CLUSTER OF BOULDERS AND LAVA STREAM - A MYSTERIOUS FIGURE - "THE TRAITOR" - is sneaking away from the village towards the boulders. (*We cannot see who it is in this light, only that size-wise, whoever it is, looks to be one of the Morg.*)

ANGLE BEHIND THE BOULDERS - EDGE OF LAVA STREAM - TWO BONE HUNTERS - wait astride ROCK STEEDS.

BONE HUNTER #1

What have you learned?

THE TRAITOR - remains in shadow and speaks in hushed tones (*so we cannot tell who it is*) but the message is clear:

TRAITOR

(hushed, voice disguised)

The Gladiators are heading for Taajun. You know what to do.

THE TWO BONE HUNTERS - nod and whip around their steeds to leave.

As the mounted BONE HUNTERS race off, we...

DISSOLVE TO:

ACT TWO

EXT. DESERT CANYON - A LITTLE LATER - DAY

LONG SHOT ESTABLISHING - **TWO SUNS** - rise from behind the distant SNOW CAPPED MOUNTAINS as MARTA'S DUNE CHARIOT races into the mouth of the canyon.

MATA NUI

Bleak as it is in parts, your land has a beauty of its own.

DRAMATIC ANGLES - accentuate the almost REPTILIAN TEXTURE, and colors of this unique canyon, its jagged rock walls looming high around MARTA'S DUNE CHARIOT.

AKAR

I suppose it does at that. But what I'm seeing right now is that this canyon's ideal for an ambush.

MARTA

Relax, Akar, even the Bone Hunters are too smart to take on three gladiators.

CLOSER ON DUNE CHARIOT

AKAR

Don't count on it. They've been acting a lot bolder these days. The Skral as well.

MARTA

True. But don't worry, it's not like we have much worth stealing.

FEATURE SCARBAC ON MATA NUI'S SHOULDER

MARTA (CONT'D)

Well, maybe Mata Nui does.

The bug <CLICKS> his pincers in agreement.

MARTA (CONT'D)

(to Scarbac)

I meant his blade, bug face.

(to herself)

I can't believe I'm talking to an insect.

FEATURE AKAR -

AKAR

Lately the Bone Hunters seem to know our every move.

MARTA

You're thinking we've got a traitor inside?

AKAR

I'm sure of it. Question is who?

ON DUNE CHARIOT - as the ground suddenly begins to <RUMBLE>.

AKAR (CONT'D)
But we've got bigger trouble right
now!

REAR ON CHARIOT - as the sand just ahead suddenly <EXPLODES>
high into the air as--

A GIGANTIC SAND SCORPIS RAY - suddenly rises up blocking
their path, its super long and lethal, <CRACKLING> stinger
whipping ominously.

ON SCENE - as <BLASTS> of energy RICOCHET all around the
canyon like streaks of <LIGHTNING>.

THE DUNE CHARIOT - is barreling straight for the towering
SCORPIS RAY blocking the entire canyon.

MATA NUI - calls over to AKAR.

MATA NUI
Why not turn back?

AKAR
(pointing behind them)
Because *they* are even deadlier!

POV - THRU THE FLYING SAND - in the chariot's wake - MOUNTED
BONE HUNTERS are charging their ROCK STEEDS TOWARDS CAMERA.

BONE HUNTERS/SKRAL
(savage attack cries)

IN THE DUNE CHARIOT - AKAR, MARTA AND MATA NUI.

MARTA
We've gotta try and get to my
village, there's another Gladiator
there that can help us!

ANGLE THRU NARROW GAP - between the canyon wall and the
scorpion beast - ON DUNE CHARIOT charging TOWARDS CAMERA -

MARTA (CONT'D)
We just have to make it through
that narr--

THE SCORPIS RAY'S STINGER TAIL - whips around closing the
gap-

MARTA (CONT'D)
--whoaa!

FEATURE MARTA - as it looks like the chariot is going to crash right into the <CRACKLING> stinger tail - she suddenly yanks the steering to one side.

MARTA (CONT'D)
Hang on!

THE DUNE CHARIOT - turns sharply--

MARTA (CONT'D)
Tiiight!

THE DUNE CHARIOT - spins around, nearly flipping, spitting up sand as it skids to a stop.

THE MOUNTED BONE HUNTERS - continue charging towards them.

BONE HUNTERS
(attack walla)

AKAR, MATA NUI AND MARTA - instantly leap out--

MATA NUI
You help Marta. I'll try to draw
the beast away from you!

AKAR darts off.

AKAR
Good luck!

MATA NUI - SCARBAC ON HIS SHOULDER - both looking up at the towering creature.

MATA NUI
(sotto)
We'll need it...

SCARBAC - <CLICKS> pincers in agreement, then the brilliant transformation FLASH FILLS SCREEN...

BATTLE MONTAGE - UTILIZING HIGHLY DRAMATIC ANGLES:

MARTA AND AKAR - doing battle against the MOUNTED BONE HUNTERS within a STORM OF FLYING SAND and <CRACKLING BLASTS> that RICOCHET around the canyon from the whipping TAIL.

CU - WEAPONS - Gladiator and Bone Hunter weapons <CLASHING>.

AKAR - hooking his weapon with a Bone Hunter's then yanking the BONE HUNTER off his STEED and sailing OVER CAMERA.

A ROCK STEED - rearing and trying to crush--

MARTA - who narrowly dives clear of the <CRASHING> STONE
*HOOVES - then she flips to her feet and--

MARTA - runs up the canyon wall, then flips herself in the air and sails into--

A MOUNTED BONE HUNTER <SLAMMING> him off his ROCK STEED.

AKAR AND MARTA - each <CLASHING> weapons with more BONE HUNTERS - while more <CRACKLING BLASTS> from the long whipping STINGER ricochet all around the canyon, as...

SERIES OF DRAMATIC ANGLES - MATA NUI - BATTLING THE GIGANTIC SCORPIS RAY:

CU - MATA NUI's weapon and shield being hit with <BLASTS> of Scorpis energy that narrowly miss charring our hero-

MATA NUI - showing his increasing speed - as he leaps, dives and rolls, trying to stay clear of the <CRACKLING> STINGER.

CLOSER MATA NUI - turning as:

MARTA (O.S.)
(shouting)
Akar! We're finished unless we can
make it to my village.

POV MARTA AND AKAR - losing ground in their battle as SEVERAL BONE HUNTERS are closing in on them.

MATA NUI - shouts to them:

MATA NUI
Try and get to the chariot! I have
an idea!

MATA NUI - sees the STINGER TAIL whipping towards him, but this time he doesn't try to leap over it, but instead--

MATA NUI - flings down his shield and then leaps onto it just as the stinger whips within reach and--

MATA NUI - lands, standing on his protective shield atop the <CRACKING> STINGER TAIL - which instantly whips up high into the air, propelling our hero upwards.

ANGLE ON HIGH ROCK LEDGE - as MATA NUI leaps off his shield and lands on a ledge, just above the SCORPIS RAY. As more stinger <BLASTS> ricochet around him--

MATA NUI - <STABS> his weapon into the stone outcropping with <EXPLOSIVE> force!

MATA NUI (CONT'D)
(exertion grunt)

THE LEDGE - <EXPLODES> away from the canyon wall just as MATA NUI leaps off - towards the far side of the canyon.

AN <AVALANCHE> of jagged stone and debris cascade down on--

THE SCORPIS RAY - has no time to react before it is pummeled by the <AVALANCHE> of rock and debris.

FEATURE SCORPIS' HEAD - as more debris pounds down and the creature reels <SCREECHING> in anger and pain as--

AKAR AND MARTA - now in her DUNE CHARIOT - are racing towards a narrow gap between the thrashing SCORPIS and the canyon wall - debris continues to rain down all around them!

AKAR
It's going to be close...

MARTA'S DUNE CHARIOT - speeds thru the gap, a second before--

THE SCORPIS RAY - collapses forward, right over--

THE BONE HUNTERS - and their <BELLOWING> ROCK STEED!

BONE HUNTERS
(horrified walla)

NEARING THE END OF THE CANYON - MARTA and AKAR look around anxiously.

MARTA
Where's--

AKAR
(pointing up)
There!

MATA NUI - is sliding down the side of the canyon towards them, grabbing up his fallen shield as he goes.

MARTA - slows the Dune Chariot slightly as--

MATA NUI - leaps into the chariot.

MATA NUI
(landing grunt)

CLOSER - as they speed along toward the far end of the canyon, AKAR slaps MATA NUI on the back.

AKAR
(laughing)
I swear that was the gutsiest move
I've ever seen!

MARTA - is laughing too as she glances over her shoulder.

MARTA
Wonder how long it'll take them to
crawl out from under the belly of
the beast?

AKAR - places a hand on MARTA'S arm as he looks off ahead.

AKAR
(alarmed)
Marta!

MARTA - turns her attention ahead and gasps at what's o.s.

MARTA
Wha-NOOO!

THEIR POV - dense smoke and flames.

AKAR (O.S.)
It's coming from Taajun!

MARTA (O.S.)
(horrified)
My village! Oh no... NOOO!

EXT. TAAJUN VILLAGE (#2) - DAY - CONTINUOUS

The entire village is aflame, smoke so thick it blocks out both suns.

AKAR (O.S.)
Thankfully it looks like all the
Morg got away in time.

IN THE DUNE CHARIOT - MATA NUI (still carrying his SHIELD) and AKAR are scanning for danger, while MARTA looks desperately around, berating herself:

MARTA
But the village... everyone's
homes... This is my fault! I should
have been here to help...
(remembering)
Gresh!? We have to find Gresh! He's
just a novice!

AKAR - points o.s.

AKAR (O.S.)
There!

POV - GRESH - staggering out of the smoke towards them clutching his wounded shoulder.

MARTA (O.S.)
He's hurt!

MARTA, AKAR AND MATA NUI - rush to either side of GRESH.

AKAR
Easy, son, we've got you.

MARTA
Let's get him into cavern. The
entrance is just over here.

CLOSER - AKAR AND MATA NUI - support GRESH between them as they follow MARTA.

GRESH
(weak, gasping)
Skral and Bone Hunters... working
together.

AKAR
He must be delirious. They're rival
tribes--

GRESH - grabs AKAR with his last vestige of strength.

GRESH
United...(fainting gasp)

GRESH - has passed out, his head hanging, his eyes closed.

MARTA
Gresh! He isn't...?

AKAR
Still alive.
(looking off)
But none of us will be for long if
that savage has his way.

DRAMATIC LONG SHOT ON TUMA - the towering Skral warrior -
moving like a phantom through the smoke, his eyes as RED as
the fire all around them.

MARTA (O.S.)
Tuma...? But he's...?

CLOSER TUMA - as the smoke swirls in his wake, we see that
TUMA is leading a battalion of SKRAL and BONE HUNTERS.

AKAR (O.S.)
The leader of the Skral. Gresh was
right, the Bone Hunters have joined
forces with the Skral.

CUT TO:

A MASSIVE SLAB OF ROCK is just sliding closed over a hole in
the earth, the secret entrance once again invisible. (NOTE:
*This is the chest area of the giant mechanical being, so the
slab is actually a hatch like for an SB port.*)

MARTA (V.O.) <SLIGHT ECHO>
They'll never find us down here.

INT. UNDERGROUND PASSAGEWAY - CONTINUOUS

THIN STREAMS OF LAVA - drip from cracks in the walls,
illuminating the downward passage - which is marked with
GLYPHS AND SYMBOLS. MARTA leads MATA NUI (holding his SHIELD)
and AKAR, who support the unconscious GRESH between them.

MATA NUI
Wait.... These glyphs... I need to--

MARTA
Later. First we have to take care
of Gresh. The cavern is just ahead.

INT. SECRET CAVERN OF THE GREAT BEINGS - CONTINUOUS

MARTA leads MATA NUI (holding SHIELD) and AKAR, who still support the unconscious GRESH - into an enormous cavern, which is illuminated by various HUGE OPAQUE MARBLE OBELISKS, somehow lit from within and casting misty light on this extraordinary blend of distinct ecosystems: One side is lush with dense vegetation surrounding a waterfall that gently cascades into a glistening pool. The entire ceiling is covered with frozen stalactites - even over the far side of the cavern where lava oozes from cracks in the wall. In the center of the cavern are a myriad of bizarre looking, rusty machine parts, half-buried tools and weapons, all of it ancient. The way the stone tables and strange equipment are laid out, it looks as if this was some kind of laboratory. *(This was a testing facility used by the Great Beings.)*

CLOSER - as MARTA gestures to a nearby lab table beside a wall of beautiful *(unique to this world)* hanging vines.

MARTA

Lay him down over here.

MATA NUI AND AKAR - place GRESH on the lab table, then AKAR suddenly brings up his weapon and shouts into the shadows:

AKAR

Show yourself. Now.

A tense beat, and then - BERIX rises into view, hands held out defensively as he stammers:

BERIX

Okay, okay. Everything's cool, it's just me, Berix.

FEATURE MARTA - bringing up her weapon.

MARTA

Why you filthy little thief! I told you if I ever caught you down here again I'd skin your hide.

FEATURE BERIX - as he ducks behind MATA NUI.

BERIX

Yeah, well this place doesn't belong to you.

(to Mata Nui)

And I'm no thief. I'm a *collector*.

FEATURE MARTA - moving towards BERIX, who moves around, keeping MATA NUI between them.

MARTA
Right, he collects other people's stuff!

BERIX
Just old junk nobody else cares about.

MARTA
Then why do you want it?

FEATURE BERIX -

BERIX
'Cause I like fixing it up. And I'm pretty good at it too.
(gesturing to the lights)
Who do you think got all the lights in here working, huh?

MARTA
I was wondering about that.

AKAR
Ever try fixing an injured gladiator?

FEATURE MARTA - stepping forward, hand raised.

MARTA
No way! He's not touching Gresh.

AKAR
Someone has too... or we may lose him.
(to Berix)
What do you say?

FEATURE BERIX

BERIX
Well... I do know a little about healing.
(gestures to his own dented body)
Had to patch myself up a few times.

MARTA

Yeah, like every time the little thief gets pounded on for stealing.

BERIX - moves to examine GRESH laid out on the table.

BERIX

Col-lec-tor. Maybe I'll work on her ears when I'm done with Gresh.

BERIX - taps his arm and a panel opens revealing a secret compartment in his body and pulls out a crude looking knife. MARTA steps in.

MARTA

I'm warning you creep, Gresh doesn't pull through and you're toast. You got that!?

BERIX uses the knife to cut a section of the unique looking vines next to the table.

BERIX

Great. No pressure.

AKAR - ushers MARTA back a few steps.

MARTA

(sotto)

But what if he's the traitor?

AKAR

Then he'll pay dearly.

Suddenly there's a BRILLIANT FLASH and they all turn towards--

MATA NUI - his shield is gone and now SCARBAC is on his shoulder (*and remains there unless noted*).

MATA NUI

There is something familiar about this place... but I am not sure why.

AKAR AND MARTA - move closer to MATA NUI.

AKAR

It must have been created by the old rulers of Bara Nui... the ones many still call the Great Beings.

CLOSE MATA NUI - his eyes flash.

MATA NUI
The Great Beings were here?

FEATURE MARTA - her contempt is palpable.

MARTA
Great destroyers is more like it.

MATA NUI - reacts with uncharacteristic anger, grabbing her arm to turn MARTA to face him.

MATA NUI
How dare you speak that way about
the Great Beings!?

She yanks her arm free, her own anger matching his.

MARTA
I'll call 'em what I like, the
filthy--

AKAR - steps in beside her.

AKAR
Easy...

FEATURE MARTA NUI - fighting for calm.

MATA NUI
Tell me why you speak against the
Great Beings?

MARTA
Because they wrecked our world,
that's why.

MARTA crosses to a wall that is covered by a PAINTED
landscape of lush tall trees surrounding a lake.

MARTA (CONT'D)
This is what * Bara Nui must've
looked like before your Great
Beings destroyed everything.
Before they just abandoned us, left
us here to rot.

AKAR
We don't know what really happened,
Marta. Maybe the Great Beings wound
up buried in the ruins.

MATA NUI

No, the Great Beings did not perish here. That much I am sure of.

(to Marta, tone softer)

I am sorry for your suffering... I only wish to discover the truth.

MARTA - is still very tense, but she leads him to a HATCH in the floor, half covered with sand.

MARTA

Yeah, alright. So then take a look at this. I'm betting there's another chamber down there, but I've never been able to get it open.

FEATURE BERIX - calling over his shoulder.

BERIX

Me neither!

CLOSE ON HATCH - with a raised YIN-YANG SYMBOL on it.

BERIX (O.S.) (CONT'D)

I think that weird symbol is some kind of puzzle lock.

CLOSE - as MATA NUI kneels over the hatch and his Mask GLOWS, casting its golden light over the Yin-Yang symbol for a beat.

MATA NUI

Berix is right... but I may know the key...

MATA NUI'S HAND - touches one of the DOTS on the symbol, which GLOWS and shifts as we hear a <LOCK CLICK) and as his hand moves O.S. we see the YIN YANG SYMBOLS twist apart.

MARTA (O.S.)

He's done it!

MATA NUI - watches as the hatch slides open to REVEAL STAIRS leading down into....

INT. ANTECHAMBER - CONTINUOUS

AKAR - places the tip of his weapon into the LAVA inside the cracked stone and it ignites, creating torchlight as he leads MATA NUI and MARTA down the step into the (unlit) chamber. By Akar's firelight, we see it contains a cache of more delicate equipment (newer looking, in better condition).

AKAR
Just looks like more equipment.

MATA NUI - turns towards the far wall.

MATA NUI
Akar! Shine your light over there.

ON WALL - as the firelight illuminates a huge schematic for a GIANT MECHANICAL BEING! (NOTE: It resembles the original giant Mata Nui from the opening.)

MATA NUI (CONT'D)
It cannot be!

FEATURE MATA NUI - as he nearly recoils.

AKAR
What's wrong, Mata Nui? You look like you've see a ghost.

MATA NUI - staring up at the GIANT on the wall.

MATA NUI
(sotto)
I have...

ON THREE - FEATURE MATA NUI

AKAR
What is that?

MATA NUI
A gigantic mechanical being...

CLOSE MATA NUI - his anger and frustration palpable.

MATA NUI (CONT'D)
(sotto to himself)
Just like the one now enslaving my people...

INT. SECRET CAVERN OF THE GREAT BEINGS - LATER

MATA NUI - is kneeling over some MATORAN LANGUAGE SYMBOLS etched into the floor near the waterfall. AKAR moves in.

AKAR
So what's it all mean?

FEATURE MATA NUI as he stands and address them.

MATA NUI

The truth...? I am not really sure.
But this place...

(gesturing to floor)

These symbols...it tells me I am on
the right track. But I still do not
know exactly where I came from and
how I can get back home to save my
people from the evil enslaving
them.

MARTA suddenly points an accusing finger at MATA NUI.

MARTA

Wait! You think the Great Beings
had something to do with it!

MATA NUI

No... the responsibility lies on my
shoulders alone.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. TAAJUN VILLAGE (#2) - DAY - LATER

The village ruins are still smoldering, creating an ominous
misty scene as we see two BONE HUNTERS standing guard, their
backs to camera.

LOW - as in FG we see the secret rock slab being moved slowly
aside <SLIGHT SCRAPING SOUND>.

ON TWO BONE HUNTERS - as one cocks his head.

BONE HUNTER #1

You hear something?

WIDEN as they start to turn, AKAR springs up, grabbing their
heads and knocking them together.

AKAR/BONE HUNTERS

(impact grunts)

ON TWO BONE HUNTERS - as their knees buckle and they topple
into a heap, out cold.

WIDEN - as MARTA joins AKAR.

MARTA

Looks like they just left those two
guards behind.

AKAR

Then we'd best get moving. We need to warn the other villages that the Skral and Bone Hunters have united.

MARTA

And that we've got a rat traitor on the inside.

MATA NUI AND BERIX are supporting GRESH between them (**his shoulder is now bandaged by the vines and his arm is resting in a vine-sling**) as they come up from the cavern entrance.

MATA NUI

(to Gresh)

How are you holding up?

MARTA moves in to take MATA NUI's place supporting GRESH.

GRESH

I'm okay. Just a little weak. But it doesn't make much difference since I've got nothing to fight with. The Skral totally shredded my claw blade.

AKAR AND MARTA both look at their battered old weapons.

MARTA

Ours aren't in much better shape. We run into real trouble, we'll all be cut down.

AKAR

Unless...

AKAR AND MARTA - both turn to stare at MATA NUI.

AKAR (CONT'D)

We saw what you did with the Creatis tail.

(gesturing to Scarbac)

And your.. ahem... Click there.

MARTA

Yeah, so how about it, Mata Nui? Will you do the same for us?

MATA NUI - touches his mask.

MATA NUI
I am not certain I can.
(more to himself)
This mask... gave me new life.

ON GROUP - FEATURE MATA NUI

MATA NUI (CONT'D)
(to others)
But I am still trying to understand
how its powers work. Sometimes it
feels as if the Mask is guiding me,
others like it is obeying my
thoughts.

AKAR
Maybe it's a bit of both. But I'm
betting you're the one with the
real power.

MATA NUI
There is one thing I am pretty sure
of: whatever a Toa mask transforms
has to be at least in some part
organic. Like the tail.

FEATURE BERIX AND MARTA

BERIX
No problem. Most of the gladiator's
fighting tools have bone or claw
cores.

MARTA
(flip, not nasty)
Collected a few, have you?

MATA NUI - takes AKAR's weapon.

MATA NUI
Let us see what we can do...

DRAMATIC - as MATA NUI touches the weapon to the brow of his
mask and--

MATA NUI (CONT'D)
(sotto)
Together... as one mind...

THE MASK GLOWS - and the LIQUID LAVA FX begins (same FX as
earlier), then Akar's weapon is transformed into a larger
more impressive version of his old weapon.

MARTA (V.O.)
It's working!

MATA NUI - hands AKAR his new awesome weapon and he holds it high in admiration and suddenly it turns FLAME RED and FIRE shoots out of it!

AKAR
What in...?

MATA NUI
It's as I thought. Your roots, Akar, your essence is linked with fire. The Mask Of Life has simply ignited your elemental power... You have become a true Toa.

CLOSER ON TWO - as AKAR places a hand on MATA NUI'S shoulder.

AKAR
Thank you, my friend!

MATA NUI
(touched)
Strange... I have worn many titles, been called a lot of things... but never friend.

AKAR
No man can survive as an island unto himself.

MATA NUI - nods his gratitude.

MATA NUI
So I am learning...

MARTA - steps in excitedly holding her weapon out.

MARTA
What're you waiting for? We've gotta win this.

MATA NUI
I will do what I can with your weapons, but I have my own battle to fight.

FEATURE AKAR -

AKAR

Trust me, Mata Nui, I've seen you fight, you aren't ready to go it alone. But I promise, if you'll stay and help us finish this, I'll teach you everything I know.

FEATURE MATA NUI - as he hesitates for a beat, then nods.

MATA NUI

I will stay... at least a while longer...

DISSOLVE TO:

ACT THREE

EXT. DESERT - DAY - NIGHT

OPEN ON THE DUNE CHARIOT - as BERIX drives and GRESH, still weak (*arm still in vine-sling*) rests beside him admiring his new SUPER WEAPON in the shimmering light of the three moons.

GRESH

Oh this is total torture. I score this clawed out new blade, and Mata Nui tells me I've got awesome Toa powers, but none of you will even let me test 'em out.

WIDEN TO REVEAL - MARTA, AKAR AND MATA NUI (SCARBAC on his shoulder) - walking along beside the DUNE CHARIOT.

MARTA

You mean like this?

MARTA - thrusts out her new TRIDENT shaped weapon, which FIRES three JETS OF WATER (*that spin into one powerful stream*) at a cluster of boulders--

THE BOULDERS - are <BLASTED> to bits.

FEATURE GRESH - using his good arm to raise his new weapon.

GRESH

Ah c'mon, just a little test?

AKAR

Patience is the first lesson in becoming a great gladiator.

MARTA - fires another WATER JET, but suddenly--

MARTA

Oh I think I'm doing pretty great!

--A STREAM OF FIRE streaks in meeting the WATER and creating a powerful <BLAST OF STEAM>!

INCLUDE AKAR - his new weapon extended and still shooting the stream of FIRE that is turning MARTA'S WATER into STEAM.

MARTA (CONT'D)

Guess it's a stand off.

Suddenly a HUGE BLAST OF <WIND> hits the STEAM point, blowing it away.

REVEAL GRESH using his good arm to fire the <WIND> from his new weapon.

GRESH

Looks like I can blow ya both away!

MARTA - moves so that the <WIND> lines up with her WATER JET - creating a SUPER JET.

MARTA

Better yet, why not combine 'em!

FEATURE AKAR - firing a short FIRE <BLAST> into the sand to get their attention. They all lower their weapons ending FX.

AKAR

Enough! Playtime's over! There's more to winning than fancy weapons.

(to Gresh and Marta)

And let me tell you, Mata Nui here isn't the only one that could use a few tips on fighting.

MARTA - starts to open her mouth, but AKAR beats her to it.

AKAR (CONT'D)

Pay attention, you might actually learn something.

FEATURE MATA NUI - as AKAR suddenly whirls his weapon over his head (FIRE trailing the ark) bringing it down towards MATA NUI and forcing him to bring up his own blade <CLANG>--

AKAR (CONT'D)

Like *this*!

--MATA NUI is sent slamming back into a startled MARTA.

MATA NUI/MARTA
(impact grunts)

AKAR
Learn to read your opponent's next
move before it happens!

CLOSE MARTA - as she realizes that SCARBAC landed on her arm -
they eye each other warily.

MARTA
I'm warning you, I'll bite back.

SCARBAC opens his pincers like he's going to pinch her, but
AKAR steps in and grabs him up by the back of the shell and
the bug swings and <CLICKS> at empty air.

AKAR
Start by studying their fighting
style to find their weakness. Then
use it against them.

SCARBAC turns his <CLICKING> pincers towards AKAR who
nervously tosses the bug to MATA NUI.

AKAR (CONT'D)
If you can!

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. OUTSKIRTS - TWIN VILLAGES - DAWN

ESTABLISH - the two suns are just beginning to rise over the
ice capped mountains in the (nearer) distance as Marta's DUNE
CHARIOT is nearing the top of a tall windswept sand dune.

AKAR (CONT'D)
Wake up, ya lazy slackers.

CLOSER - AKAR is driving the Dune Chariot keeping watch,
while BERIX is sprawled on the hood, asleep. MATA NUI, MARTA
and GRESH are in the chariot. They wake, looking around.

MATA NUI
Where are we?

AKAR
(pointing ahead)
The twin villages of Twi Anu are
just over this dune.

POV DOWN ON TWIN VILLAGES - two small crude villages, mostly in ruin - are set close together - separated by a GLADIATOR ARENA. (NOTE: These two villages are shaped - not too obviously - so that they later can form two sections of a giant arm - with the arena forming the elbow.)

VILLAGERS (V.O.)
(excited cheering)

ON CHARIOT - HERO GROUP

GRESH
Sounds like a Gladiator battle's
about to start.

EXT. GLADIATOR ARENA - DAWN - MOMENTS LATER

PUSH IN ON GALAX - standing at the edge of the arena with SACUU and two other MORG VILLAGE LEADERS. A CROWD of MORG/VILLAGERS line the arena excitedly cheering.

VILLAGERS
(excited cheering)
Send in the gladiators!/Start the
battle!

DRAMATIC - ON THE ARENA - as TWO COOL CYLINDER PODS - rise out of the ground on either side - in one is JOHMAD (green) AND DALIZ (blue), each has a *normal* gladiator weapon plus a crude shooter weapon that shoots unrefined spiked balls.

VILLAGERS (CONT'D)
(wild cheering)
Johmad!/Daliz!

MARTA AND MATA NUI - supporting the still weak GRESH, follow AKAR, who is marching angrily towards the edge of the arena.

VILLAGERS (CONT'D)
(wild cheering)
Johmad!/Daliz!

REVERSE ON HERO GROUP TO REVEAL - the much shorter BERIX is following behind them. Berix is looking around uneasily.

MARTA (O.S.)
What's wrong, Berix?

MARTA - is glancing back at BERIX.

MARTA (CONT'D)

Afraid you might run into someone
you ripped off? Or are you looking
for one of your Skral spies to tell
them our plan.

BERIX

I'm not a traitor or a thief
either.

(looking around, sotto)
But I have done a little *collecting*
around here, so best to lay low.

ARENA EDGE - GALAX AND SACUU - turn as AKAR arrives followed
by MATA NUI, GRESH and MARTA (*NOTE: BERIX is not there*).

GALAX

Akar! Mata Nui! I'm surprised to
see--

AKAR

This has got to stop!

GALAX

What are you talking about?

AKAR gestures into the arena--

AKAR

That!

POV ON ARENA - JOHMAD AND DALIZ facing off across the arena.

AKAR (O.S.) (CONT'D)

It's time the Morg find a better
way to settle disputes than risking
the lives of these noble warriors!

BACK ON GROUP - FEATURE GALAX

GALAX

I'm sure Sacuu and the other
leaders will be happy to discuss it
later. But you're a little late,
the battle's starting...

VILLAGERS (O.S.)

(wild cheering thru next shots)

IN THE ARENA - JOHMAD AND DALIZ - from either side of the
arena, each <FIRES> their shooter weapon--

JOHMAD - dives clear of an incoming *<BLAST> that <EXPLODES> up rocky debris where he'd just been standing.

JOHMAD - hits the ground and rolls up to his feet <FIRING> his own shooter weapon with practiced ease at--

DALIZ - brings up his gladiator weapon like a shield just as the incoming <BLAST> hits and rockets him back off his feet!

FEATURE AKAR - as he steps up to stand on the arena rail so he can shout at the surrounding MORG/VILLAGERS.

GALAX

Wait! What are you doing, Akar!?
Have you lost your mind!?

MATA NUI, MARTA AND GRESH - move in to guard AKAR's position.

AKAR

(shouting)
The fighting between Gladiators
must stop! Now and forever! We need
to band together against our real
enemies, not destroy one another in
the arena!

SACUU - and the other VILLAGE LEADERS scoff and shout:

VILLAGE LEADER #2

Mind your own business, you old
fool!

VILLAGE LEADERS

(ad-lib shouting)
Maybe you've forgotten you lost
face!/ You're not a true Gladiator
anymore!

VILLAGERS (O.S.)

(ad-lib jeering)
Yeah!/Sit down!/Get lost!

IN THE ARENA - JOHMAD AND DALIZ have stopped fighting and are moving towards AKAR and the others.

DALIZ

Wait! Let him talk!

VILLAGERS

(angry murmuring)

JOHMAD

If this Gladiator has something to
say, we want to hear it!

INCLUDE AKAR standing on the rail above JOHMAD AND DALIZ.

DALIZ

Go head, Akar.

Akar's voice can't hide his pride at their respect:

AKAR

Thank you, Johmad and you, Daliz.
(loud to crowd)
The Bone Hunters and the Skral have
formed an alliance!

VILLAGERS (O.S.)

(ad-lib started walla)
Impossible!/They couldn't!

AKAR

It's true! And if we do not unite
against them, they will wipe us out
one village at a time!

VILLAGE LEADERS AND VILLAGERS all begin shouting like a
fearful mob:

VILLAGERS

(ad-lib)
There's no way we can stand up to
the Bone Hunters!/ Let alone the
more powerful Skral./It's madness!

MATA NUI - leaps up next to AKAR.

MATA NUI

(shouting)
You are not listening! You no
longer have a choice! You are not
up against the old raiding parties,
you are facing an army!

MATA NUI - helps GRESH climb up to join AKAR and MARTA steps
up too.

GRESH

Like it or not, if the Morg don't
join forces, we'll all be wiped
out.

VILLAGERS
(concerned murmuring
walla)

FEATURE GALAX - turning to SACUU and the other LEADERS.

SACUU
It's madness! Even if we could
unite the villages, we have no
weapons, how can we fight back?

VILLAGERS
(angry agreeing walla)
Sacuu is right!/It's not possible!

AKAR - suddenly thrusts up his weapon and it turns fire red
then FLAMES shoot out high in the air.

AKAR
Silence!

VILLAGERS (O.S.)
(awed gasps)

FEATURE MARTA AND GRESH - as they each thrust up their
weapons, firing individual <BLASTS> of WATER and WIND, then
uniting them into a huge <GEYSER BLAST>.

VILLAGERS (CONT'D)
(more awed gasps)

MARTA
Yeah, we kind'a thought that might
get your attention.

FEATURE MATA NUI - as he steps up beside AKAR.

AKAR
Toa Mata Nui has offered to help us
build up our defenses.

SACUU
Why should we trust this stranger?

VILLAGERS
(agreeing walla)
Yeah!/He's not one of us!

AKAR - turns to DALIZ.

AKAR
Daliz give Mata Nui your weapon.

DALIZ - steps up and reluctantly hands MATA NUI his crude sword-style weapon.

DALIZ
What are you going to do?

MATA NUI
Watch.

MATA NUI - presses it to the brow of the Mask Of Life and the GLOW begins and the same fusing, LIQUID LAVA-like FX transforms it into awesome new weapon (styles TBA).

THE MORG/VILLAGERS - gasp.

VILLAGERS
(awed gasps)

MATA NUI - hands DALIZ his new super harpoon-like weapon.

DALIZ
I don't believe it... I mean...
thank you. Thank you!

AKAR - calls to the VILLAGE LEADERS who are huddled together.

AKAR
So, will you do it? Will you unite
the villages?

SACUU - speaks for the rest.

SACUU
Under one condition: Mata Nui and
all you gladiators must swear to
stay and protect us.

THE GLADIATORS - turn to MATA NUI, as AKAR moves to his side.

AKAR
I won't pretend I have anything
left to teach you... But I will ask
you... as a friend... help us.

FEATURE MATA NUI - as he locks arms with AKAR (Roman gladiator style handshake).

MATA NUI
Then as a friend... I will stay
until the battle is won... or lost.

DRAMATIC GLADIATORS - standing united - MATA NUI in the center. They all raise their weapons and answer as one voice:

GLADIATORS
WE SWEAR!

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. TWIN VILLAGES - DAY - MONTAGE SEQUENCE

MORG/VILLAGERS AND GLADIATORS - working together, using the DUNE CHARIOTS and heavy chains to drag a huge boulder--

CLOSE AKAR - moving in and adding his strength to pulling the heavy chains just as--

MARTA - and then MATA NUI - move in beside AKAR - heaving with all their might.

ANGLE TO REVEAL - they are all working to drag the boulder to join with a row of boulders already in place forming--

A CRUDE FORTRESS WALL - on one side of the villages.

PAN TO REVEAL - THE OTHER SIDE OF THE VILLAGES--

BERIX - is kneeling down holding a flame to a fuse.

CLOSER - as the fuse <IGNITES> and--

BERIX - scrambles up and runs/waddles like mad as-

A SERIES OF <EXPLOSIONS> - blast in a line forming--

A MOAT-LIKE TRENCH - around that side of the villages.

MATA NUI - taking the crude SHOOTER WEAPON from JOHMAD.

CLOSER - MATA NUI - pressing his brow against it and (fusing, liquid lava-like FX).

WIDEN - MATA NUI hands the NEW SHOOTER WEAPON back to JOHMAD - who turns lining up a shot at a nearby cluster of rocks--

JOHMAD <FIRES> his new shooter and the SUPER SPIKED * BLAST - sails OVER CAMERA -

REVERSE - as the blast hits and <EXPLODES> the rocks into flying dust and as the dust settles--

END MONTAGE - MARTA, AKAR, GRESH (*shoulder bandaged, sling gone*) DALIZ and JOHMAD converge to slap MATA NUI on the back.

GLADIATORS (CONT'D)
(ad-lib elated walla)
Well done!/Way to go!/We did it!

GRESH
The Skral won't know what hit 'em!

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. OUTSKIRTS OF THE TWIN VILLAGES - NIGHT

We see the SHADOWY FIGURE OF THE MYSTERY TRAITOR slipping away from the village towards the STEAMING HOT SPRINGS just beyond the villages. A beat and then-

A SECOND SHADOWY FIGURE is stealthily following him...

EXT. HOT SPRINGS - MOMENTS LATER

As the SHADOWY FIGURE nears the mist-shrouded springs, he is suddenly seized from behind (*neither traitor nor pursuer are seen clearly in this shot*) and spun around by-

MARTA - who is not at all surprised to be staring at--

MARTA
I was really hoping I was wrong...

--BERIX!

MARTA (CONT'D)
But this proves you're the traitor.

BERIX
What? No! It's not me! I was following--

MARTA
Save your lies.

BERIX AND MARTA - both react to a hushed voice behind them.

TRAITOR (O.S.)
(hushed, disguised)
Oh, but he's telling the truth. I'm the one you're looking for.

ON BERIX AND MARTA - turning and reacting.

MARTA/BERIX
You!?

THE REAL TRAITOR - who they both clearly recognize (*but we do NOT see him yet, he remains in the shadows*).

MARTA
Why you filthy--

MARTA - is about to bring up her weapon, but SEVERAL BONE HUNTERS AND SKRAL surround them, weapons pointed.

MARTA (CONT'D)
I can't believe I was so dense I
walked right into the rat's trap.

CLOSER - BERIX AND MARTA - weapons jabbing towards them.

BERIX
Well, at least you finally believe
I'm not the fink traitor...

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. THE ARENA BETWEEN THE TWIN VILLAGES - NIGHT

MATA NUI, DALIZ, JOHMAD and GRESH are watching AKAR demonstrate a defensive move when GALAX rushes in:

GALAX
The Skral have kidnapped Marta and
Berix!

FEATURE HERO GROUP

AKAR
And how exactly do you know this?

SACUU - hurries into SC.

SACUU
I saw them being dragged away with
my own eyes!

FEATURE MATA NUI - as he turns to the other GLADIATORS.

MATA NUI
We have to go after them.

AKAR steps up.

AKAR
I'm with you.

GRESH joins them.

GRESH

Me too. My wound's totally healed
and I'm itching to get back in the
fight.

WIDEN - as more MORG/VILLAGES begin gathering around.

SACUU

No! You gave your word! You can't
abandon us now!

VILLAGERS

(ad-lib fearful walla)
He's right!/If you leave us
unprotected, the Skral will surely
wipe us out!

MATA NUI - addresses the VILLAGERS/MORG.

MATA NUI

Believe me, I understand your fear.
But we cannot turn our backs on
Marta and Berix.

FEATURE SACUU - scoffing.

SACUU

They're just two, they're not
important.

FEATURE MATA NUI - looking at SCARBAC on his shoulder.

MATA NUI

I've learned that every individual
is important... no matter how great
or small.

(gesturing to Gladiators)
Working side by side with these
brave Gladiators, watching each
sharing their individual talents to
help all of you...

CLOSER - MATA NUI addresses the rest directly to AKAR:

MATA NUI (CONT'D)

I realize how much difference a
single being can make... when he
believes in what he is fighting
for.

MATA NUI - turns to include GRESH as he adds:

MATA NUI (CONT'D)

I also see now that there is no
shame in seeking the help of
others. I've come to understand
just how much a team can
accomplish... when they are united
by honor and duty.

SACUU - is unmoved.

SACUU

Noble words that mean nothing if
you walk out on us, leave us to be
slaughtered!

MATA NUI - looks towards the GLADIATORS.

MATA NUI

I was once forced to abandon my own
people; I will not do the same to
the Morg. The other gladiators
will remain here. I will go after
Marta and Berix alone.

AKAR and GRESH start to protest--

AKAR/GRESH

No!/Forget that!

--but MATA NUI holds up his hand to them.

MATA NUI

I have to try and save our
teammates, our friends. But you
must stay here and protect the
villagers.

GRESH turns to AKAR as MATA NUI starts off.

GRESH

At least let me go with him! Mata
Nui doesn't stand a chance alone.

REAR ON MATA NUI - FEATURE SCARBAC looking back.

AKAR (O.S.)

Let's hope all he needs is one
loyal friend...

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. LATER - HILL OVERLOOKING THE TWIN VILLAGES - DAWN

AKAR - drives Marta's DUNE CHARIOT up to where MATA NUI stands on the high sand dune, silhouetted against the misty dawn light.

AKAR
Figured you'd cover more ground in this.

AKAR steps out next to MATA NUI (SCARBAC ON SHOULDER).

MATA NUI
Thanks, Akar... for everything.

CLOSER ON TWO

AKAR
It's me that should be thanking you... for restoring my faith in others... as well as myself.
(clearing throat)
So, you've got the map I gave you?

MATA NUI
I am ready.

AKAR
(agreeing grunt, then:)
But are they?

AKAR - points back towards the o.s. villages.

AKAR (CONT'D)
Can the Morg really put their petty differences aside for the greater good?

POV DOWN ON TWIN VILLAGES - as the MORG/VILLAGERS are using the powerful DUNE CHARIOTS and HEAVY CHAINS to literally pull the TWO VILLAGES together (*as noted earlier they will end up forming one of the giant robot arms - the arena at the elbow. But this is **NOT** obvious in this shot*).

MATA NUI (V.O.)
Uniting these two villages is a strong start.

AKAR (V.O.)
Let's hope the rest of the villages
will survive long enough to join
with these.

BACK ON MATA NUI AND AKAR -

AKAR (CONT'D)
And that you return with Marta and
Berix to see it.

AKAR - suddenly feints a jab and MATA NUI grabs his fist
before it nears his face.

AKAR (CONT'D)
(pleased laugh)
You've learned well, my friend.

AKAR - slaps MATA NUI's back as he climbs into the DUNE
CHARIOT.

MATA NUI
I had a great teacher.

Suddenly, they react to a <THUNDERING BOOM> from down below.

AKAR
Sounds like they've linked the two.

MATA NUI - reacts to the sight as if he's seeing something
truly astonishing. (NOTE: We do **NOT** reveal what he sees.)

MATA NUI
Incredible...

AKAR - looks up at MATA NUI in the chariot.

AKAR
What is it, Mata Nui?

MATA NUI - whips the reins and the DUNE CHARIOT races off.

MATA NUI
No time to explain!

AKAR - looks curiously back **O.S.** and then at MATA NUI racing
off in the DUNE CHARIOT, we...

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. BASE OF MOUNTAINS - SKRAL/BONE HUNTERS' NOMAD CAMP - DAY

ESTABLISH THE NOMAD CAMP - which looks like a giant cavern (*the giant's skull*) at the base of the mountainside, where the GLACIER FLOWS glisten under the suns. PUSH IN towards:

THE BATTLE ARENA - in the center of the camp. It is ringed by a crude wall lined with tall freakish bones and twisted metal. Hanging from one, high above the arena wall is--

BERIX (V.O.)

Tell me something... since we're probably not gonna be around much longer anyway...

--A CANISTER-CAGE - where MARTA (without her weapon) and BERIX are held prisoners.

BERIX (CONT'D)

How come you hated me so much?
What'd I ever do to you... well,
aside from finding the cavern?

FEATURE MARTA - looking off, her body language uneasy.

MARTA

I didn't hate you.

BERIX

Hello...?

MARTA

Okay... maybe because I needed it to be my secret place, my private sanctuary from all the ugliness outside...

(turning to face him)

Can you understand that?

FEATURE BERIX - reaching out to touch her arm.

BERIX

Sure. But did ya ever think, maybe you weren't the only one that needed a dream to hang on to?

MARTA

I'm sorry, Berix...

BERIX

Hey, no sweat. But since I'm going out of the collector biz and becoming a respectable healer... maybe we could share it? Or even hang out there together sometimes...?

MARTA

(warm)
Sure, kid... if we ever get out of here.

FEATURE BERIX - turning to look out over the desert.

BERIX

Don't worry, the Gladiators are going to rescue us, you'll see.

MARTA

(half laugh)
You really are a dreamer.

BERIX suddenly points out.

BERIX

Yeah, well that looks pretty real to me!

POV - DOWN ON MATA NUI - (carrying his SHIELD) as he approaches on foot and is quickly surrounded by mounted BONE HUNTERS who prod him towards the arena.

MARTA (O.S.)

I don't believe it...

DRAMATIC ON TUMA - the Skral leader (*who we will recognize from the earlier scene*) standing in the center of the arena.

BERIX (O.S.)

Neither does Tuma!

FEATURE TUMA - as he looks down at the approaching MATA NUI.

TUMA

I'd hoped all the Gladiators would come, but it seems they're even bigger cowards than I thought.

MATA NUI - marches boldly past the TWO CREATIS that strain against their chains, lashing out with their claws as Mata Nui marches up the ramp to face the towering TUMA.

BONE HUNTERS/SKRAL
(jeering laughs)

HANGING CAGE CANNISTER - MARTA AND BERIX - as he gives a pathetic little wave towards Mata Nui o.s.

MARTA
I still can't believe Mata Nui really came.

BERIX
All alone...?

FEATURE TUMA - as MATA NUI reaches him.

TUMA
(playing to crowd)
Either he's a madman or he'd like to join the winning side...
(to Mata Nui)
Which is it?

FEATURE MATA NUI - as he boldly faces TUMA.

MATA NUI
I am here to fight you for my friends' freedom. One on one.
(playing to crowd)
Unless of course, the Skral leader is the real coward?

TUMA - his eyes FLASH RED, but his voice feigns amusement.

TUMA
I'm going to enjoy personally ripping that fancy mask off your face.

TUMA instantly attacks, <SLAMMING> MATA NUI off his feet.

TUMA/MATA NUI
(startled impact grunts)

HANGING CAGE CANNISTER - MARTA AND BERIX - look down from their vantage.

BERIX
Hey no fair!

MARTA
The dirty cheating Skral--

SKRAL AND BONE HUNTERS - gather around the arena to cheer.

BONE HUNTERS/SKRAL
(cheering)
Tear 'im apart!/Tuma'll cut 'im
down to size!

ARENA - MATA NUI - has no time to recover - TUMA is on him,
bringing his weapon down on Mata Nui's raised shield.

TUMA/MATA NUI
(impact grunts)

TUMA - presses his attack and knocks MATA NUI around the
arena as if he's no contest at all.

TUMA/MATA NUI (CONT'D)
(impact grunts)

HANGING CAGE CANNISTER - MARTA AND BERIX - as he shakes his
head and covers his eyes with his hands.

BERIX
(groaning)
I can't watch. Mata Nui's gonna get
shredded to scraps.

MARTA
(conspiratorial whisper)
No. Don't you see? He's just doing
what Akar taught us... study your
opponent's moves, find his
weakness.

FAVOR BERIX - as he peeks out from under his hand.

BERIX
Well he better find it fast, before
he gets his skull--

MARTA
Shhh. Watch!

ARENA - TUMA - is getting cocky, not even keeping his shield
up as he swings his weapon at MATA NUI, who looks like he's
cowering before the blow.

TUMA
(playing to crowd)
Did this pathetic weakling really
believe he could bring down the
great Tuma?

MATA NUI
Arrogance can topple giants.
(with exertion)
Believe me I know!

CLOSER ON TWO - a MATA NUI suddenly ducks under and around the blow and comes up behind TUMA <SLAMMING> his bent elbow into the Skral's back and sending him staggering forward.

TUMA/MATA NUI
(impact grunts thru next)

MATA NUI - moves with graceful ease compared to TUMA - our hero effortlessly ducking all of Tuma's blows - which when missed throw the Skral slightly off balance - enabling MATA NUI to land powerful <BLOWS> of his own.

HANGING CAGE CANNISTER - MARTA is so excited she starts shaking poor little BERIX.

MARTA
(elated whispering)
That's it! Tuma's huge, but he's slow. Mata Nui's using the Skral's own strength as leverage against him.

BERIX
(while being shaken)
I get it, I get it.

DECK ARENA - TUMA - growls his rage at repeatedly missing his fast moving opponent, who lands powerful <BLOWS> with both his weapon and his shield--

TUMA
(growls of rage - into
impact grunts)

TUMA - is just too slow to recover from missed blows, allowing MATA NUI to slip inside and repeatedly <SLAM> the Skral with fast powerful weapon blows.

TUMA/MATA NUI
(fighting grunts)

DRAMATIC ON MATA NUI - as he swings his weapon over head, then brings it down in a final sweeping <BLOW>--

MATA NUI
(exertion grunt)

--CLOSER - as Mata Nui's weapon <SHATTERS> Tuma's weapon.

ON TWO - as MATA NUI spins around and delivers a devastating <BLOW> that sends--

TUMA - <CRASHES> to his knees.

TUMA
(impact grunts)

LOW UP ON TUMA - as he waivers for a beat, his red eyes blinking, then <CRACKLING> before the Skral collapses TOWARDS CAMERA hitting the floor with a CAMERA SHAKING <CRASH>!

FEATURE MATA NUI - standing over TUMA, who clearly alive, but too weak to get up.

TUMA (CONT'D)
(weak moans)

THE SKRAL AND BONE HUNTERS - gasp in shock as--

BONE HUNTERS/SKRAL
(shocked gasps)

--MATA NUI reaches down and picks up Tuma's shield, holding it high in the air.

MATA NUI
I claim Tuma's shield in victory!

HANGING CAGE - BERIX leaping around MARTA, laughing.

BERIX
He did it!

MARTA/BERIX
(in unison - laughing)
He really did it!

ARENA - TUMA is still too weak to rise - MATA NUI is still holding the Skral shield overhead it seems that it's over, but then a familiar laugh rings out:

GALAX (O.S.)
(laughing)

ENTRANCE TO ARENA - GALAX stands mockingly <CLAPPING> up at MATA NUI. *Galax holds Marta's new weapon.*

GALAX (CONT'D)
I could always pick a winner.

MATA NUI
So you are the traitor.

GALAX
And now I claim both your shield
and your weapon.
(threatening)
Throw them down.

MATA NUI - tosses down his blade, then gently lays down his shield and there is an instant FLASH and--

MATA NUI
(sotto)
Save yourself, my friend.

SCARBAC - is where the shield should be - the bug glancing up and with one quick farewell <CLICK> it burrows into the sand and disappears.

GALAX - hurls Marta's weapon at the spot where the bug had been and it stabs into the sand (*where it will remain*).

GALAX
Cursed insect! Oh well, I'll soon
have all the other gladiator's
shields.

FEATURE CAGE - BERIX and MARTA - looking down on SC.

MARTA
All the time Galax was taking his
cut from us Gladiators, he was
selling us out to the nomads.

BERIX
I still don't get it. He's one of
us.
(calling down)
You're a Morg!

FEATURE GALAX - as he gestures to the surrounding SKRAL and BONE HUNTERS.

GALAX
True. But I realized that my
friends here had far more to offer
me.

FEATURE MATA NUI - now standing at the top of the ramp.

MATA NUI

So you convinced them to unite.

FEATURE GALAX - smug, amused.

GALAX

As rival tribes the nomads did
little damage, but if they joined
together... under one ruler...

MATA NUI

You. But leading them against your
own people...?

GALAX

(with contempt)

What have the Morg ever done for
me?

HANGING CAGE - MARTA AND BERIX

BERIX

Uh, let's see: We trusted you!?

MARTA

The other gladiators will tear you
apart for this!

FEATURE GALAX - looking up at MATA NUI.

GALAX

She still doesn't understand.

MATA NUI

We are the only ones that know you
are the traitor.

GALAX

By the time they realize it, I'll
have wiped them all out... starting
with you.

GALAX - turning to the surrounding BONE HUNTERS and SKRAL.

GALAX (CONT'D)

Finish them! I need to get back--

SEVERAL BONE HUNTERS - suddenly begin shouting in alarm and
pointing off towards the desert where--

BONE HUNTERS
(alarmed shouts)

POV - A GIGANTIC GLADIATOR - like a shimmering mirage - is gliding across the sand towards them.

BONE HUNTERS (CONT'D)
What is that!?!/It's a sand demon!/
Some kind of monster!

GALAX - shouts at the scores of frightened BONE HUNTERS racing away in terror-

GALAX
Stop! Whatever it is, we must
destroy it!

GALAX - runs towards the arena entrance where the CREATIS are chained - the beasts cower away from him in fear.

GALAX (CONT'D)
Unleash these wretched beasts! If
that giant crushes them it's no
real loss.

FEATURE SKRAL AND BONE HUNTERS - mounting ROCK STEEDS and readying their crude SHOOTER WEAPONS.

BONE HUNTERS/SKRAL
(ad-lib shouting thru next
shots)
Mount up!/Prepare arms!

FEATURE MATA NUI - as he takes advantage of the chaos surrounding him and grabs up his weapon, then Marta's (still stuck in the sand) as he moves to the CHAIN holding the cage cylinder aloft.

CLOSE - as Mata Nui's weapon <SHATTERS> the chain and--

THE CANNISTER CAGE - comes <CRASHING> down on the arena wall where it breaks open releasing MARTA and BERIX.

MARTA/BERIX
(impact grunts)

MATA NUI - leaps up onto the wall to join BERIX and MARTA.

MATA NUI
Are you alright?

He hands Marta her weapon.

MARTA

Am now that I've got this back.
Thanks!

BERIX - points off towards the o.s. giant.

BERIX

(nervous)
What is that... thing?

POV GIGANTIC GLADIATOR - as the shimmering giant nears, we hear the familiar, but hugely <MAGNIFIED CLICKING>.

CLOSE MATA NUI -

MATA NUI

I believe we are witnessing the
true power of unity.

DRAMATIC ON THE GIGANTIC GLADIATOR - as the <CLICKING ECHOES> like thunder for a beat, the shimmering image of the gladiator DISSOLVES, showering down into the sand and we reveal that--

A HUGE SWARM OF SCARBAC - had created the illusion of the giant gladiator - now they vanish into sand. No longer hidden behind it we now see THROUGH A SANDSTORM of movement--

MATA NUI (VO) (CONT'D)

(amazed)
And loyalty...

--AKAR AND GRESH - charging forth with JOHMAD and DALIZ, leading a united army of MORG (on foot and in Dune chariots).

GLADIATORS/MORG/VILLAGERS

(attack walla)

EXT. SKRAL & BONE HUNTERS' NOMAD CAMP - CONTINUOUS

LONG SHOT ESTABLISHING - a SANDSTORM RISES as the TWO ARMIES converse on the camp.

ALL

(battle walla thru/under following scene)

ARENA WALL - MATA NUI, BERIX and MARTA - are standing together atop the wall. Mata Nui hands Berix the *Skral shield* he took from Tuma.

MATA NUI
You may need this.

CLOSER ON THREE - BERIX looks up at his two big friends.

MATA NUI (CONT'D)
Ready?

BERIX
Not really. But I'm with you!

MARTA - suddenly points her weapon down.

MARTA
Hold it! We're missing part of the
team!

SCARBAC - leaps onto the tip of Marta's weapon and she lifts
the bug up to--

MARTA (CONT'D)
C'mon, Click!
(to others)
Now we're ready!

--MATA NUI - he reaches out as the transformation FLASH FILLS
SCREEN - then he is holding his SHIELD - his eyes meet the
shield's eye.

MATA NUI
Good to see you too!

LOW UP ANGLE - MATA NUI AND MARTA - as they leap off the wall
OVER CAMERA. BERIX (holding the Skral shield) remains behind
on the wall for an extra beat, then he leaps--

MATA NUI/MARTA
(attack cries)

BERIX
Wait for meeeee!

GROUND LEVEL - TWO SKRAL ATOP *ROCK STEED - look up, just as
MATA NUI and MARTA come sailing down <SLAMMING> them off
their mounts as they all sail THRU SHOT just as--

MATA NUI/MARTA/SKRAL
(impact grunts)

--BERIX - sails INTO SHOT landing backwards on top of one of
the (now) riderless ROCK STEEDS.

BERIX
(impact grunt)

CLOSER - as the ROCK STEED REARS UP then gallops off with BERIX bouncing around, clinging for dear life (still holding the Skral shield).

BERIX (CONT'D)
Whoaa-nooooo!

OTS BERIX ATOP ROCK STEED - as he gets his balance and realizes he's barreling right towards a BONE HUNTER--

BERIX (CONT'D)
What the heck!

BERIX - closes his eyes as he swings the shield downward--

BERIX (CONT'D)
No trial...

CLOSE - as <WHACK> the shield hits the BONE HUNTER on the top of the head and he staggers O.S.

BERIX - brings the shield up, looking around for another target.

BERIX (CONT'D)
...no treasure!

REAR ANGLE - BERIX/ROCK STEED - tilt to beast's rear 'hooves' kicking sand INTO CAMERA as we...

SMASH CUT INTO:

BATTLE MONTAGE - SERIES OF DRAMATIC FAST ACTION SHOTS -
BATTLE FX AND WALLA CONTINUOUS:

OPEN on a shooter-style <BLAST> exploding up sand as it just misses its target--

MATA NUI - is diving and rolling, dodging more <BLASTS> from a MOUNTED SKRAL when suddenly--

GRESH - comes rocketing TOWARDS CAMERA standing/sand-surfing on his new weapon which acts like an X-game-style board - <WIND> power blasting out of it into WAVE OF SAND as Gresh flips full circle right OVER CAMERA--

REVERSE - as GRESH sand-boards straight into a MOUNTED SKRAL <CRASH> the Skral sails off the ROCK STEED, his SHOOTER WEAPON flying into the air TOWARDS CAMERA!

MATA NUI - is already running and stabs his weapon into the ground like a javelin to catapult himself into the air towards--

THE SHOOTER WEAPON - MATA NUI snatches it out of the air.

CLOSE MATA NUI - holding the shooter weapon to the brow of his Mask which GLOWS and again we see the LIQUID FUSION FX as the weapon is TRANSFORMED into a newer version of a 'SHOOTER' weapon.

REFLECTED IN THE NEW SHOOTER WEAPON - the image of a BONE HUNTER charging in.

MATA NUI - sees the REFLECTION and whirls around, using his own weapon to <SLAM> the attacking BONE HUNTER back and o.s.

INCLUDE MARTA - just as she is dropping down to meet a charging SKRAL, that she flips o.s.

MARTA - springs to her feet, turning to see MATA NUI, who tosses her the newly transformed shooter weapon.

MARTA - catches the shooter weapon just in time to fire a BLUE <BLAST> at a MOUNTED SKRAL charging towards her.

LOW - as the BLUE <BLAST> hits right in front of the ROCK STEED and <EXPLODES> both beast and rider into the air - along with an avalanche of FLYING SAND.

POV THROUGH A VEIL OF SAND AND SMOKE FROM THE BLASTS - ON MATA NUI AND AKAR - fighting back to back <CLASHING> weapons against TWO HUGE SKRAL.

AKAR/MATA NUI/SKRAL
(fight grunts)

CLOSER - MATA NUI AND AKAR - back-to-back battling.

AKAR
(with exertion)
They have us outnumbered ten to one!

MARTA (O.S.)
(with exertion)
More like twenty!

INCLUDE MARTA AND GRESH - who are being driven towards AKAR and MATA NUI as they <BATTLE> against several BONE HUNTERS.

GRESH
Yeah, but who's counting!?

MARTA/GRESH/BONE HUNTERS
(fighting and impact grunts)

FEATURE MATA NUI - battling his SKRAL.

MATA NUI
(with exertion)
It could be a hundred! But we have
the true power:
(punctuating his words
with blows)
We fight with honor and purpose!

ON MATA NUI AND SKRAL - as our hero <SLAMS> his weapon with
such force, the Skral's shield literally <EXPLODES> and
blasts him back FILLING FRAME with sand and debris.

MATA NUI (CONT'D)
For UNITY!

POV THRU SMOKE AND DEBRIS - ON HERO GROUP - as they all
follow suit and strike their opponents with such force the
SKRAL and BONE HUNTERS are <EXPLODED> backwards o.s.

GLADIATORS
FOR UNITY!

HIGH DOWN ANGLE TO REVEAL - MORE BONE HUNTERS AND SKRAL -
fleeing the fight.

BONE HUNTERS/SKRAL
(ad-lib retreat walla)

As the DUST of retreating vehicles and the SMOKE of the last
shooter blasts subsides--

MATA NUI - stands alone, looking into the eye of his shield.

MATA NUI
Thank you.

BRILLIANT FLASH - SCARBAC is perched on MATA NUI'S forearm.

AKAR (O.S.)
Figured your little friend had
something to do with that clever
diversion.

AKAR - steps in, nodding knowingly.

AKAR (CONT'D)
And I used to think Scarbac were
just annoying little pests.

SCARBAC - <CLICKS> both pincer in a 'yak-yak' gesture and
AKAR throws back his head and:

AKAR (CONT'D)
(roaring laugh)

GRESH - joins them.

GRESH
That was totally brilliant getting
all those bugs to swarm up in front
of us!

MARTA - holding both her new weapons - joins the HERO GROUP.

MARTA
It sure saved our backsides!
(to Mata Nui)
How'd you ever get 'em all to obey?

MATA NUI - turns his gaze on SCARBAC.

MATA NUI
Ask Click... it was his idea.

OTS SCARBAC - on astonished GROUP.

GRESH
I don't get it, if you're not
controlling the Scarbac, then why
are they helping us?

ON MATA NUI AND SCARBAC -

MATA NUI
Because like us... they choose good
over evil.

ON HERO GROUP - as JOHMAD and DALIZ rush to join MATA NUI,
AKAR, MARTA and GRESH.

JOHMAD
The spineless Skral are on the run!

DALIZ
Right on the tails of the Bone
Hunters. And it looks like all of
us are still in one piece.

ON MARTA - suddenly looking around.

MARTA
Wait! Where's Berix?

MATA NUI, AKAR and GRESH - exchange glances.

GRESH
I haven't seen the little guy since-

BERIX
(muffled)
Down here!

POV RUBBLE (a rock steed in pieces) as - BERIX'S HAND pokes thru waving frantically.

BERIX (O.S.) (CONT'D)
(muffled)
Could use a little... help!

MARTA - rushes to the rubble and grabs the hand--

MARTA
Don't worry I've got you!

BERIX - is pulled up and out of the rubble by MARTA, who only hesitates a beat before pulling the little guy into her arms hugging him painfully tight.

BERIX
(slightly strangled)
Ya know, I think I liked it better when you hated me.

ON HERO GROUP - FAVOR MATA NUI AND AKAR

AKAR
It's really over.

MATA NUI - spots something o.s. and says:

MATA NUI
Not yet...

MATA NUI - dashes off towards-

GALAX - is climbing into a DUNE CHARIOT with TWO HUGE SKRAL, about to make their escape, when Galax sees MATA NUI charging towards them and shouts:

GALAX
Destroy him!

THE TWO SKRAL - don't have time to get off a shot before--

MATA NUI - is on them like a Tackle, <SLAMMING> them both so hard they sail o.s.

MATA NUI/SKRAL
(impact grunts)

MATA NUI - moves towards him, GALAX panics and hurls his weapon at him as he bolts from the DUNE CHARIOT. Mata Nui bats the weapon aside without missing a stride.

GALAX - only makes it a few yards when suddenly--

A CREATIS - erupts out of the sand in front of him.

GALAX
Nooooo!

As the creature's ominous SHADOW closes over the cowering GALAX, we...

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. HILLSIDE DUNE ABOVE TWIN VILLAGES - DAY

MATA NUI - stands alone staring off across the dessert.

AKAR (O.S.)
You should be down there enjoying
the party.

AKAR - comes up from the village side to stand with MATA NUI.

MATA NUI
What about you? The celebration is
to honor you, First Leader of the
new United Villages.

AKAR
Funny how things work out. While I
was teaching you how to be a better
gladiator, you taught me how to be
a leader.

CLOSER FEATURE SCARBAC - nodding at:

MATA NUI

You proved that when you rallied
the Morg against the nomads.

GRESH

That's for sure.

MARTA, GRESH and BERIX (*who still has the Skral Shield*) come
up from the village side to stand with AKAR and MATA NUI.

MARTA

Just look what you've already done,
Akar!

BERIX points back towards the o.s. Villages.

BERIX

Morg from all across * Bara Nui are
pulling together... literally...
uniting all the villages.

POV DOWN ON VILLAGES - as MORG/VILLAGERS are using their DUNE
CHARIOTS and massive chains to drag ALL THE VILLAGES (and
structures we've seen throughout) towards the first two
(already united), to connect them all together. (*NOTE: They
are getting close, but the scene is still dust blown and
chaotic, not revealing what the final image will be.*)

AKAR

It would never have happened
without Mata Nui.

ON THE HILLSIDE DUNE - MATA NUI - looks down towards the
villages.

MATA NUI

I was only one piece... It took
each of us to complete the whole.

INCLUDE AKAR

AKAR

What will you do now?

MATA NUI

Continue searching for answers...
wherever that may take me.

ON HERO GROUP - as they all turn at the o.s. <THUNDERING>
sound of the last of the villages coming together and the
huge <CHAINS DROPPING>.

AKAR
They've done it!

POV DOWN ON SCENE - the DUST SETTLES and we see the final SHAPE of the united villages - each of the villages was a piece that had once formed the GIGANTIC MECHANICAL BEING and has now been put back together.

BERIX (V.O.)
Whoa... You guys thinking what I've thinking?

ON HILLSIDE DUNE - MATA NUI and GLADIATORS all stare down towards the villages/robot in disbelief.

AKAR
That it looks like the giant...
from the chamber of The Great
Beings.

GRESH
But it's impossible.

BERIX
Oh yeah? Well check this out.

ON BERIX - he holds out a COIN.

BERIX (CONT'D)
I *collected* it from the secret
chamber a long time ago. Forgot all
about it until I saw that thing
down there.

CLOSE ON COIN in Berix's hand - **depicting the same GIANT as seen in the cavern.**

BERIX (CONT'D)
So anyway, one side has that giant
on it. But now wait'll you see the
other...

HIS HAND flips the coin over and we see the same pattern as on the Skral shield.

BERIX (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Look familiar?

BERIX - holds up the SKRAL SHIELD. MATA NUI steps in.

MATA NUI
Not a symbol... a map!

ON GROUP - FEATURE GRESH -

GRESH
To where?

MATA NUI
That is what I must find out.

MARTA steps closer to MATA NUI.

MARTA
Don't you mean we have to find out?
Remember your promise.

MATA NUI
You are welcome to join me.
The decision is yours... I have no
idea how long it might take, or the
dangers that await.

Before MARTA can reply, AKAR gestures down to the united
villages.

AKAR
But that giant... you're connected
somehow?

FEATURE MATA NUI - pointing down to the VILLAGES/ROBOT.

MATA NUI
You are looking at an empty shell,
the remains of what might have been
a great ruler, the guardian of his
people.

ON HERO GROUP - FEATURE MATA NUI

MATA NUI (CONT'D)
Thanks to you, all of you, I am
closer to becoming the warrior that
I must be if I am to reclaim my
empire and free my people.

DRAMATIC MATA NUI LARGE IN FG - VILLAGE/ROBOT BG.

MATA NUI (CONT'D)
But first I must find the way to
empower the giant, so that he may
rise up against the evil that
awaits.

ON GROUP - FEATURE MATA NUI - his team around him.

AKAR

But this time you will not need to
face it alone.

MATA NUI

Then, my friends...

PUSH IN ON MATA NUI - his expression determined.

MATA NUI (CONT'D)

Our quest is just beginning...

FADE OUT